

Faunal Remains at the Chernofski Harbor Village Site (UNL-0034) with Attention to Seasonality and Temporal Consistency of Northern Fur Seal

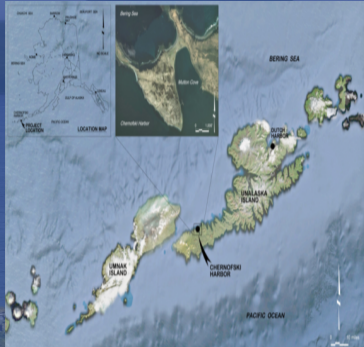
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Chernofski Village is located within the traditional homeland of the Unangaʼ of Unalaska. For thousands of years the Unangaʼ have been, and continue to be, the stewards of this land. It is with gratefulness and respect that we recognize the contributions, innovations, and contemporary perspectives of the Indigenous People of the Aleutian Islands.

Introduction

During the 2019 field season, Cultural Resource Consultants LLC (CRC) excavated five 1- by 2-meter (m) units at Chernofski Harbor Village on western Unalaska Island, located in the Aleutians of Southwest Alaska. All units contained dense faunal remains and thousands of animal bones were collected from the site. Units 1 and 4 were selected for faunal analysis because of the differing ages of their deposits. Unit 1 deposits date to the Amaknak phase, beginning at least by 2850 RCYBP, towards the end of the first Neoglacial advance, if not earlier, and continuing through at least 1670 RCYBP. The lower Unit 4 Late Aleutian Phase deposits date to 880 RCYBP, and the upper deposits to the Historic Period, all within the period of the third Neoglacial advance (the "Little Ice Age").

Location



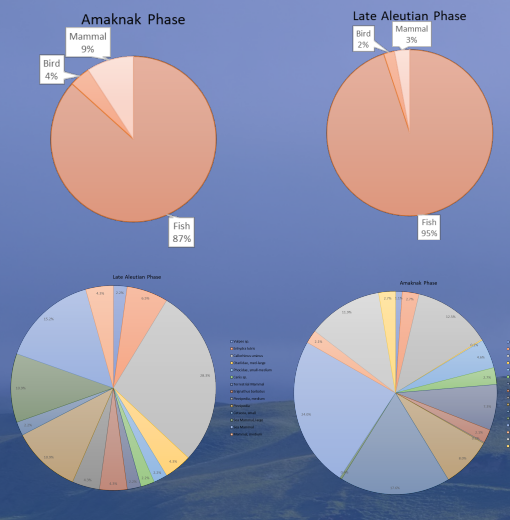
Materials and Methods

All large faunal remains and bone artifacts were recorded with a total station. Sediments from all units were dry screened using ¼" mesh and bulk faunal samples were taken from all 10 cm layers of the units. In the lab, 500 mL faunal samples were taken from the bulk samples of each stratigraphic level, identified using comparative collections, and quantified using Number of Identified Species (NISP). In addition, 10x10cm bulk column samples were taken from Units 1 and 4 with 500 mL sub-samples taken to quantify the shellfish remains. These samples were processed through nested 4mm and 2mm screens, identified by invertebrate type, and quantified by weight.

Acknowledgements: Funding for the Chernofski Harbor Village excavation project was provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District. Faunal comparative collections and individual specimens were made available by the Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists, the University of Alaska's Museum of the North, Cultural Resource Consultants LLC, and University of New Mexico. Data for this presentation are from the 2021 report by Cultural Resource Consultants LLC on the 2019 excavations. Zooarchaeologists Aubrey L. Morrison and Linda Finn Yarborough, and University of Alaska Anchorage graduate students Emily Corley and Elizabeth Ortiz, and undergraduate student Christine Castro worked on the identifications.

