



IN SEARCH OF WHALES—The whale hunters of Point Hope, a village in far northwest corner of Alaska, are now in the process of preparing to hunt for whales that begins each year around the middle of April. The season lasts until around the last week of May. It is a traditional yearly hunt that dates back centuries. The quarry is the bowhead whale, a great mammal. Such species have been caught up to about 75 tons with jawbones up to 24 feet. The bowhead is a baline whale that thrives on sea plankton. The yearly migration

takes the whales close by Point Hope on the south side of the spit. It is a oneshot seasonal hunt at the village as the whales migrate south to far out in the Chukchi Sea. Barrow, however, gets two chances to hunt the whales in May and again in the fall when the animals begin their southward migration. The picture shows whale hunters taking the whaling umiak (skinboat) toward a lead in April with the help of the power of dogteam.

—Photo by the late DON C. FOOTE