

## *Eskimo Whaler Worries—*

# **Plankton, Whales**

Thomas P. Brower, owner of the Cape Smythe Whaling and Trading Company and among the most respected of the Barrow Eskimo whalers, voiced concern today that increased tanker traffic through the Northwest Passage may represent a serious threat to the bowhead whale.

Brower noted that the bowhead whale has now begun its

fall migration westward along the Arctic Coast of Canada and Alaska and, as they pass Barrow, will figure greatly in the livelihood of the Barrow Eskimos.

"These great mammals migrate north in the spring, spending the summer months among the islands north of Canada. In the fall, they migrate south to wintering grounds in the Bering Sea," he said.

Brower said that, among his greatest fears, no one could guarantee some freak accident with a super-tanker would not result in a serious oil spillage.

"Such pollution," he said, "would kill the plankton on which the bowhead feeds."

The interest and the concern reflected in Brower's comments has been shared more recently by others, including Canadian Eskimos and officials of their government.

"Among the many problems of preservation," Brower added, "this should not be the least subject of discussion and study."