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Ben Fitzhugh is an archaeologist and environmental anthropologist at the University of Washington in Seattle specializing in arctic/subarctic and maritime hunter-gatherer social and cultural evolution. Current research revolves around the Kuril Biocomplexity Project, an international and interdisciplinary field and synthesis project seeking to understand archaeological settlement history and human-environmental dynamics of the North Pacific's Kuril Islands (an 1100 km strong of volcanic islands linking Hokkaido, Japan and Kamchatka, Russia). This project, currently in its 4th year, completed the third and final field expedition in 2008 and is now heavily engaged in analysis and in the initial phases of inter-disciplinary synthesis. Other major research includes 15 years of survey and excavation on the Kodiak Archipelago in southern Alaska and a new collaboration with the National Park Service on Cape Krusenstern in NW Alaska. Interests include the evolution of socially 'complex hunter-gatherers', human biogeography and social networking across landscapes of varying population density, vulnerability and resilience to cultural and environmental perturbations, risk sensitivity and technological evolution, behavioral ecology and evolutionary archaeology.