

Interview with Dick and Mary Bishop by William Schneider, Karen Brewster, Tom Paragi, and Roger Kaye, November 20, 2020 via Zoom with everyone in their separate homes in Fairbanks, Alaska

Summary and Outline by Bill Schneider, 12-18-20

This is the first in a series of interviews with Dick and Mary Bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska. In this session they trace their history coming to Alaska, settling in the Goldstream Valley, work for Fish and Game and eventual move to McGrath where Dick was the first Fish and Game area biologist. This was a prelude to the time they spent living at Lake Minchumina and conducting the subsistence study for the Cooperative Park Studies Unit. Key issues are discussed in the context of organizations such as The Alaska Conservation Society (ACS), The Alaska Coalition (AC), and The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC). Dick and Mary express their strong convictions on maintaining the constitutional mandates provided for in the Common Use Provisions. They also express convictions on State management of navigable waters and the implication for management of fish and game in federal areas where there are navigable waters. In this regard they discuss the Sturgeon case, Federal Reserve Water Rights, the Katie John case, and the efforts of the Knowles administration with regard to rural subsistence preference. Dick also discusses the history of predator/prey actions by the State and what he has learned about the impact of predators on controlling prey populations.

2:00- Background on coming to Alaska and experiences in Fairbanks  
5:00- Graduate education  
9:00- Work for Fish and Game and becoming area biologist in the McGrath area  
11:40- Helping local men in Nikolai to get certified as game guides  
15:00- Involvement with musk ox transport  
20:00- Minchumina subsistence study  
26:00- Alaska Conservation Society (ACS) and ANILCA on the horizon [key people, Dave Klein, Bob Weeden, Ed Murphy, Glenn Juday, Ginny Wood]  
30:00- Alaska Coalition (AC) and conflicting views on hunting  
35:00- AC position on Preserves  
38:00- Dick sent to DC by Governor Hammond to lobby on ANILCA and State's right to manage fish and game.  
47:00- State position on Sturgeon and Katie John cases and issues of navigable waters  
54:00- Discussion of Federal Reserve Water Rights  
55:00- How Governor Knowles' position on Katie John case changed over time when he saw pressure from Native groups  
1:00:00- Discussion of subsistence priority with reference to the constitution, McDowell case  
1:08:00- Ways the State provides for those in need withing the regulatory structure with Tier II permits  
1:20:00- Tom provides clarification on how Tier II permits are issued noting considerations such as: time in area, cost of groceries, etc.

1:21:00- Dick discusses how he developed his position on predator/prey relations particularly as they relate to wolf control

1:47:00- Discussion of the Alaska Outdoor Council and its history, particularly as it relates to subsistence issues as well as sovereignty, navigable waters, and court cases

1:52:00- Work with Terry Dickey in Nikolai to help get Native men certified as guides.