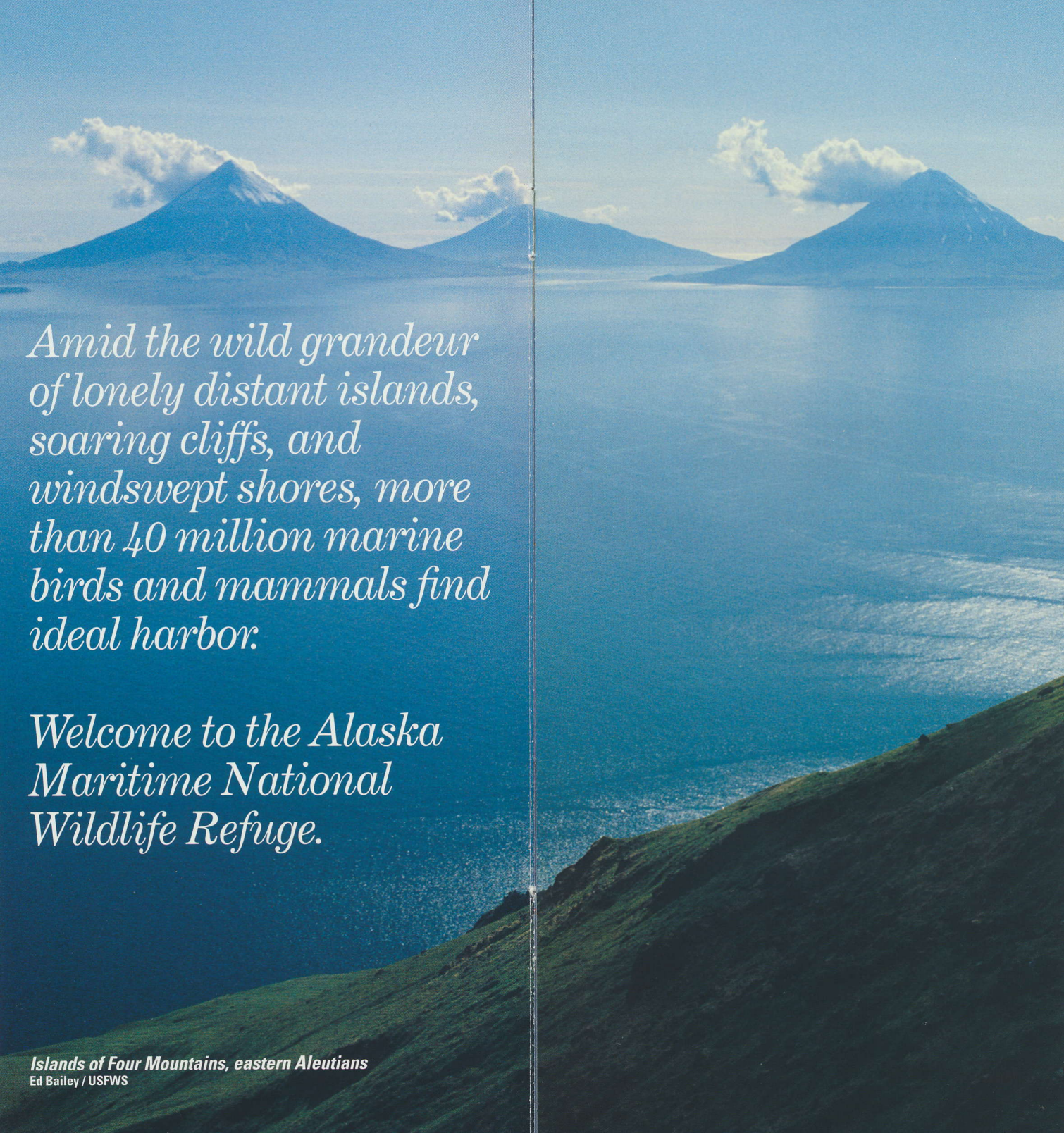


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alaska Maritime

*National Wildlife
Refuge*





*Amid the wild grandeur
of lonely distant islands,
soaring cliffs, and
windswept shores, more
than 40 million marine
birds and mammals find
ideal harbor.*

*Welcome to the Alaska
Maritime National
Wildlife Refuge.*

Human Drama

For over 9,000 years, marine mammals and birds fed and clothed Alaska's earliest coastal peoples and gave rise to prosperous civilizations with sophisticated technology.



Alaska State Library, Image ID No. G420.L93V08 Atlas X-OverSize PL 10-2

Unangax (Aleut), Yup'ik, Inupiat, Dena'ina Athabascan, Alutiiq, Haida, and Tlingit people all have roots on refuge lands.

Russians arrived in the 1700s, seeking a wealth of furs. They subjugated Natives and slaughtered sea otters and fur seals. They upset the natural balance by introducing foxes to islands where wildlife evolved without land predators.

After the U.S. purchase of Alaska in 1867, American trappers and traders intensified the outrages, prompting the setting aside of lands for this Refuge and an international treaty protecting sea otters and fur seals.

In 1942, War II came to Alaska. Japanese forces swept into the Aleutians, bombing Dutch Harbor and seizing Kiska and Attu.

Young Marina Hodikof and the other residents of Attu were captured by Japanese forces and held in Japan for the duration of the war. Nearly half of the 42 villagers perished in captivity. The villagers were never allowed to return home to Attu, instead they were forced by the U.S. government to resettle in other communities.



Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument includes this bomber on Atka Island. Three Alaska sites were selected to tell the story of the sacrifice and valor of civilians and soldiers.



Steve Hillebrand/USFWS

In response to the Japanese aggression, U.S. authorities evacuated nine villages in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. The people from the Pribilofs went to Funter Bay in Southeast Alaska. The conditions were so inhumane that ten percent of the people died from the cold, wet, and crowded conditions.

Allied forces fought the long and bloody Aleutian Campaign (including the Battle of Attu) to reclaim American soil.



National Archives

Some people call the Aleutian Campaign of WWII the Forgotten War: "I'm here to tell you that for our people - the Unangax people - it has never been forgotten and it never will be." - Crystal Dushkin

A group of descendants visited the former village site on Attu with refuge staff as part of a WWII 75th anniversary commemoration.



Zoe Sobel/KUCB

Alaska Maritime

National Wildlife Refuge

 Land within the Refuge Boundary
(includes some private land)

 Refuge Headquarters
and Visitor Center

Visiting the Refuge

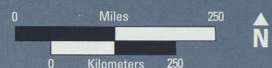
Ferries, tour boats, planes, and cruise ships can transport you to parts of the Refuge. Only Homer and Seward are accessible by road, but all communities in and near the Refuge have scheduled air service.

The best time to visit is from June through August when marine birds and mammals come ashore to breed and raise young. Expect cold, wet, windy weather and bring rain gear and layers of warm clothing. There are no campgrounds on the Refuge. Nearby towns have lodging.

Visitor Center

Come explore the adventure and wildlife of this remote Refuge through exhibits, films, and guided walks and talks at our Refuge visitor center (known locally as **Islands & Ocean**). Special experiences can be arranged for schools and other organized groups. Admission is free of charge.

Base map source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community.



Science

How do we monitor this vast resource? It is impossible to visit every seabird colony every year, so we monitor just a few widely-spaced colonies, collecting data on seabird population trends, reproductive success, and diets.



Lisa Hupp/USFWS

This red-faced cormorant is one of the birds we study, watching for changes in the marine environment that signal conservation problems.



Aaron Christ/USFWS



Robin Corcoran/USFWS

The Refuge's R/V Tiglaax supplies eight remote camps and supports a program of international marine research.

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Crested Auklets
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