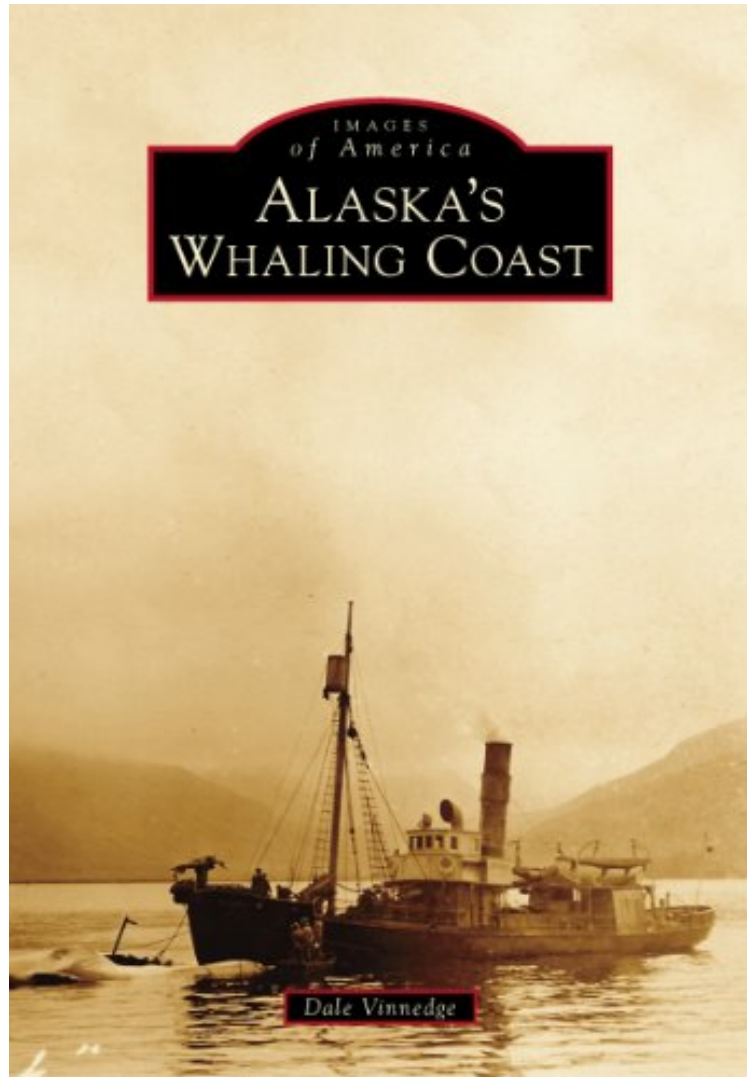


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Alaska's Whaling Coast (Images of America)

Dale Vinnedge

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Dale Vinnedge : Alaska's Whaling Coast (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alaska's Whaling Coast (Images of America):

In 1850, commercial whaling ships entered the Bering Sea for the first time. There, they found the summer grounds of bowhead whales, as well as local Inuit people who had been whaling the Alaskan coast for 2,000 years. Within a few years, almost the entire Pacific fleet came north each June to find a path through the melting ice, and the Inuit way of whaling in fact, their entire livelihood would be forever changed. Baleen was worth nearly \$5 a pound. But the new trading posts brought guns, alcohol, and disease. In 1905, a new type of whaling using modern steel whale-catchers

and harpoon cannons appeared along the Alaskan coast. Yet the Inuit and Inupiat continue whaling today from approximately 15 small towns scattered along the Arctic Ocean and the Bering Strait. Whaling for these people is a life-or-death proposition in a land considered uninhabitable by many, for without the whale, whole villages probably could not survive as they have for centuries.

About the Author Dale Vinnedge is a recognized expert on international whaling. He is past president of the Friends of the National Maritime Museum Library, and research for this book took him to some of these traditional whaling villages along the Alaskan coast.