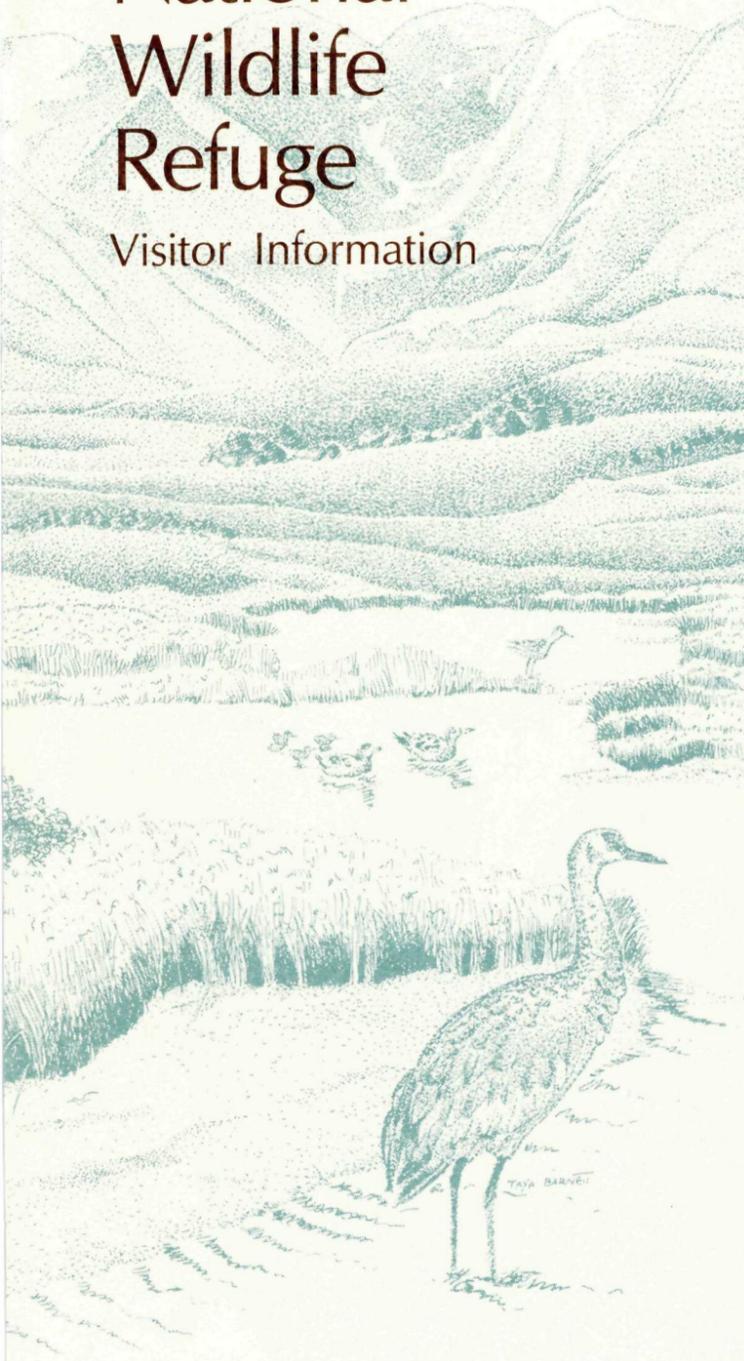


Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Information



TOGIAK: A HOME FOR WILDLIFE

With a splash, two brightly colored eiders land on the coastal waters of Chagvan Bay. Around them pintail, scaup, and black brant feed on beds of eelgrass while plovers probe for tiny mollusks on the sandy shore.



THE MANY ENVIRONMENTS AND WILDLIFE OF TOGIAK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Chagvan Bay is one of several coastal bays that interface Togiak Refuge where wildlife can find food and protection from wind, waves, and pounding surf. The bays and estuaries form the base of a food web feeding a variety of wildlife — waterfowl, seabirds, marine, and terrestrial wildlife.

Togiak's landscape comprises wetlands, open water, meadows, tundra, mountains, and forests. The coastline is a rugged assemblage of sea cliffs, offshore pinnacles, and sandy beaches. The scenic Wood River mountains include hanging valleys, cirques, and deep glacial lakes. Togiak Valley is the site of a two-mile long "tuya," — a rare geologic feature formed when lava erupts under a glacier. Many of the features are a result of volcanic action and glacial erosion.

