It Has Been in Our Blood for Years and Years that We Are Salmon Fishermen – A Book of Oral History from Unalakleet, Alaska, USA documents observations, and knowledge presented in 2002 by seventeen Unalakleet indigenous people, with some further input in 2008. It tells a story of a changing community on the Norton Sound near the Bering Sea.

Climate change, subsistence rights, and loss of culture and tradition intermingle with the powerful stories of village elders regarding Beluga hunts and the long human history of the area. The Unalakleet Tribal Council partnered with the Snowchange Cooperative to collect the voices of local experts and holders of knowledge in 2002.

Unalakleet oral histories add a rich component to the culture of Western Alaska. This book is also an important source for studies of climate and ecological change in the region. It can be used in schools, universities, and colleges as an oral history source book of Unalakleet.

The Snowchange Cooperative is a non-profit, pan-Arctic, independent organization devoted to the advancement of indigenous and other local cultures of the North, as well as preservation and revitalization of traditions, cultures, and languages of the circumpolar region.

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Kaisu and Tero Mustonen with the people of Unalakleet Snowchange Cooperative, Finland, 2009



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