

LEO Network July 2026 Training Summary

[LEO Network Training Link](#)

PURPOSE: The July 2026 LEO Network training brought together participants from Alaska Native communities, Tribal environmental programs (IGAP), ANTHC, and Climate Initiatives to learn from community experiences and environmental observations [on the Yukon River](#).

The session highlighted the value of storytelling, observation, and knowledge sharing as tools for understanding environmental change across Alaska.

SPEAKERS: The training featured presentations by Charles Peterson and Travis Kassaiuli, who shared their experiences traveling through Alaska and documenting environmental conditions.

Charles Peterson: Charles described an extensive journey along the Yukon River using a personal watercraft, emphasizing the planning, preparation, and decision-making required for safe travel in remote areas. Participants expressed appreciation for both the storytelling of the adventure and the thoughtful risk management involved in completing the trip.

Travis Kassaiuli: Travis contributed additional insights through his experience documenting environmental change with videos and community observations in Emmonak. Participants recognized the educational value of visual storytelling and encouraged continued sharing of observations through online platforms and the LEO Network.

DISCUSSION: Comments following the presentation focused on practical observations, including river safety, equipment, wildlife encounters, thawing permafrost, riverbank erosion, wave conditions, and the performance of different watercraft. These questions demonstrated the group's interest in connecting personal travel experiences with environmental observations and community knowledge.

The training reinforced that community observations are essential for understanding environmental change in Alaska. Personal travel experiences provide valuable opportunities to observe changing landscapes, document environmental conditions, and strengthen connections between local knowledge and broader scientific understanding.

RESOURCES: These links, suggestions, and sources were placed in the LEO Chat or specifically identified as helpful -

- None at this webinar.

Training by the numbers: 22 participants

Technical Assistance: Lars Flora and Abby Nelson