

Nine charged with possession of ivory

Nine Alaska and Washington residents have been charged with violating a federal law that prohibits non-Natives to have raw ivory.

The nine are charged with various counts of conspiracy and illegally buying and selling hundreds of pounds of raw walrus ivory during the past two years.

Complaints issued in Anchorage name Charles F. McAlpine, a Seattle businessman with holdings in Anchorage, Warren G. Albert of Anchorage, and Harvey Johnson of Girdwood, Stephen K. Apgar, Baby Ruth Apgar, and Kurt Koster, all of Skagway; Freeman Roberts, Rick Murphy and P.G. Brannon of Dillingham as defendants.

A complaint filed in Fairbanks named Douglas O'Neill.

McAlpine, Johnson and Albert are charged with conspiracy to "offer for sale and sell and transport" marine mammals illegally.

McAlpine is alleged to have sold 38 walrus tusks weighing 212 pounds to a New Orleans ivory dealer who was actually a government agent in 1980.

Stephen and Ruth Apgar are charged with selling 700 pounds of raw ivory during several transactions lasting from March of 1980 to February of 1981. Koster is charged with conspiracy in Apgar's sale.

Roberts, Murphy and Brannon are charged with selling and

offering to sell ivory to two special government agents.

McAlpine and Stephen Apgar each face five counts of misdemeanor charges which carry possible maximum penalties of \$100,000 and five years in prison. Johnson, Albert and Ruth Apgar each face three counts. Koster is charged with one count. Each count carries a maximum possible penalty of one year in prison and \$20,000 fine.