

# ***Sound learning to live with walrus quota***

NOME--Village walrus hunters in the Norton Sound area may gather in Nome sometime this summer to discuss the walrus quota imposed by Federal and state authorities if funding can be found. The meeting would be sponsored by Kau-

werak, the Native non-profit association for the Bering Straights region, to discuss proposals for modifying the quota.

The federal government turned over management of the walrus stock to the State Department of Fish and Game in the

spring of 1977, with a maximum harvest level set by federal regulation at 3,000 walrus. The state distributed the quota among the villages in Norton Sound, St. Lawrence Island and on the arctic coast, after meeting and considering comments

from villages.

Caleb Pungowiyi in Nome said that the quota had been in effect for two years now, and that although villagers aren't happy with it, they're learning to live with it. Carl Grevogle, of the Department of Fish and Game in Nome, confirmed that there hadn't been any real enforcement problems although hunters were not necessarily happy at having their take limited.

In order to propose a change in regulations made by the Game Board, citizens may present proposals through the Department of Fish and Game, through local Advisory Councils; or directly to the Board. The proposals must be published for 30 days according to legal requirements to give others a chance to comment before the Board may consider the suggested change, Grevogle explained.