

Barrow gets two whales

Barrow is celebrating two whales caught less than 24 hours apart. The David Brower, Sr., crew caught the first whale on May 9, less than one hour after they set out to sea. They brought in a 29-foot bowhead whale.

The whale is divided among all the crew and the people. Sections of the whale are saved for feasts such as blanket toss, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"Everyone is celebrating in Barrow," said Qiyaan, one of the villagers. "We are having a 'come-on-over feast' at David Brower Sr.'s house." Qiyaan is helping with the cooking while the men haul up the meat on snow machines. She said they were hauling up the last load which will

make it about 10 hours since they started around 6:30 in the morning. The captain, David Brower Sr., was hospitalized at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage and could not be reached for comment. His son, Charles Brower, said his father had heard of the catch.

The other whale, a 43-foot female bowhead, was caught by the Roxy Oyagak Crew the following morning on May 10. Rosie Eleanor Oyagak, daughter of the captain, said the crew went out on May 10 when the ice cleared up.

Her voice hurried with excitement, Rosie exclaimed, "My pop is coming up right now with some muktuk so we can cook."

Barrow's quota is four whales.