

Reindeer Agreement Considered

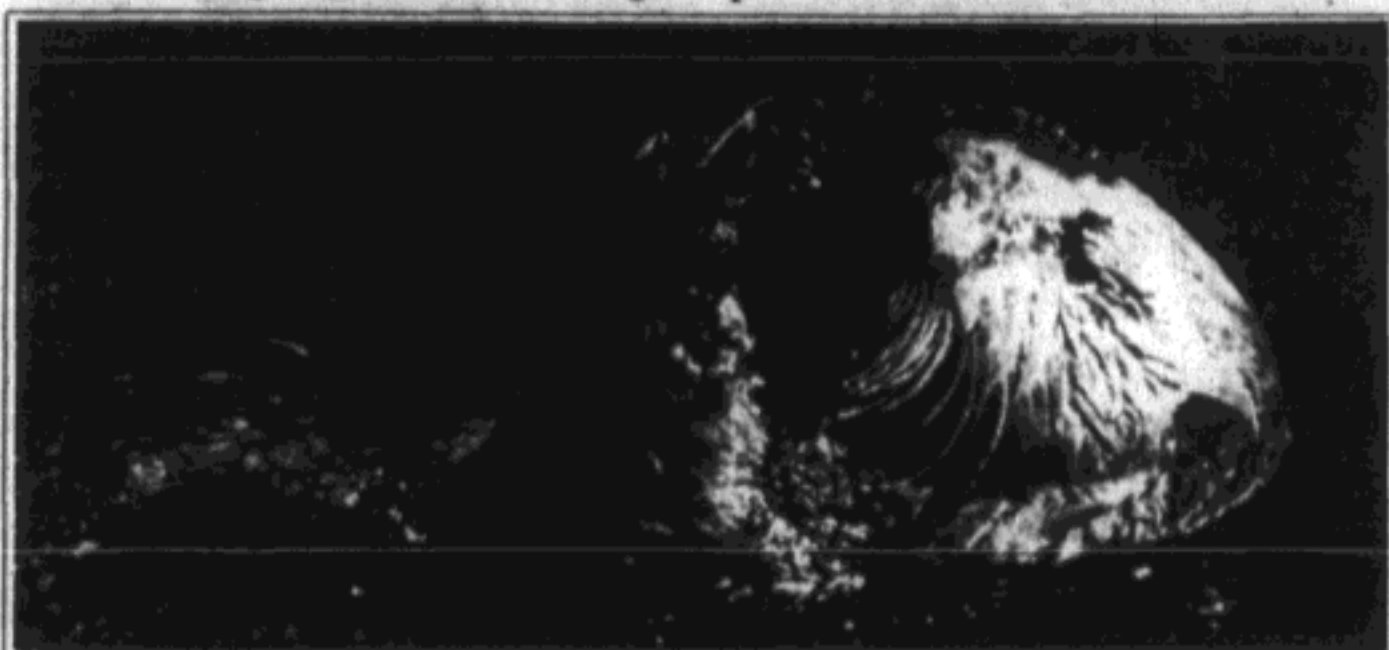
A cooperative agreement is under consideration which is aimed towards helping Mekoryuk residents improve management of their reindeer herd. In the current draft, federal and state agencies, including the Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would pool their planning resources in a joint effort to develop Coordinated Resource Management Plans for Nunivak Island.

While each agency has its own goals, they are basically striving for the same thing — reduction of range

