

BEFORE WE MET THE "UNDERWATER PEOPLE"

12000 BP

AD 500-1000

YOU
ARE HERE



**12000 BP. ICE AGE ENDS – PEOPLE ENTER COOK
INLET BASIN**

As glaciers begin to recede from the upper Cook Inlet Basin, it becomes possible for human beings to live in the area for the first time. Little is known of the first inhabitants except that they used core and blade technology to hunt large land mammals.

Matanuska Glacier. Photo copyright Mark Clime/Dreamstime.com

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AD 500 – 1000. DENA'INA MOVE INTO SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

The Dena'ina reach Cook Inlet in two migrations. They first come through either Rainy Pass or Ptarmigan Pass into the Susitna River country, where they occupy the coastal

area around Tyonek as well as Knik. Later, the Dena'ina migrate south to Iliamna Lake, eventually crossing over to the Kenai Peninsula.

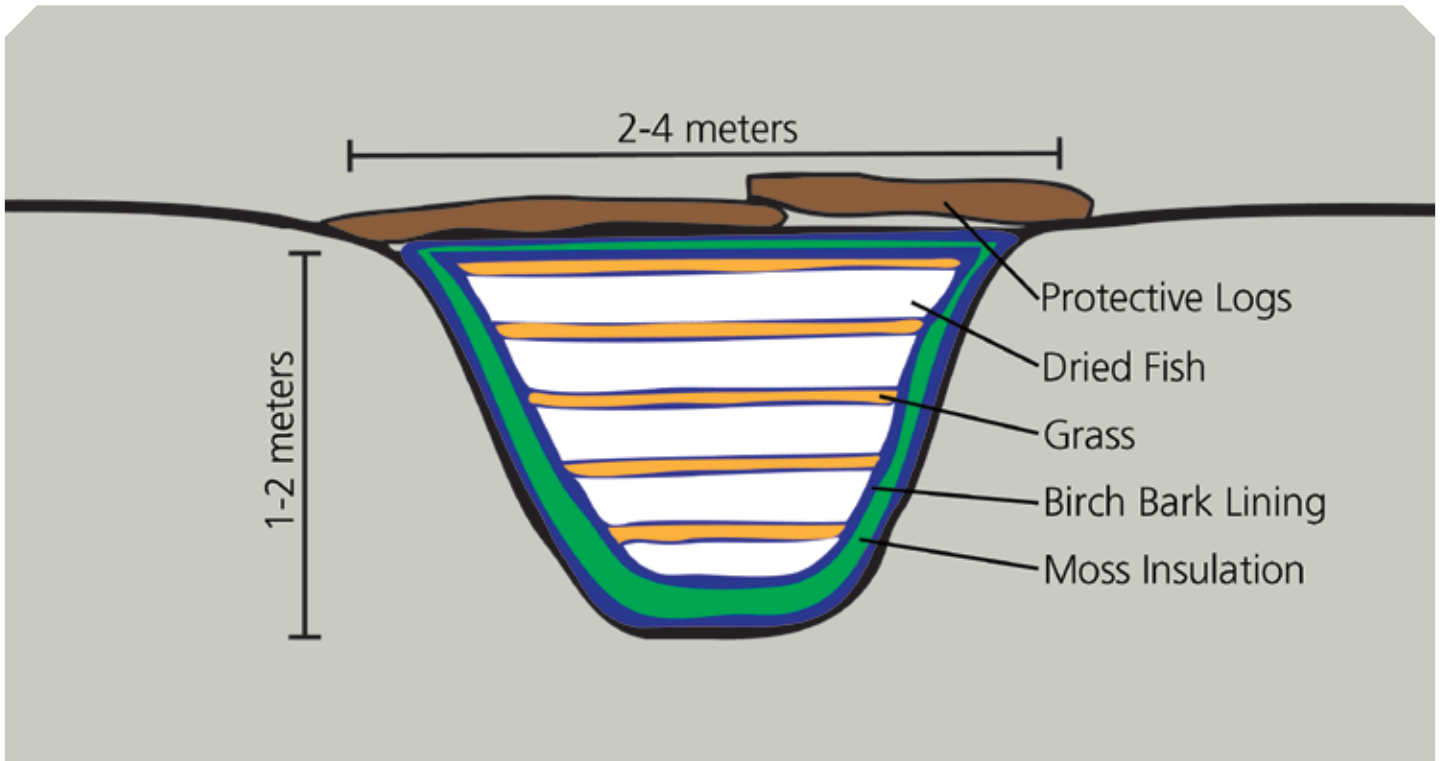
Tuxedeni Bay pictographs. Courtesy of the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Photo by James W. Henderson

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AD 1000. DENA'INA PROSPER DUE TO SALMON STORAGE TECHNOLOGY

The Dena'ina develop cold storage pits. This method enables preservation of large supplies of salmon and supports semi-sedentary villages. During the same period, social and political organization becomes more complex among the Dena'ina.

Cold storage pit. Illustration courtesy of Alan Boraas