

# State regains control of wildlife management

Congressman Don Young announced today that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to return the management of nine species of marine mammals to the State of Alaska.

"The federal government has finally recognized that the state can do a better job when it comes to managing game," said Congressman Young. "We have been fighting for the return to state control since the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972. I am glad to see the federal government admit state management was better."

Walrus management was re-

turned to the state several years ago, but nine species including seals and polar bear remained in federal hands. As a result of this ruling the state will be able to set harvests and hunting seasons for the nine species and to institute better research programs.

"As in the past," said Young, "these animals will be in better hands under state control. I only hope that this lesson in resource management is not lost on the federal government. The principle of state control should be applied to all natural resources."