The 4.3 million acre refuge was set aside to protect the diversity of habitats and the many wildlife species that live in them. The northern half of the refuge (2.3 million acres) is a nationally designated wilderness area. The refuge was established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.



A HAVEN FOR MIGRATING BIRDS

Alaska's wetlands are crucial to the survival of many birds. The eelgrass beds of Chagvan and Nanvak bays and the aquatic invertebrates and berries of adjacent uplands attract eiders, pintails, scaup, brant, emperor, white-fronted, and Canada geese. The wetlands with readily available fish and invertebrates are attractive to a large variety of waterfowl and shorebirds.

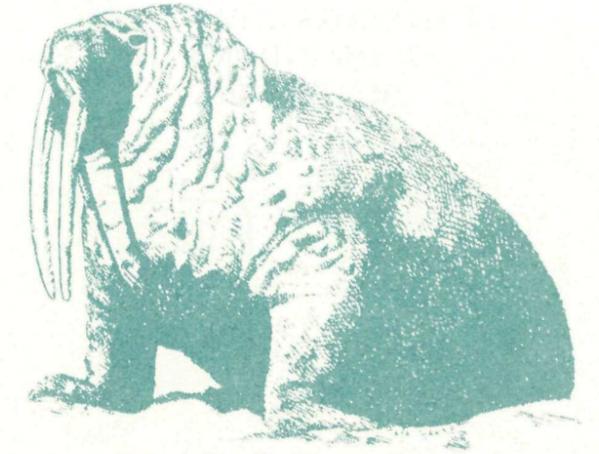
The coastal headlands of Cape Newenham and Cape Peirce are host to millions of seabirds — murre, horned puffin, gulls, cormorant, and kittiwakes. The interior portions of the refuge are host to bald eagles who are year-round residents. Other raptors include goshawk, rough-legged hawk, gyrfalcon, osprey, short-eared owl, snowy owl, and peregrine falcon.

...AND OTHER WILDLIFE

Brown bears are the most abundant large mammal. Caribou inhabit the Nushagak Peninsula and occasionally migrate through the northeastern part of the refuge. Smaller mammals include the hoary marmot, beaver, wolverine, otter, mink, red fox, and an occasional wolf in the interior wilderness. Marine mammals include sea lions, walrus, and seals. Grey whales feed close to the shore particularly between Togiak and Cape Newenham. Beluga and killer whales are sometimes seen along the coast.

BRISTOL BAY: A SALMON NURSERY

During the summer salmon swim up the rivers and streams of the refuge from Kuskokwim and Bristol bays to spawn. The fish — king, red, silver, pink and chum salmon — are part of the world's largest salmon fishery. Other fish include grayling, rainbow and lake trout, burbot, Dolly Varden, arctic char and northern pike.



A SENSE OF HISTORY

Archeological evidence supports the fact that Eskimos inhabited some areas of the refuge for at least two thousand years. At Security Cove near Cape Newenham there is evidence of habitation for as long as five thousand years ago.

The lifestyle of the modern Eskimo hangs in a curious balance between the old and the new ways. In the past they maintained a sophisticated hunting and gathering culture suited to the harsh environment. Today — most rural residents still depend on fishing, hunting, berry, and plant gathering.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Moist and rainy conditions usually prevail in the summer months. Summer temperatures range between 45° and 73°F. Snow covers the mountains by early October. In November, lakes and rivers develop an ice cover that remains until June. Winter temperatures range from 45° to -10°F, sometimes falling as low as -30°F. The weather is at best unpredictable. It is not uncommon for a warm and sunny day to turn into a cold, windy, and wet day.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
ALASKA 1992



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources and protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation.

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States — now and in the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

