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.

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.

KONIAK - often used to refer to Kodiak Islanders, due to the Kodiak Island regional Native corporation of the same name. Linguistically, Koniaq refers to the major Alutiiq dialect spoken both on Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula. The word Koniaq is derived from an Unangan (Aleutian Island) word for the people of Kodiak. Some people from Kodiak use the term Qik’rtarmiut - meaning “Island People” to refer to the Alutiiq of Kodiak Island, and Aluuwirmiut, or “People of Aluuwiq (a place name)” to refer to the Alutiiq people 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. 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, each of Alaska’s major cities, and around the world. There are about 1,800 Alutiiq people in the Kodiak Archipelago. About 45% live in six remote villages - Akhiok, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions. The rest reside in the City of Kodiak. These communities represent a small percentage of the Alutiiq villages once occupied. In the 1700s there were more than 60 Alutiiq villages in the Kodiak Archipelago with an estimated population of 10,000 people.