

Taking of the Marine Mammals— *Seals, Sea Lions, Whales Prohibited Except by Natives*

A spokesman for the National Marine Fisheries Service, a com-

ponent agency of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, reminds the public of prohibition against the taking of marine mammals which includes seals, sea lions, porpoise and whales.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act was passed by Congress last fall and the prohibition became effective on December 21, 1972. Provision has been made for certain exceptions to the moratorium.

In brief these allow for the taking of marine mammals: (1) by Alaska Natives (Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos) living on the coast for: (a) subsistence purposes; (b) use in authentic Native handicrafts or clothing;

(2) incidental to a bona fide commercial fishing operations; (3) under terms of a permit issued by the Secretary of Commerce.

With increasing marine activity during spring and summer, outdoorsmen are cautioned not to harass, hunt, capture or kill any seal, sea lion, porpoise or whale unless they are exempted under the terms of the Act.

Stringent penalties are provided for conviction of persons violating provisions of the Act or its regulations.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the National Marine Fisheries Service, Federal Building, Juneau, Alaska, telephone 586-7225.