Underwater Archaeology in the Kodiak Archipelago and Beyond

Jason Rogers
Northern Land Use Research, Anchorage
Alaska: 45,000 miles of coastline, more than the rest of the United States put together

Port of Anchorage: (2015) 3.7 million tons of cargo.

90% of the consumer goods brought into Alaska come through the PoA.

(www.portofanch.com)
Over 50% of America’s commercially harvested fish comes from Alaska – 4 times more than the next largest seafood producing state. Seafood processing accounts for 71% of the manufacturing jobs in Alaska.

(Alaska Resource Development Council)
More than 4,000 wrecks are recorded in the Alaska Shipwreck Database

Discovery
August 2003

Brad Stevens
Johan Hinrich Meyer (1761-1850), founder of the shipyards where the *Kad’ya* was built in 1850.

Purchase certificate for the bark *Kad’ya*.
The **Kad’yak**

Built: Lübeck, Germany 1850  
Shipbuilder: Hans Jacob Meyer  
Capacity: $238\frac{1}{4}$ “Komerzlasten (477 tons)  
Sheathed with copper  
Length (deck 0): ~130 ft* (40.3 m)  
Beam: ~28.8 ft*(9 m)  
Masts: 3 (2 square-rigged)  
Draft: ~15 ft (5m)

Bark *Sir Robert Peel*, 1851.

Bark *Franklin*, 1836
Round the world voyage of the *Kad’yak*

Left the Baltic port of Kronshtadt in August 7, 1851
Arrived in the Alaskan port of New Archangel (Sitka) on May 7, 1852.
The *Kad’yak* in Alaska

- Standard Complement of 25-30:
  - Skipper, 2 Officers, Cargo Master, 2 Bosuns,
  - 13 Sailors, 6-8 hands, 2 cabin boys
- Home port: Sitka
- Ordinance: 4-6 cast iron guns
- Average speed: 5 knots

- **Voyages to:**
  - Russian outposts of Alaska
  - Okhotsk and Aian
  - Hawaii
  - San Francisco
On March 30, 1860 she departed Kodiak with a cargo of ice, bound for San Francisco. She ran aground on an uncharted rock, and drifted for 3 days, finally coming to rest in Icon Bay, Spruce Island.
Icon Bay, Spruce Island
2004 site investigation, working off of FV Big Valley
Site maps

Mapping the site

Area 1

Area 2
Site map area 1

KOD923
Kad’yak site map

- cannon
- machinery concretion
- davit
- ballast pile
- hull timbers
- capstan and iron frame
- small anchor
- artifact with vessel name
- anchors

Feet
0 10 20
Hull

Frames with outer hull planking

Documenting hull frames

Double frames with concreted iron fastener
Bilge Pump

Box

Tube
Anchors
Cannons

Cannon 1

Cannon 2

Russian cannons in Unalaska
Ship’s Wheel Hub

Site: Kad’ysk (KOD-623)
Artifact No: 001
Artifact Description: Ship’s Wheel Hub
Recorder: E. Anichtchenko/7-20-04
Drawn/Date: M. De Felice/ N.D.
“кодякъ” (Kod’yak)
Site Formation
Shipwreck Archaeology in Alaska

1871 Whaling Fleet
St Michael steamships
SS Eliza Anderson
Kad'yak
SS Portland
Torrent
SS Clara Nevada
SS Clara Nevada, ex USC&GS Hassler
Clara Nevada, wrecked 1898
Bark *Torrent*
Side-wheel steamboat *Eliza Anderson*: built in Portland, Oregon in 1858

140-foot length, 24-foot beam, 8-foot draft, 279 tons
Eliza Anderson, wrecked 1898
Neva shipwreck project
What Next??

• Refine the inventory (type of wreck, accuracy and reliability of locational data)
• Determine what sites may be under threat (erosion, climate change, development)
• Engage local communities, other marine professionals
• Seek funding...
Thank You!