

Poor Wind Conditions Plague Point Hope Whaling

Special To The Tundra Times

By CARL BERGER

KOTZ News, Kotzebue

POINT HOPE--The oars pointed skyward last week in Point Hope from the Umiak

of Captain Luke Koonook, Sr. after his crew successfully landed a bowhead whale measuring forty-eight feet, five inches in the early evening of May 24.

His son Henry made the

strike with his harpoon gun from the edge of the lead and the whale was towed up on the ice several hours later.

The butchering began in the early morning hours and contin-

ued throughout the following day, with assistance coming from several other crews.

This was the second whale taken this season, which has been plagued by poor wind

conditions and the lack of open leads in the sea ice.

Earlier this month a bowhead whale measuring approximately thirty-six feet was suc-

(Continued on page 9)

Point Hope

(Continued from page 1)

cessfully taken by Captain Billy Weber and his crew. A third strike was made on the evening of May 26 by Rex Allen Rock, son of Captain Elijah Rock, but the whale did not resurface and has not been found up to this time.

A south wind the following evening closed the lead and the crews broke camp and returned to the village to await improved weather conditions.

Our congratulations go to Luke and Angie Koonook, their family and crewmembers on their successful catch. Their crew includes: George Kingik, Ashley Long, John Long Jr., Henry Koonook, Luke Koonook, Jr., Roderick Kudo Kenworthy, Norman Omnik, Angie Koonook, Barbara Naper, and Karen Timothy.

The Whaling Feast for Point Hope this year is scheduled for June 10-11-12.