



Contemporary communities in the Alutiiq Nation.

ALUTIIQ / SUGPIAQ NATION

The Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people are an Alaska Native people. They have inhabited the coastal environments of Southcentral Alaska for over 7,800 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.

Alutiiq people share many cultural practices with the other coastal peoples, particularly the Unanga̅x of the Aleutian Chain and the Yup'ik of the Bering Sea coast. Anthropologists believe these cultural similarities reflect a distant 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. Linguistically, Koniag refers to the major Alutiiq dialect spoken both on Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula. The word Koniag is derived from an Unanga̅x (Aleutian Island) word for the people of Kodiak. Some people from Kodiak use the term *Qik'rtarmiut* - meaning “Island People,” to refer to the Alutiit of Kodiak Island, and *Aluuvirmiut*, or “People of Aluuviq” (a place name), to refer to the Alutiiq people residing on the Alaska Peninsula.

CHUGACH—Alutiiq people residing on the Kenai Peninsula and in 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 *Ungalarmiut*, “People of the East.”

Today more than 6,300 Kodiak Alutiiq people live in six rural villages, each of Alaska’s major cities, and around the world. There are about 2,000 Alutiiq people in the Kodiak Archipelago. About a third 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 late 1700s there were more than 60 Alutiiq villages in the archipelago.