

**EIGHTY FIRST ANNUAL TRIBAL ASSEMBLY**  
CENTRAL COUNCIL TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
April 20-22, 2016 • Juneau, Alaska

**Harold Martin**

*Tribal Host*

Harold Martin was born and raised in Kake although his traditional homeland is Hoonah. He is *T'akdeintaan* from the *X'aawk Hit* (Freshwater Marked Sockeye House). His father was *Ylanyeidi* and his homeland was the Taku River. His maternal grandfather was *Kaagwaantaan*, and paternal grandfather was *Gaanax-Adi*.

Harold served his country as an Alaska National Guard (1951-1954), United States (US) Army Ready Reserve (1955-1956), and US Marine Corps (1957-1960). He received his Associate's degree in Aquaculture & Fisheries and Management from Whatcom County Community College in Bellingham, Washington in 1976. He also received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Western Washington University in Bellingham and completed 28 of 36 credit hours towards his Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast.

Harold worked nearly 20 years as an employee of Central Council. He served as Tribal Operations Officer (1982-1995) and Subsistence Director (1995-2000). During his employment with the Tribe, Harold was involved in many Native subsistence organizations as a member, co-founder, and chair. Harold has been an asset to all Southeast Alaska communities and has helped lead the fight to sustain our way of life and ensure our subsistence resources. As Chair of the Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group he led the way to "legalize traditional practices" of the halibut fishery and was later honored as the former chair to receive the first federal certificate for subsistence halibut fishing. Below are some of his most notable contributions and accomplishments:

**Southeast Native Subsistence Commission** (*Co-founder, Past President*)

- Halted a Japanese firm establishing seaweed aquaculture on Southeast Alaska beaches.
- Stopped a group of people from commercializing Devil's Club using indigenous intellectual property rights as our defense in both cases.
- Administered and participated in the Tlingit Place names project. Culminated in an Atlas book called "Our Grandparents Names on the Land" (*Haa Leelk'w Has aani Saax'u*).

**Rural Alaska Resources Association** (*RurAL CAP*) (*Past President*)

- Filed a lawsuit and won a case against the US Fish and Wildlife Service after issuing a Federal Register that stated Natives were no longer eligible to take sea otter as a subsistence resource because of lack of use.



- Re-established sea otter as a subsistence resource for Alaska Natives.

**Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals** (*Co-Founder, Past President*)

- Successfully amended the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act to include Section 19 which funds Marine Mammal Commissions throughout coastal Alaska.

**Alaska Sea Otter Commission** (*Co-Founder*)

- Established use of sea otter pelts for arts and crafts.

**Alaska Native Migratory Bird Working Group**

- Successfully amended "Toe Migratory Bird Treaty Act" to include and legalize spring hunt for ducks in the far north.
- Legalized the harvest of sea gull, goose, and duck eggs in Southeast Alaska. (Except in Glacier Bay).

**Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission** (*Co-Founder, Past President*)

- First Alaska Native organization to negotiate a "Co-Management Agreement" with a federal agency (National Marine Fisheries Service). Agreement is still in effect and very successful.

**Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group** (*Co-Founder, Past President*)

- Re-established halibut as a subsistence resource. The federal government believed Natives never used halibut as a subsistence resource. We took on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and won this battle stating our invention of the halibut hook and the long history of Native use of halibut. We can now fish with a skate with up to thirty (30) hooks. People who have moved out of their communities can now come back to their community and fish halibut.

**ANB Grand Camp Subsistence & Fisheries Committee** (*Past President*)

- A yearly appointed position. Served three terms.

**Southeast Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

- Re-established the Native Subsistence Fishery for Hooligan in the Stikine River.

**Federal Subsistence Harvest Assessment Working Group**

- Researched Subsistence take of all subsistence resources throughout the State by Natives. Result: less than one percent in Southeast Alaska and three percent State wide.

**South Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission** (*Co-Founder*)

- Newly organized to replace the Southeast Native Subsistence Commission.

**Indigenous Survival International**

- Maintained the use of steel traps after Conservationist and Animal lover groups sued to ban and outlaw steel traps. Many of our Natives in Alaska and Canada trapped to supplement their way of life

After retiring from Central Council, Harold served as Kake Tribal Corporation's President (2005-2010) and is currently serving as a Juneau Delegate to the Central Council, Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community (JTHCC) member, Transboundary Commission as a JTHCC representative, Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission, Southeast Alaska Native Veterans, American Legion Post #13, lifetime member of Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp 70, and Marine Corp Heritage Foundation.

Harold receives special joy from his hobbies hunting, fishing, reading, and watching basketball and boxing.