Every man in Alutiiq society owned a kayak, a boat specially designed to fit his body. This was his most essential tool; a sign of manhood and a necessity for his central job—harvesting. In their kayaks, Alutiiq men traveled broadly along the coast of Kodiak and to neighboring regions—hunting, fishing, visiting, trading, and raiding. A good provider returned with food.

At home, men lived with their families, but spent a part of their days in the qasgiq, or community house. This large building was a gathering place where men met to talk, make tools, discuss politics, plan travel, and perform rituals. Women and children could visit the qasgiq on special occasions, like winter festivals, but daily use was reserved for men.

In addition to manufacturing hunting and fishing gear, men carved household items, crafted boats, and built and maintained houses. These jobs required special skills which young people learned by working beside accomplished carvers and builders.

Men also filled special roles, serving as community leaders, whalers, shamans, and spiritual leaders. The position of angayuqqaq, or chief was passed through families. This person managed activities throughout a village. He organized work, settled disputes, tracked the location and wellbeing of community members, led raids, maintained the qasgiq, hosted festivals, and distributed goods. A respected angayuqqaq was fair, considerate, and able to build both consensus and wealth.