Prehistoric

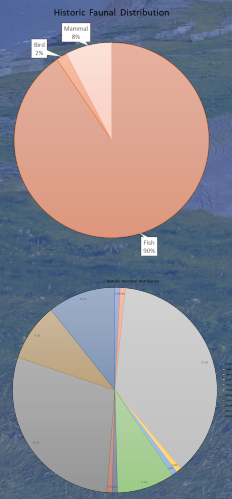
Summary of Fauna from Amaknak Phase		
Identification	Fish	Total NISP
Cottidae	342	1402
Gadidae	105	4
Hexagrammidae	4	
Pleuronectidae (large)	188	
Pleuronectidae (small)	3	
Salmonidae	67	
Scorpenidae	15	
Fish	2945	
Total Fish NISP		5293
Bird		
Diomedelidae	4	
Procellariidae	4	
Phalacrocoracidae	9	
Anatidae (ducks)	21	
Anatidae (geese/brant)	7	
Laridae	9	
Alcidae (large)	18	
Alcidae (sm./med.)	10	
Accipitridae	1	
Corvidae	2	
Gaviidae	3	
Bird	160	
Total Bird NISP		248
Mammal		
Vulpes sp.	6	
Erythron leucis	15	
Canis lupus	70	
Eumetopias jubatus	15	
Otaridae, medium	1	
Phocidae, small-medium	26	
Pinnipedia, small	15	
Pinnipedia, medium	41	
Pinnipedia, large	12	
Phocionidae	1	
Cetacea	45	
Sea Mammal	99	
Mammal, small	2	
Mammal, medium	135	
Mammal, large	12	
Mammal	67	
Total Mammal NISP		562
Invertebrates (mg)		
Mussel	2869.10	
Urchin	862.39	
Gastropod	2.66	
Chiton	15.76	
Clam	13.85	
Unidentified	0.65	
Total Invertebrate NISP		3769.41



Summary of Fauna from Late Aleutian Phase		
Identification	Fish	Total NISP
Cottidae	115	
Gadidae	690	
Hexagrammidae	18	
Pleuronectidae (large)	11	
Pleuronectidae (small)	42	
Salmonidae	11	
Scorpenidae	5	
Fish	583	
Total Fish NISP		1474
Bird		
Diomedelidae	1	
Procellariidae	1	
Anatidae (ducks)	2	
Anatidae (geese/brant)	1	
Laridae	18	
Alcidae (large)	2	
Alcidae (sm./med.)	1	
Bird	7	
Total Bird NISP		33
Mammal		
Vulpes sp.	1	
Canis sp.	1	
Terrestrial Mammal	1	
Erythron leucis	3	
Canis lupus	13	
Otaridae, med-large	2	
Erigonothus barbatus	2	
Phocidae, small-medium	1	
Pinnipedia, medium	2	
Pinnipedia	5	
Cetacea, small	1	
Sea Mammal, large	5	
Sea Mammal	7	
Mammal, medium	2	
Total Mammal NISP		46
Invertebrates (mg)		
Mussel	428.60	
Urchin	187.72	
Chiton	0.94	
Clam	7.155	
Total Invertebrate NISP		624.415

Historic

Summary of Fauna from Historic Levels		
Identification	Fish	Total NISP
Cottidae	142	
Gadidae	498	
Hexagrammidae	53	
Pleuronectidae (large)	18	
Pleuronectidae (small)	28	
Salmonidae	18	
Scorpenidae	8	
Fish	655	
Total Fish NISP		1420
Bird		
Procellariidae	1	
Phalacrocoracidae	1	
Anatidae (ducks)	2	
Laridae	2	
Alcidae (large)	4	
Alcidae (sm./m)	4	
Corvidae	2	
Bird	12	
Total Bird NISP		28
Mammal		
Dicrostonyx groenlandicus	1	
Vulpes sp.	1	
Callorhinus ursinus	45	
Eumetopias jubatus	1	
Phocidae (sm./m)	1	
Pinnipedia (medium)	11	
Pinnipedia	1	
Cetacea	1	
Sea Mammal	35	
Mammal (medium)	11	
Mammal	13	
Total Mammal NISP		121
Invertebrates (mg)		
Mussel	94.28	
Urchin	33.35	
Gastropod	0.16	
Chiton	2.83	
Total Invertebrate NISP		130.62



Fur Seal Sample

Unit 1, Amaknak Phase																					
Level/Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total NISP
Level	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21
0-4 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21
4-6 months																					
6-12 months																					
12-18 months																					
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