

Biologists Request Polar Bear Skulls for Measurement

There is one sure way to get ahead when you shoot a Polar Bear—skin it out and bring it to the Department of Fish and Game.

Biologists will measure the bear head to obtain management data.

For many years the game re-

gulations have required sealing of Polar Bear hides. This year a new regulation requires all heads to be measured also.

Hunting pressure will start again in late March, according to Jack Lentfer, game biologist in charge of the bear studies for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and it will continue to the end of the season on April 20.

Hides and skulls can be brought in together to Fish and Game offices in Nome and Fairbanks.

For residents who cannot bring them to the offices, the hide and skull may be mailed in. They will be sealed and measured and sent back to the hunter, according to Lentfer.

Signs will be posted in Northern Alaska villages reminding hunters of the new law.

Information gained by skull measurements provides biologists with a helpful tool in determining how much hunting pressure is being brought to bear on Polar Bear population.

Last year, nearly 300 animals were taken in Alaska.

Information collected over a four or five year period helps biologists initiate more effective Polar Bear management programs, said Lentfer.