

# Frank explains Carter policy on bowhead whales

Richard A. Frank, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said the Carter Administration faces a "difficult problem" in balancing the need to provide for Native subsistence whaling against the policy of protecting endangered whales.

Writing in the September 27 issue of the Washington Post, Frank said, "The Carter Administration has faced one difficult problem of satisfying our determined policy to protect endangered whales and of satisfying the policy of ensuring the subsistence needs of Native peoples."

Frank added, "Alaskan Eskimos have hunted the great bowhead whales for food for centuries. Because of non-Eskimo commercial whaling during the latter part of the 19th century, the bowhead whale population has decreased from many thousands to less than 3,000 animals. Although the bowhead whale herd is reduced, most experts in the field do not believe that a small take for the next few years would significantly affect the stock."

Commenting on the IWC quota for Eskimo whalers, Frank

said, "The IWC has established a modest quota — 18 whales for 1979 — that allows the Eskimos to satisfy their legitimate subsistence needs but, on the other hand, does not jeopardize the

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well-being of the whales. The quota, and some people . . . have Eskimos would like a larger argued for a smaller quota."

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