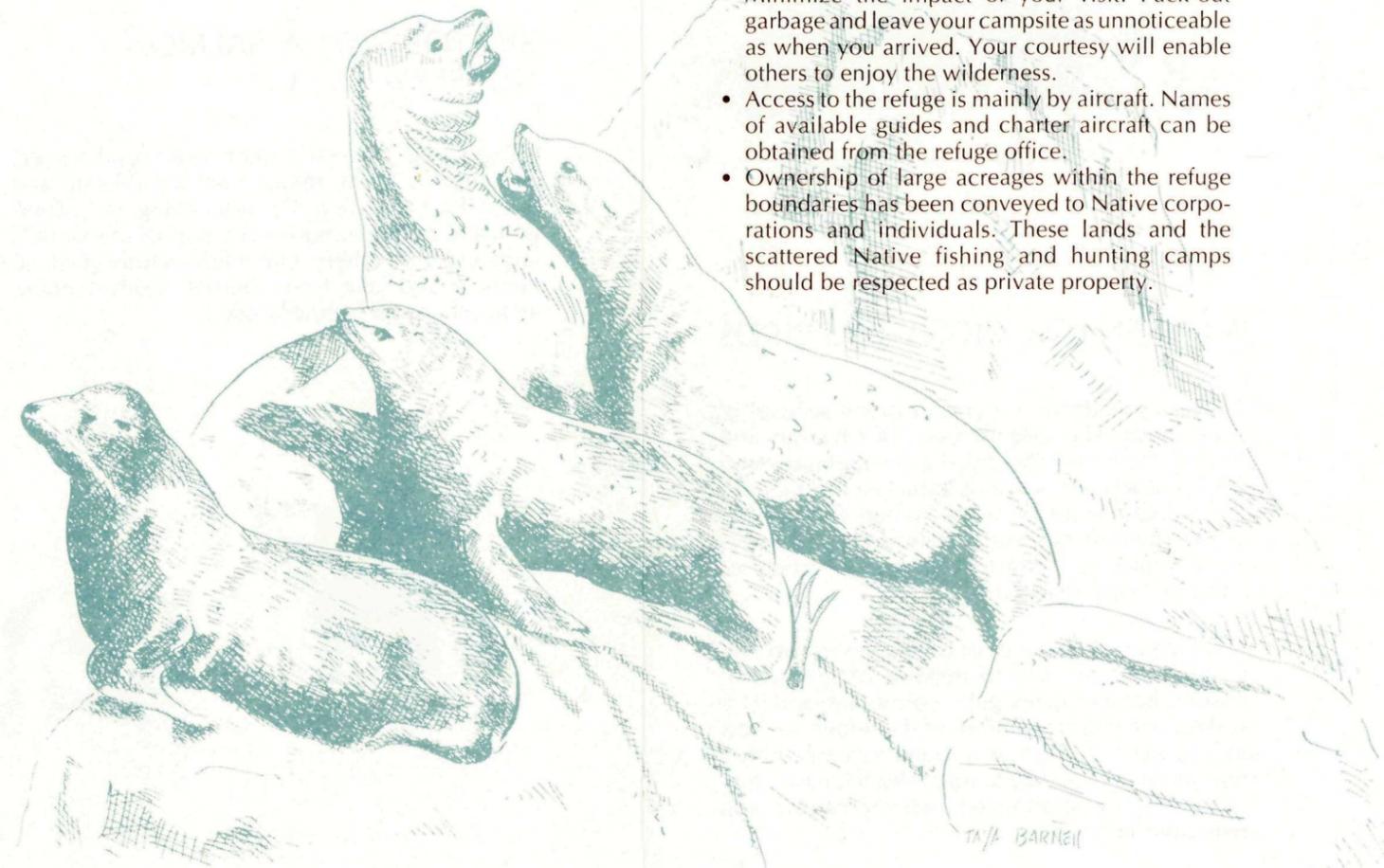
Refuge Manager
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 270
Dillingham, AK 99576
(907) 842-1063



ACCESS AND VISITOR
INFORMATION

• Recreational uses may include wildlife observation, hiking, rafting, hunting, and fishing. Information on hunting and fishing regulations is available from the refuge office in Dillingham or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Box 199, Dillingham, AK, 99576. Information on topographic maps are available from: U.S. Geological Survey — (telephone: 907-271-4307, Anchorage or 907-456-0244, Fairbanks).

- Several rivers are suitable for river running by kayak, canoe, and rafting — particularly the Goodnews, Togiak and Kanektok rivers. River users are asked to camp on bare gravel bars below the mean high water mark. Additional information on river usage is available from refuge personnel.
- Streams with native populations of trout are becoming rare. In order to maintain these populations so others may enjoy this resource catch and release fishing is recommended for rainbow trout and grayling — and encouraged for other species. Special sport fishing regulations apply to some refuge waters.
- Boil or chemically purify all water before drinking. Giardiasis — a water borne intestinal disease is common in Alaska.
- Minimize the impact of your visit. Pack-out garbage and leave your campsite as unnoticeable as when you arrived. Your courtesy will enable others to enjoy the wilderness.
- Access to the refuge is mainly by aircraft. Names of available guides and charter aircraft can be obtained from the refuge office.
- Ownership of large acreages within the refuge boundaries has been conveyed to Native corporations and individuals. These lands and the scattered Native fishing and hunting camps should be respected as private property.



TOGIAK
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

