

1st Closed Season On Hair Seal Starts in August

The first closed season on Alaskan hair seal will go into effect on August 1, 1965 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported today.

It will not be legal to shoot or take seals until October 15, when the season will open again. The season will be closed on seal through the panhandle and north to the Bristol Bay (game management units 1 through 16), according to John Crawford regional game supervisor for Southeast Alaska.

The department realizes that seal often conflict with commercial fishing efforts, so fishermen are allowed to take nuisance seals involved in fishery depredation at any time of the year, Crawford said.

Harvesting of seals for their hides has become an important Alaskan industry. This new closure will prevent wasting the resource by taking hides when they are valueless, he concluded.