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Coloring Iqalluut - Fish

by Hanna Agasuuq Sholl
**Suumacirpet Asirpiartuq.**  
Our Way of Living is the Best.

**Suupet, Sulrupet — Our People**

The Alutiiq are an Alaska Native people and Kodiak’s first settlers. They came to the islands more than 7,500 years ago with boats and tools for gathering and harvesting from the sea. They hunted sea mammals and birds, fished for salmon and cod, and collected shellfish, berries, vegetables, and eggs. People lived along the coast in warm houses built from wood and grass. Here they made food, crafted tools, raised children, and celebrated. Today about 1,800 Alutiiq people live on Kodiak, where they continue to harvest wild foods, practice Alutiiq arts, dance, and speak in the Alutiiq language.

**Suumacirpet — Our Way of Life**

Traditional harvesting, including hunting and fishing, is called subsistence. For the Alutiiq, this way of life connects people to the natural world. Their knowledge of animals reflects thousands of years of learning by watching, harvesting, sharing skills, and storytelling. Alutiiq people are closely connected to the land and sea, both physically and spiritually.

**Iqallugsucirpet — Our Way of Fishing**

Fishing has been a central part of Alutiiq subsistence for thousands of years and it remains a part of everyday life. Fishing tools, traditions, values, and words connect Alutiiq people across time. Alutiiq fishermen in the past used handmade hooks, lures, spears, nets, weirs, traps, and harpoons to catch many different fish. These included herring, rockfish, sculpin, salmon, starry flounder, Pacific cod, and the giant Pacific halibut. Today, salmon, cod, and herring are the most important species. Families harvest these fish for food and work in commercial fishing.
Alutiiq people harvest fish in winter, spring, summer, and fall.
People catch fish in the ocean and rivers.
Alutiiq ancestors caught fish with weirs, nets, and spears.
In winter, people fished with hooks and spears.
People fished in rivers through holes cut in the ice.

*Cikumi Iqallugsurluni*

Fishing on the Ice
People harvested halibut, herring, and herring eggs in the spring with hooks, nets and spears.
Tools for fishing were made from bone, wood, ivory, and kelp.

**Iqsaguaq**
Fishing lure

**Iqsak**
Halibut hook

**Ayaquq**
Fish harpoon

**Kugyasiq**
Fish net
Fishing Tools Used in the Past and the Present

Paragautaq(N)/Paragautaaq(S)
Fishing boat

Kit'suuteq
Sinker
CiRupuuget/Cilupuuget

Rockfish

Rockfish are very colorful.

Tiger Rockfish

Yelloweye Rockfish
There are five species of salmon in the ocean.

- Aamasuuk/Iiliksak
  - King Salmon

- Qakiiyaq
  - Silver Salmon

- Amartuq/Amaqaayak
  - Pink Salmon

- Niklliq
  - Red Salmon

- Alimaq
  - Dog Salmon

Iqluut
Salmon

Ocean
Aakanat
Spawned out salmon

Salmon turn red when they enter fresh water.

Spawned King Salmon

Spawned Pink Salmon

Spawned Silver Salmon

Spawned Dog Salmon

Spawned Red Salmon

Kuik River
Halibut are the largest fish on Kodiak.
Herring are small fish. They lay their eggs on ocean plants.
Alutiiq ancestors collected herring roe in baskets.

Qaryat
Herring roe
Amutaq
Cod

People eat cod fresh, dried, or salted.
Nerlita!
Let's eat!

Tamuq
Dry Fish

Amutat cali Kartuugaat
Cod and Potatoes
Fish grow from eggs to adults.
Hanna Agasuuq Sholl was born to Sophie Frets (Hansen) and Bruce Burns in Kodiak, Alaska. Her maternal grandparents were Walter and Edna Hansen. Walt was from Karluk, and Edna from Chignik. The pair met in Kodiak, where they lived for most of their lives together. Her paternal grandparents are Suzanne Burns and the late Robert Burns.

Since childhood, Hanna has been drawn to art. In 2006, she returned to Kodiak and began exploring Alutiiq arts. She started her journey under the mentorship of Alaska Native artist Flossie Spencer. Since then, Hanna has been developing her craft and running a business. Her exploration has led to many opportunities for learning from Native artists, culture bearers, and ancestral objects.

In 2012, Hanna married Jonathan “Gage” Sholl, who plays a significant role in supporting her artistic life. They have been blessed with four children. Fueled by the support of her family, Hanna dedicates her days to learning and sharing Alutiiq arts, language, and dance.

“With everything I do, I hope to honor the resistance and creativity of our ancestors while combining traditional practices with present-day methods. Diligently and with intention, I am venturing to continuously learn and share the complex and beautiful culture of the Sugpiaq/Alutiiq people.”

-Hanna Agasuuq Sholl

Cali Liici — Learn More

Many of the drawings in this book are inspired by ancestral Alutiiq objects stored in museums around the world. Learn more in the following publications.

Crowell, Aron L., Amy F. Steffian, and Gordon L. Pullar

Drobek, A.S.
2012 Liitukur Sugpiat’stun (We are learning how to be real people): Exploring Kodiak Alutiiq literature through core values. University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Korsun, Sergei

Steffian, Amy F., Marnie A. Leist, Sven D. Haakanson Jr., and Patrick G. Saltonstall

Vainola, Pirjo