



Contemporary communities in the Alutiiq Nation.

ALUTIIQ / SUQPIAQ NATION

The Alutiiq / Sugpiaq people are one of eight Alaska Native peoples. They have inhabited the coastal environments of south central Alaska for over 7,500 years. Their traditional homelands include Prince William Sound, the outer Kenai Peninsula, the Kodiak Archipelago, and the Alaska Peninsula. Here people lived in coastal communities and hunted sea mammals from skin covered boats.

Alutiiqs share many cultural practices with the other coastal peoples, particularly the Unangan / Aleut of the Aleutian Chain and the Yup'ik of the Bering Sea coast. Anthropologists believe these cultural similarities reflect a distant but common ancestry.

At the time of European colonization, there were distinct regional groups of Alutiiq / Sugpiaq people, each speaking a slightly different dialect of the Alutiiq language.

KONIAG - often used to refer to Kodiak Islanders, due to the Kodiak Island regional Native corporation of the same name, but linguistically, Koniag refers to the major Alutiiq dialect spoken both on Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula. The word Koniag is derived from an Unangan (Aleutian Island) word for the people of Kodiak. Some people of Kodiak use the term Qik'rtarmiut - meaning "Island People" to refer to the Alutiit of Kodiak Island, and Aluuwirmiut, or "People of Aluuwiq (a place name)" to refer to the Alutiiqs residing on the Alaska Peninsula.

CHUGACH - Alutiiq people residing on the Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound. This term commonly refers to the major Alutiiq dialect spoken in this region, and is also the name of the regional Native corporation for the area. The Kenai Peninsula Alutiiq people are known as Kangiyarmiut or "people of the bay." The Alutiiq residents of Prince William Sound are called the Ungaalarmiut meaning "people of the east."

Today more than 4,000 Alutiiq people live in fifteen rural villages, five towns, and each of Alaska's major cities. There are about 1,800 Alutiiqs in the Kodiak archipelago. About 45% live in six remote villages - Akhiok, Kariuk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions. The other half resides in the City of Kodiak. These communities represent a small percentage of the Alutiiq villages once occupied. In the early 1800s there were more than 60 Alutiiq villages in the Kodiak archipelago with an estimated population of 13,000 people.