

CISPRI CULTURAL RESOURCES VIDEO

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ABSTRACT

Human habitation in Cook Inlet first occurred around 5,000 BC. Cook Inlet is a large tidal estuary that varies from 78 miles wide at its southern mouth to less than 9 miles at its northern extremity. The first inhabitants were Eskimo, who were later displaced by the Athabaskan Dena'ina people.

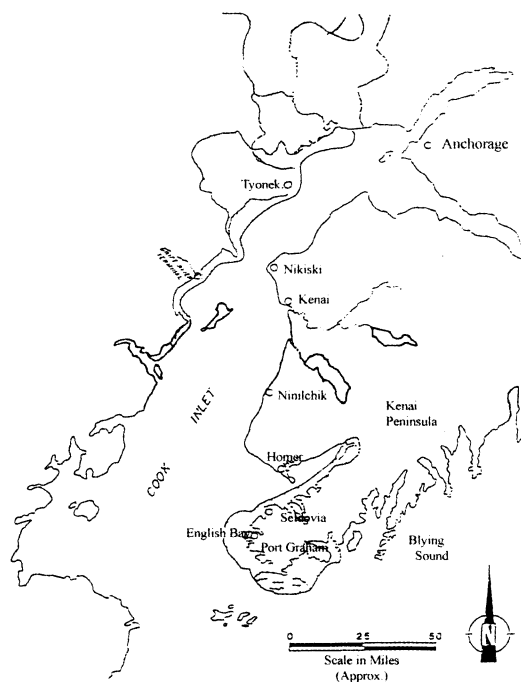
The Athabaskan Dena'ina people were called "Kenaitze" by the Russian fur traders who first made contact in 1741. At that time, an estimated 1,000 Dena'ina inhabited the Kenai River area alone. European contact with the Athabaskan Dena'ina first occurred about 1756. In 1778, Captain Cook sailed Cook Inlet looking for the Northwest Passage. A Russian trading post was established in Kenai in 1791. The relatively mild winters of Cook Inlet and abundance of wildlife both onshore and offshore made human habitation very viable. Consequently, its shoreline is literally filled with historical and cultural sites.

Other villages or cities of note within Cook Inlet include Anchorage, Tyonek, Ninilchik, Homer, Seldovia and Port Graham, many of whom continue to maintain a subsistence lifestyle.

Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response, Inc. (CISPRI) provides oil spill response for the entire Cook Inlet; a pristine piece of south-central Alaska with over 1300 miles of shoreline.

A significant potential problem identified with oil spill recovery efforts involves the identification and protection of sensitive historical and cultural sites. To lessen any potential impact to these areas, CISPRI, in conjunction with Alaska Clean Seas, SERVS, Alaska Chadux and SEAPRO, have produced an 8 minute video tape demonstrating how to identify potential sensitive areas. It then directs appropriate actions to take until experts can be consulted to further direct methods of lessening impact.

The narrative was developed by a local expert in cultural resources, and representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, and native organizations who represented their individual concerns. The video tape has been well-received by CISPRI's member companies and agencies and has been recognized as a good "get acquainted" tool for anyone involved in protecting cultural and historic resources during spill response.



an abundance of furbearing mammals, as well as wild game and halibut, crab, shrimp, clams, and five varieties of salmon.

Human habitation in Cook Inlet first occurred around 5,000 BC. The first inhabitants were Eskimo, who were later displaced by the Athabaskan Dena'ina people, sometime between 500 AD and 1650 AD.



1100 Year Old House Pit

The Athabaskan Dena'ina people were called "Kenaitze" by the Russian fur traders who first made contact in 1741. The Danish explorer, Vitus Bering, sailing for Imperial Russia, was one of the first to make contact. At that time, an estimated 1,000 Dena'ina inhabited the Kenai River area of Cook Inlet.

European contact with the Athabaskan Dena'ina first occurred about 1756. Their estimate was 5000 Dena'ina inhabited the en-

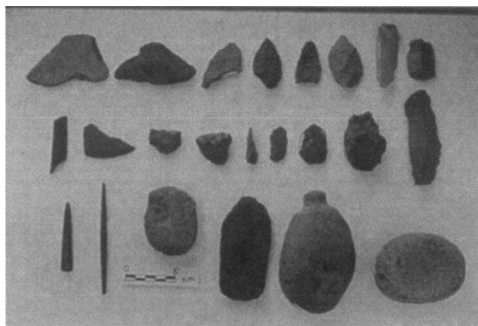
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Transcript

Background

Cook Inlet is a large tidal estuary that varies from 78 miles wide at its southern mouth to less than 9 miles at its northern extremity. It is 192 miles long and has the second highest tides in the world with currents up to 11 knots. In addition, Cook Inlet has four active volcanoes; making it one of the most seismically active regions in the world. This diverse environmental base also hosts

ture Cook Inlet region. In 1778, Captain Cook sailed Cook Inlet looking for the Northwest Passage. While in Upper Cook Inlet, he traded with Tyonek and the Kenaitze people.



