

# Illegal Seal Skins Reported to Police

Two construction workers in Palmer recently reported to police that they had six seal skins stolen from the back of their truck while they were in a local pub displaying two other seal skins which they had in their possession.

Unknown to them, they were in violation of legislation enacted last fall by the federal government making it an offense for a non-native to be in possession of a green seal hide, a State Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer advised.

The construction men said they obtained the seal hides from a number of villagers in the vicinity of Bethel. Sales of such hides are also in violation of the law, making those persons who sold the hides subject to arrest, the Protection Officer stated.

The National Marine Fisheries Service enforces the federal law with respect to sea lions, whales, seals and porpoises and the federal Fish & Wildlife Service enforces the law with respect to sea otters, polar bear, walrus

and manatee.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety is currently negotiating with the various agencies in respect to contracting enforcement of the sea mammals regulations.