

Amos Lane Catches Whale At Pt. Hope

Amos Lane caught a bowhead whale at Point Hope this week much to the relief of the villagers because of the lateness of the season.

"This was the latest catch as far as I could remember," said Elijah Attungana in Fairbanks.

Attungana said the whalers at Point Hope were badly hampered by unfavorable weather during much of the season that started around the middle of April.

"It was south wind all the time that kept the leads from opening," he said. "Sometimes the wind would shift to the north for a while and open a lead and then close in again quickly when the wind shifted to south in a short while."

Attungana said he didn't know whether the men were still whaling at this late date.

"Up there, they never give up as long as there is a chance to get them," he stated.

He said the whaling celebration might be delayed this

Catches Whale

(Continued from Page 1)

year due to the late catch.

“Amos might delay it for a week and half or two weeks because the women must have that length of time to make the mekiqaq.”

Mekiqaq is a traditional cured whale meat served at the whaling celebration. Women cure it in a warm nook of their homes literally slow cooking the meat in its own juice for about two weeks.

If this tradition is followed, the whaling celebration at Point Hope might not take place until around the middle of June.