

Muktuk Enterprise Starts at Kotzebue; Chicago Is Market

A small new enterprise is being started at Kotzebue and it is one of the most unique in Alaska. During summer, beluga whale muktuk is being shipped to Chicago.

Steve Salinas, store manager at Kotzebue, has been working to create a market for the muktuk and has found one in the Windy City. The firm there cooks it and pickles it for tidbits, appetizers, and delicacies.

It has been selling very well and it has proven to be quite a popular item. The company has been wanting as much muktuk shipped out as possible. One problem has been to ship it fresh as it arrives in Chicago.

Salinas has been air-freighting it similar to chum salmon he ships out to Seattle in plastic containers and which are served on restaurant tables five hours after being shipped from Kotzebue.