

# Seal Season Opens Oct. 15

The season on seal in game management units one through 16 will open October 15, reported the Alaska Department of Fish and Game today. The season has been closed since August 1.

This past closed season on seal was the first in the history of Alaska, said John Crawford, southeastern regional game supervisor.

In the past, the seal had the status of a carmint in southeastern Alaska. The harvesting of seal hides is now a million dollar Alaskan industry, he continued.

Crawford explained that the two and a half month closed period was put into effect to protect the seals during the time the hides are valueless. Only seals involved in fishery depredation could be legally killed during this time.

The Klag Bay area north of Sitka has had 23 sea otter transplanted into it this summer. Crawford requested all hunters in the Klag Bay area to be sure of their targets before they shoot.

Sea otter can be distinguished from seals by their smaller size and habit of floating on their backs.

Indiscriminate shooting could bring failure to the attempt to re-introduce this valuable furbearer into the Panhandle, Crawford concluded.