

# ***Bowhead whale regs proposed***

Proposed regulations governing the taking of bowhead whales by Alaskan Natives were announced January 30, 1979, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The proposed regulations for 1979 implement a quota established by the International Whaling Commission of 18 bowhead whales landed or 27 struck (whales struck, whether landed or not).

The proposed regulations allocate the 1979 quota (landed/struck) among the whaling villages of Kaktovik (2/3), Nuiqsut (1/2), Barrow (5/7), Wainwright (2/3), Wales (1/1), Point Hope (2/3), Gambell (2/3), Savoonga (2/3), and Kivalina (1/2). These allocations are based on

the take by these villages in 1978. Once a village reaches either its landed or struck quota, it must stop whaling. Any unused portion of a quota may be reassigned to other villages.

Residents of the nine villages hunt the whales during the spring and fall as the whales pass near their villages. The spring hunt, when most whales are taken, begins about April 1, depending on ice conditions, and lasts six to eight weeks.

In addition to establishing a quota, the proposed regulations prohibit killing of a calf or a whale with a calf, simplify licensing requirements, allow the Natives to salvage the dead unclaimed whales, require reports on kills and strikes, and estab-

lish penalties for violations of the regulations.

Comments are solicited on the proposed regulations which were published in the Federal Register of January 30, 1979. Comments must be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Washington, D.C., 20235, by March 15, 1979.