

7,500 YEARS BEFORE US IN ALASKA, THERE WAS

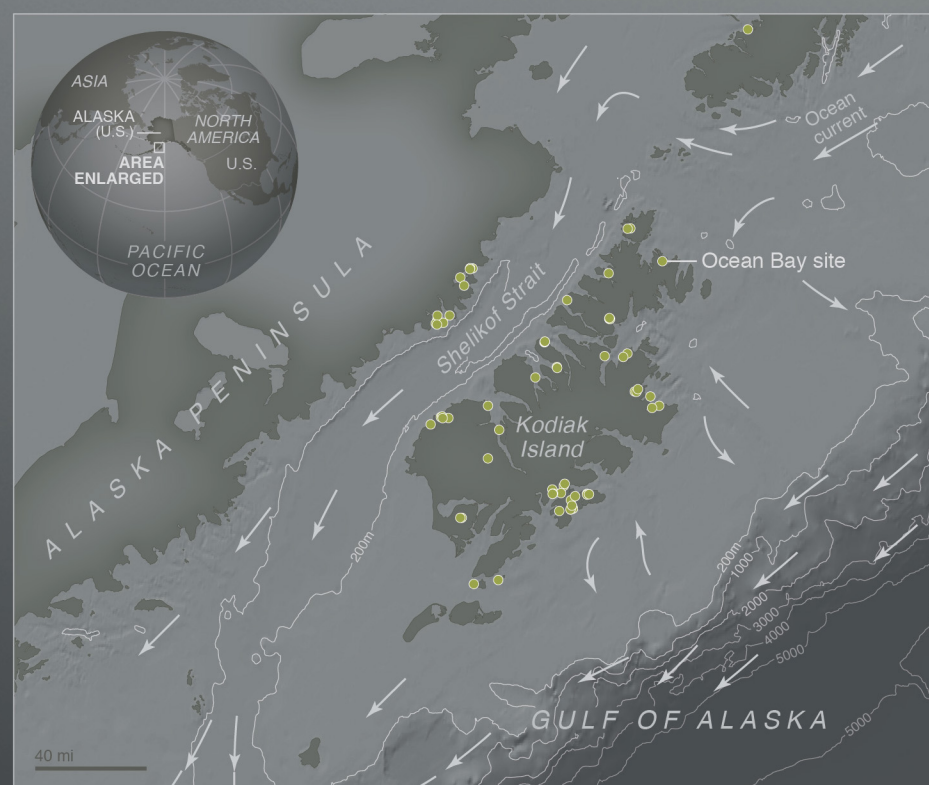
OCEAN BAY



MASTERS OF THE MARINE WORLD

More than 7,500 years ago, Alaska's first maritime specialists emerged along the southern coasts. Called Ocean Bay—and the ancestors of today's Alutiiq—they deftly navigated the Shelikof Strait and were the first to cross to Kodiak Island. Along the way, they took full advantage of the sea life variety the currents presented them: seals, sea lions, clams, otters, even porpoises on occasion. They used the skins to craft small boats in which they plied some of the most challenging and productive waters in the world, routinely facing off against big mammals with sharp teeth.

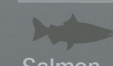
Creating semipermanent settlements along the coasts, Ocean Bay were pioneers of maritime skill and living that wouldn't become common until millennia later. To master their watery environment, they quarried slate from outcrops where specialists refined the rock to create bayonets. Others crafted stone lamps that, when filled with sea mammal blubber oil, provided gathering places in the winter darkness. Other items became refined maritime tools as well: clam picks made of bone, sea mammal bone hooks for deep-sea fishing, and kelp fishing line.



THEIR BOUNTY



Seabirds and eggs



Salmon (rivers)

Steller sea lion

Harbor seal

Sea otter

Rockfish

Cod

Halibut

Sea level

100 m

THEIR TOOLS

Fishhook

Bone

Barbed harpoon

Bone

Lance

Slate

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MARVELS AND MYSTERIES OF THE OCEAN BAY AT [NPS.GOV/KATM](https://www.nps.gov/katm).

Alaska Archaeology Month is coordinated by the Public Education Group of the Alaska Anthropology Association and its sponsoring agencies. Visit them at alaskaanthropology.org.