

STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
JUNE 3, 2003 HEARING
ON THE
STATUS OF TRIBAL FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMS

The Committee on Indian Affairs meets this morning to receive testimony on the status of tribal fish and wildlife management programs across Indian country.

Ten years ago, this Committee worked with the leaders of Native America to develop legislation that would provide support for the efforts of tribal governments to preserve and protect fish and wildlife resources.

Although that legislation was not enacted into law, the members of this Committee are aware that tribal fish and wildlife management programs have experienced exponential growth in their capacities to protect the health and well-being of natural resources and the humans who rely on these resources.

Although it is widely recognized that tribal governments and

inter-tribal fish and wildlife management organizations have been amongst the most effective stewards of natural resources, both on tribal lands and off, today it is more than ever clear that in many areas of Indian country, tribal governments are on the cutting edge of new technological advances that are assuring enhanced protections for fish and wildlife and plant resources.

We look forward to the testimony that the Committee will receive, and I am pleased to call upon one of the great Indian leaders of our time, and my dear friend, Bill Frank, Jr., Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, as our first witness today.