Circa 1700 Dena'ina Artifacts

A Russian trading post was established in Kenai in 1791, primarily for fur trading. The name of the village then was Skitok (pronounced shkiTUK from the Dena'ina word Shk'ituk't), which translates to "where we slide down". The relatively mild winters of Cook Inlet and abundance of fish and game made human habitation very viable.

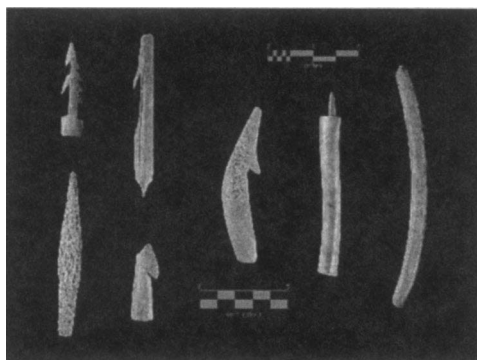
Other villages or cities of note within Cook Inlet include Anchorage, Tyonek, Ninilchik, Homer, Seldovia, English Bay, and Port Graham. Villages of Tyonek, English Bay and Port Graham remain largely Alaska Native and continue to maintain their subsistence and fishing lifestyle and are accessible only by boat or air. Ninilchik and Seldovia have seen much more European and American influence. While some still maintain a subsistence and commercial fishing lifestyle, tourism has become a large part of their respective economic bases.

Anchorage has become the largest city in Alaska with its history of settlement much the same as the rest of Cook Inlet. The town of Anchorage enjoyed steady growth through its incorporation as a City in 1920. Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Bases began construction in 1940, when Anchorage became more important for its strategic location during World War II. Today, Anchorage has a population over 300,000 and its unique geographical location between the two northern continents has earned it the "Crossroads of the Air World" nickname.

Discussion

Because of this very rich history, Cook Inlet's 1300+ miles of shoreline is literally filled with historical and cultural sites. Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response, Inc. (CISPRI) provides oil spill response for the entire Cook Inlet, and one of its many responsibilities is ensuring minimal disturbance and damage to both identified and unidentified sites of historical and cultural significance.

A significant potential problem identified with oil spill recovery efforts involves the identification and protection of such sensi-



tive historical and cultural sites. The Exxon Valdez Spill of 1989 experienced considerable problems with disturbance, graffiti and theft of artifacts from known and unknown archaeological sites.

Result and Method

To assist in mitigating any potential impact to these areas, CISPRI, in conjunction with Alaska Clean Seas, Alyeska Pipeline, SERVS, Alaska Chadux and SEAPRO, have produced an 8 minute video tape demonstrating how to identify potential sensitive areas. It then directs appropriate actions to take until experts can be consulted to further direct methods of lessening impact. CISPRI and its sister oil spill cooperatives will use the video as an orientation tool, usually during safety briefings before a crew is dispatched to the field for oil spill response activities.

The narrative was written by a local expert in cultural resources, Chris Wooley of Chumis Archaeological Resources, who has worked with CISPRI and other Alaska oil spill removal organizations for the past 15 years. In addition, representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Historic Preservation Office, and the Woody Island Tribal Council participated in the production of the video.



Musket Lock

The National Park Service, the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, ChevronTexaco, the Alutiq Museum and Archaeological Repository and Exxon Mobil Corporation provided additional information for use in the video.

Before production of the video, Dr. Wooley presented the transcript of the video to the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT). The ARRT is made up of representatives from the US Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Defense, NOAA, FEMA, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, US Forest Service, OSHA, Department of Justice, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, General Services Administration and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The presentation was enthusiastically supported and approved by the ARRT.

The video tape has been well-received by CISPRI's member companies and agencies and has been recognized as a good "get acquainted" tool for operations response personnel involved in protecting cultural and historic resources during spill response.

BIOGRAPHY

Victoria Askin is the Planning/Training Development Coordinator for Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response, Inc. (CISPRI). She

is an active member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee and serves on their Public Education Subcommittee. Ms. Askin works with CISPRI's member companies to facilitate drills, maintains NPREP and OSRO requirement information. She is the main contact for update and maintenance of CISPRI's Technical Manual, a living reference document which supports all Member Company contingency plans. In addition, Ms. Askin documents and maintains NPREP requirement information for CISPRI Member Companies. Ms. Askin has served as Planning/Training Development Coordinator for seven of her thirteen years at CISPRI.

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