For Immediate Release

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Crag Point Artifacts Transfer and Processing Work Complete

KODIAK—In 1986, the Kodiak Area Native Association and Bryn Mawr College collaborated on archaeological excavations at the Crag Point site, an ancestral Alutiiq settlement on northern Kodiak Island. The artifacts and samples from the dig followed Dr. Richard Jordan, the principal investigator, to the anthropology department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he conducted analysis. The collection has been at the University of Alaska Museum of the North ever since.

In an effort to bring ancestral collections back to the Kodiak region where they can be cared for, studied, and appreciated by the descendant community, the Alutiiq Museum worked with the landowner, the Bureau of Land Management, to transfer the collection to the Alutiiq Museum for long-term curation. In March 2026, Alutiiq Museum staff members traveled to Fairbanks to pack the collection and bring it to Kodiak. At the Alutiiq Museum, staff reviewed the collection, updated artifact catalogs and completed re-storage for the collection. Associated field notes and images were scanned and will be preserved in the museum's vault as well as digital document storage.

The Crag Point assemblage holds bone, antler, and ivory objects and a few wooden pieces. It is a rich assemblage with some unique items, including evidence of early whaling practices. These cultural belongings will inspire artists and support exhibits, publications, programs, and research that illuminate Alutiiq traditions.

Rasmuson Foundation supported the project through the Collections Management Fund administered by Museums Alaska. The collection belongs to the Bureau of Land Management and will be on loan to AMAR for long-term curation. The collection has been integrated into the new collections storage vault and will be available for research by the community.

Curator of Archaeology Patrick Saltonstall notes: "This collection is really important for research purposes because it was well-excavated with lots of field notes and photos to provide context, has excellent bone preservation, and represents a time period – two to three thousand years ago - that is under-represented in the museum's collections."

The Alutiiq Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of the Alutiiq, an Alaska Native tribal people. Representatives of Kodiak Alutiiq organizations govern the museum with funding from charitable contributions, memberships, grants, contracts, and sales.

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