

Domestic Geographic Name Report

- 1 Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.

2. For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) For the administrative area in which the land is located.
3. On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.

4. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer Program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544.
5. Return this form to:

Executive Secretary for Domestic Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 22092

Action Requested

Proposed New Name:	_____	Recommended Name:	Kaxchim Qayaa
Application Change:	_____	State:	Alaska
Name Change:	<u>X</u>	County or Equivalent:	Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
Other:	_____	Administrative Area:	_____

Specific Area Covered:

Latitude:	<u>51</u> ° <u>56</u> ‘ <u>49.0</u> “ N	Longitude:	<u>177</u> ° <u>40</u> ‘ <u>10.0</u> “ W
Latitude:	_____ ° _____ ‘ _____ “ NS	Longitude:	_____ ° _____ ‘ _____ “ WS
Center:	_____ Heading End _____		
Section(s)	<u>18</u>	Township(s)	<u>95 S</u>
Range(s)	<u>235 W</u>	Meridian	<u>Seward</u>
Elevation	_____		

Type of Feature (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): Hill

Is the Feature identified (including other names), in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?

Yes X No _____ Unknown _____ If Yes, how is it listed? Nip Hill

Description of feature (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.):

Hill or summit feature on the southeast end of Little Kiska Island in the Aleutians Islands. USGS GNIS Feature #1895901.

Maps and other sources using recommended name (including scale and date).	Other names (variants)	Maps and other sources using other name or application (including scale and date).
N/A	Nip Hill (GNIS, 2024; Orth, 1976)	N/A

Name information such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographic data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information:

This proposal is to change the name of a hill on Little Kiska Island from its current name of “Nip Hill” to the proposed Unangam Tunuu name of “Kaxchim Qayaa,” meaning “Gizzard Hill.” Moses Dirks, an Unangam Tunuu (Aleut language) expert recommended the name “Kaxchim Qayaa” to the proposer based upon the traditional Unangañ name “Kanchiñ,” meaning “Gizzard,” for Little Kiska Island, as listed in *The Aleut Dictionary: Unangam Tunudgusii* (Bergsland, 1994, pg. 231, 650-651). The new name was proposed by an Aleut Corporation shareholder and Sand Point Village Tribal member. The proposer specifically states that the current name [Nip Hill] is “derogatory for people of Japanese ancestry. Renaming it Kaxchim Qayaa honors the Unangañ people.” They also state that, “A local Indigenous name from people who have lived in the region for thousands of years is more appropriate than a name which is derogatory for people of Japanese descent or ancestry.”

“Nip” is a derogatory term for people of Japanese ancestry. It is an ethnic slur that is used to demean, dehumanize, or marginalize people of Japanese descent, often used to justify or encourage the killings or extermination of Japanese people. It was commonly used during World War II.

According to the GNIS entry on “Nip Hill” and the “Nip Hill” entry in Orth’s *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (1967), “Nip” is an “arbitrary name beginning with ‘N’ to correspond with the ‘N’ grid used by the U.S. Army for tactical purposes during World War II” (pg. 691). The proposed name “Kaxchim Qayaa” would be a return to traditional place names for the Unaganañ People of the Aleutians.

The proposed name has a long history of use and connection to both Little Kiska Island and to the Alaska Natives in the area, connecting the feature to its historic and pre-contact sense of place and use by the Unangañ People for hundreds to thousands of years before the present. As an Alaska Native proposed name, the new name of “Kaxchim Qayaa” demonstrates a linguistically and culturally appropriate name for Little Kiska Island, especially considering the traditional Unangaan Tunuu name for Little Kiska Island of “Kanchiñ.”

Is the recommended name in local usage? Yes X No If Yes, approximately how many years? Centuries

Is there local opposition to, or conflict with the recommended name (as located)?

For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed:

Additional information:

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, manages most of Little Kiska Island and all of the land containing Nip Hill.

Organizations for Consultation:

Alaska Native Language Center

Aleut Corporation

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

C/O USFWS Alaska Region Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO) Jeremy Karchut

C/O USFWS Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Deputy Manager Jeff Williams

US Fish and Wildlife Board of Geographic Names Representative

D. Roy Mitchell, with the Alaska Native Language Preservation Advisory Council

Copy submitted by: Name (first, M.I., last)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
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Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
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Copy Prepared by (if other than above)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Judith E. Bittner	SHPO	(907) 269-8721	

Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Office of History and Archaeology	550 West 7 th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Authority for Recommended Name:	Mailing Address and Telephone	Occupation	Years in Area
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Proposed Geographic Name: Kaxchim Qayaa

