

Conservation Leads Discussion at Nunivak

An education course in Basic Conservation has just been completed at the village of Mekoryuk on Nunivak Island. Included in the course were discussions on how the area's wild life resources could be used to aid the village's economy.

Both day school classes and evening adult classes were held by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and with the approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The subjects taught were: introduction to conservation of renewable resources; description and classification of wildlife; introduction of the Fish and Game Department structure and organization, including Job opportunities and training for jobs; and guiding.

Ideas were discussed for making use of the island's

musk ox herd, including harvesting of the wool, transplanting of musk-ox to the mainland, and guiding for hunters to take animals on a controlled-hunt basis.

The selective hunting,

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Collection . . .

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which is under discussion by state and federal agencies, would allow sportsmen to take the older, non-productive animals. The local people would be able to work as guides for these hunters.

Guiding for walrus hunts was also covered in the course. Twelve hours of classes covered responsibilities of a guide, care and preparation of trophies, — firearms safety and first aid.

Some field training was provided when a musk-ox was collected for the Elmendorf AFB museum. All the men participating in the course worked on preparing the trophy, and the instructors reported that, with a little training, the villagers were very skillful in that line of work.

Instructors for the course were Skip Braden, conservation officer for the department of Fish and Game, and Jerry Hout, Asst. Refuge Manager from Bethel.