

Aishanna gets first whale for Kaktovik

by Holly F. Reimer

Tundra Times reporter

Herman Aishanna caught this year's first whale for the village of Kaktovik Sept. 10.

Aishanna, who has been a whaling captain for over 20 years and who is also the mayor of Kaktovik, said the 34-foot, 4-inch female took nearly five hours to bring in.

He said his crew of five got the whale about 20 miles out of Kaktovik near Harter Island. Fall is the time for whaling in the village.

continued on page thirteen

• *Kaktovik gets a whale*

continued from page one

"This was only our second time out. That's pretty good compared to other times," he said.

Kaktovik, located on the North Slope, has a population of 200. The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission allocated Kaktovik two strikes this year.

"We'll get the other one," Aishanna said, referring to the village's other strike. "Somebody always does."

He said there were a lot of other whales in the water at the time they

spotted their whale, so he said he is pretty sure another one will get caught.

The whale meat and muktuk is divided up throughout the community. Aishanna said if they really push the whaling commission, as in past years, the village might get a third strike next year.

Even though this particular whale is considered medium in size, Aishanna said the 4 inches of the 34-foot, 4-inch whale count for a lot of good eating.

"There's a lot of muktuk in those extra 4 inches," he said.