

THESIS AND DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

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This issue includes three thesis and dissertation abstracts from Alaska and Montana universities. Two of the abstracts describe archaeological research in the Aleutian Islands, and one describes Bristol Bay ethnographic landscapes. Contact Monty Rogers to submit an abstract of a recently completed thesis or dissertation that deals with topics of interest to *AJA* readers.

SET THE NET: THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF FISH CAMP AND WILD SALMON IN BRISTOL BAY, ALASKA

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Ph.D. dissertation, 2016, Department of Anthropology,
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Online at <http://scholarworks.umt.edu/etd/11054/>

ABSTRACT

In over ten years of environmental and socioeconomic studies surrounding the controversial Pebble Limited Partnership mine project design and permitting, commercial salmon fishers' voices in Bristol Bay, Alaska, remain unheard. To meaningfully participate in cultural resource management decision-making that affects them, communities need to speak, yet fisher communities rarely have an established voice. This dissertation uses critical collaborative ethnography and indigenist research paradigms to describe how the recognition of living heritage communities can be facilitated through the identification of ethnographic landscapes. Such landscapes reflect the meaningful relationship of culture and place, concepts that are currently underrepresented in Alaska. Not only my Self as a fisher, but also Other as researcher are presented in a single narrative that weaves together fisher interviews and conversations. As part of a growing body of collaborative research, this dissertation aims to decolonize research by seeking out alternative histories and amplifying marginal-

ized voices of fishers who perpetuate experiential knowledge, and transmit this heritage to future generations through the yearly harvesting of the renewable resource of wild salmon.

THE HOUSE ON THE HILL: A 3800-YEAR- OLD UPLAND SITE ON ADAK ISLAND, THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ALASKA

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Online at <http://pqdtopen.proquest.com/pubnum/10245165.html>

ABSTRACT

The 2011 excavation of Feature 9, a 3800 cal BP semi-subterranean house at ADK-00237 on southwest Adak Island, is the only Neoglacial house excavated in the central Aleutian Islands and the only upland site excavation in the Aleutian Islands. House structural features, lithic debitage and tool analysis, sediment analysis, and spatial analysis are used to determine if upland household activities in Feature 9 differ from household activities in coastal Neoglacial houses in the eastern Aleutian Islands.

The complex hearth features at ADK-00237 are similar to those at the Amaknak Bridge (UNL-00050) site on Unalaska Island. The artifact assemblage at ADK-00237 is similar to other Margaret Bay phase sites in the eastern

Aleutian Islands with the notable absence of fishing and hunting equipment and midden remains. Core and blade technology include one microblade core and two blade-like unifaces. Unifacial technology was more prevalent than bifacial technology and most tools were informal flake tools. The comparable tool assemblages suggest similar activities occurred in Feature 9 as at other Margaret Bay phase houses in the eastern Aleutian Islands. There is no evidence the Arctic Small Tool tradition (ASTt)-like artifacts from Chaluka (SAM-00001) and Margaret Bay (UNL-00048) were identified at ADK-00237.

The measurable differences in the upland site of ADK-00237 to coastal houses are that Feature 9 and the two additional houses were not stone-lined, it has a smaller assemblage size, there is a lower frequency of points within the assemblage, and no definitive fishing or hunting equipment was found. Given the available evidence, ADK-00237 was likely a lookout location, based on its proximity to a coastal village (ADK-00025) and its views and easy access to three other water bodies, Adak Strait to the west, South Arm Bay to the north, and Bay of Waterfalls to the southeast. ADK-00237 could also have been a refuge.

**UNANGAN (ALEUT) SUBSISTENCE
THROUGHOUT THE MEDIEVAL CLIMATIC
ANOMALY: ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL
ANALYSIS OF THE SURF BAY LANDING SITE
(1500 BP TO 700 BP) ON AKUN ISLAND,
ALASKA**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis utilizes a zooarchaeological collection from the Surf Bay Landing site (UNI-104) on Akun Island in the eastern Aleutian Islands to examine Unangan (Aleut) subsistence and climate change from 1500 to 700 years before present. Proxy records from the region suggest that there were periods of warming and cooling throughout the period the site was occupied. Relative abundances of fauna were compared by level, both natural and arbitrary, to note changes in relative abundances of taxa over time. However, due to reversed radiocarbon dates, dating of individual strata within the site was not possible. Patterns indicating possible periods of warming were identified in both of the analyzed excavation units. However, without additional radiocarbon dates, the timing of these possible shifts remains unknown. The fauna from the Surf Bay Landing site was also compared with analyzed assemblages in the region to compare the types and abundances of taxa utilized throughout the last 5000 years of Aleutian prehistory. While the analysis of fauna from the Surf Bay Landing site did not reveal any definite shifts in paleoclimate, the data from this site fill a gap in what is currently known about subsistence and species availability in the eastern Aleutian Islands 1500 to 700 BP.