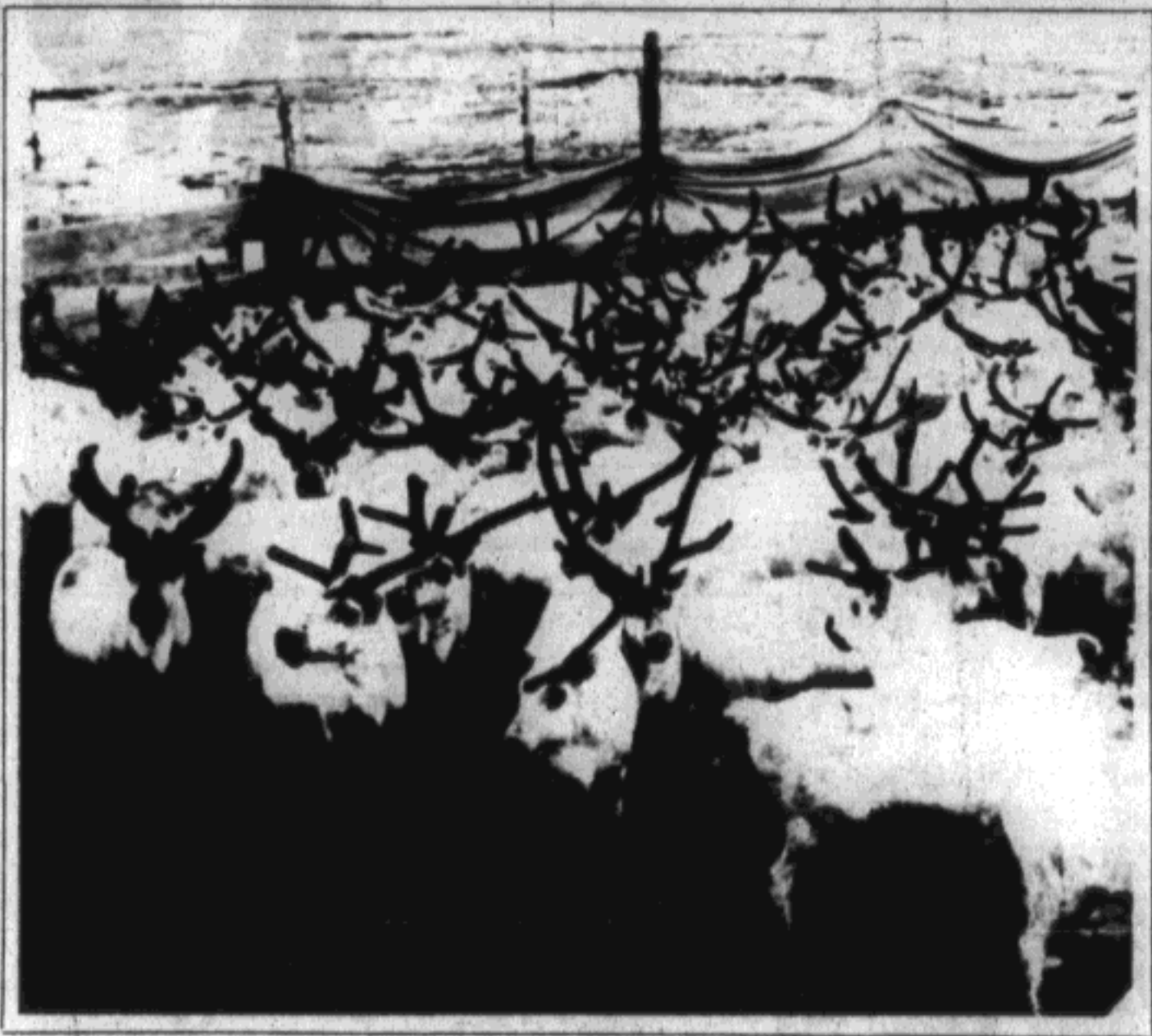
disturbances and replenishment of that reindeer range.

The agencies also seem ready to provide some assistance to NIMA Corporation of Nunivak, and Bering Sea Reindeer Products in their desire to make further progress in modern management of reindeer on the island.

The cooperative effort with state and federal agencies may provide tools for NIMA and BSRP to improve their commercial reindeer industry by exploring new reindeer grazing and management methods, and through development of a range conservation plan.



"Reporting and sealing" of sea otter and polar bear catches as well as walrus catches would be required under the new regulations proposed by FWS.



Range management agreement for Nunivak Island is under consideration.
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