

Nome man pays polar bear fine

Nome businessman James D. West has paid a \$7,000 fine for illegal possession of polar bear hides.

The payment came after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a civil action filed in 1981 by lawyers on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The charges arose out of a 1977 investigation by the service into illegal trading and possession of Marine mammal products. Others from St. Lawrence Island, Wales, Nome, Fairbanks and Anchorage were charged and convicted during an earlier proceeding.

West had previously been found innocent during a criminal trial in Nome arising out of the same incident.