

Walruses have been harvested on *Qayassiq* for thousands of years using techniques and traditions still practiced today.

Unaware of *Qayassiq's* existing name, Captain James Cook named this place Round Island when he sailed past in 1778. He was also unaware that the local peoples had lived and hunted here for ages. Today's Yupik are direct descendants of the *Togiagamiut*, who were present at the time of European contact, and the Thule who hunted here for at least 5,700 years.

Traditions of the Thule

Yupik ancestors paddled here in skin kayaks, harvesting walrus on rocky beaches so as not to contaminate the flesh. In a manner called *caparpeknaki* or 'with respect and without waste,' they used the whole walrus including the meat, bone, ivory, hide, blubber, and internal organs, for food and the tools they used in daily life.

lunting on shore

prevents losses that occur in open water.

Tools of the Thule

Tools were fashioned from bone, ivory, stone, and wood. Blades were made of ground, polished slate while points were made from bone or ivory. The ingenuity of the harpoon's toggle point is adapted to hunting marine mammals, while the beauty of the ulu is in its simplicity.

Continuing Traditions

Using similar methods but some modern tools, the Yupik continue the traditions of their ancestors with *caparpeknaki* as they have for thousands of years. Today, nine area communities are active in the Qayassiq Walrus Commission and participate in annual fall hunts. Passing traditions along helps to ensure the continued health of these communities and availability of valuable resources in this unique place.

Sail-By Naming

Walrus intestines have many uses from raincoats to food storage.

Butchering walrus using ulu. g on H:

Socket

Harpoor

Line

Moveable

Harpoon

Made of

wood, ivory,

bone, and

Ice Pick

sinew

Shaft

Harpoon Head

The harpoon head is as complex as the harpoon itself. The head punctures the hide penetrating the flesh. It separates from the

foreshaft and the tension causes the spur to catch then toggle into position.

Made of wood, ivory, bone, and sinew.

Lance

Harpoon

Dart

Today's hunters might arrive carrying rifles in motorized boats and use manufactured tools, but the subsistence traditions are the same.

Often known as a "woman's knife" ulu sizes vary depending on use. The shape allows force to be applied over the center of the knife.

Uses vary from skinning and cleaning animals, slicing foods, cutting hair, sinew, and patterns.

Walrus heads and tusks

Knife

Handle is woo bone. or ivory.

Resources

With seabirds nesting by the thousands, eggs were plentiful for Yupik ancestors and the resident red fox. Hunting and gathering of marine mammals, seabird eggs, fish, shellfish, and berries was an important seasonal food source.