

Walrus Islands Archeological District National Historic Landmark Bristol Bay, Alaska

Bristol Bay people have been visiting the islands since at least 4300 BCE (Before Common Era), and archeological evidence shows that people have been hunting walrus there for at least the past 6,000 years. Harvesting walrus is a tradition for many arctic and subarctic communities in Greenland, Russia, Canada, and Alaska. Alaska Native Yup'ik, Iñupiaq and Unangaî communities continue to depend on walrus. The Walrus Islands are made up of seven small islands – Qayassiq ("place to go in a kayak" or Round Island), Qilkeq (named after a person in a legend or Summit Island), Nunalukaq ("land big enough to live on awhile" or Crooked Island), Ingriqvak ("big island" or High Island), Ingricuar ("small island" or Black Rock Island), and Nunevragak ("temporary camping place" or The Twins islands).