Shishmaref, Alaska

"…the seals don't come into our area."

Hunting

One of the biggest things that has changed in my village, due to global warming, is the ice is melting when we need it to hunt sea mammals in spring time. Global warming is causing rising land and ocean temperatures which keeps the ice from forming as solidly as it should. Instead of being strong enough to hold a full grown man on a snow-machine, the ice now breaks, which is very dangerous for us. Seals don't come into our hunting waters in the fall. In years past there was enough sea ice for the seals to rest on, so they would come and that's where we could find them. Now, because there isn't enough sea ice the seals don't come into our area. When we can't hunt them, we lose out on food, supplies for native arts and winter clothing. The seals are a very important part of our culture. Without them, our culture will suffer.

— Clarence "Ahnalook" Weyiouanna

"…when he fell thru the ice."

Boy

I lost my best brother-in-law because of global warming. His name was Boy. He was 25 years old when he fell through the ice. Boy used to duck hunt, seal hunt, go camping and fishing. The last time he was here he was going back to Fairbanks on June 1, 2007 but he wanted to duck hunt one more time. He went on the wrong trail and fell in the ice. He fell in the ice at 6 am and the health aides had to do CPR.

— Justin Schultze

Portraits of Resilience is part of the Many Strong Voices Programme. It illustrates in a personal way what climate change means to young people in the Arctic and helps communities create their own visual archive of the changes they are experiencing. More @ www.manystrongvoices.org

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