

Walrus management returned to the State

JUNEAU—Bag limits and other hunting regulations on walrus are again in force now that management of these marine mammals has been returned to the state of Alaska, a Department of Fish and Game official said today.

Robert A. Rausch, director of the department's game division, said that under the new regulations, there is no open season on walrus in game management units 9 and 17.

In units 18, 22, 23 and 26, there are no closed seasons and the bag limit is one adult bull per licensed hunter. Residents using walrus for food may take five cows or subadult walrus and there is no limit on adult bulls taken for food in these open units.

The federal government assumed management of walrus and other marine mammals following passage of the Marine Mammals Protection Act of 1972. Walrus management was returned to Alaska in April at the state's request.

Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act, Alaskan Eskimos were allowed to take walrus without limit anywhere in the state, but the new rules cover both sport and subsistence hunters.

Rausch said that sport hunters must obtain a nontransferable permit before hunting for walrus. The permits will be available by mid-May from Department of Fish and Game offices in Anchorage, Barrow, Fairbanks and Nome.

The permit and a valid hunting license must be in the sport hunter's possession during the hunt. Nonresident hunters also must purchase and carry a \$100 walrus big game tag.

Residents "dependent upon and utilizing walrus for food" are not required to obtain a permit but must register with their village councils, Rausch said.

The population of Pacific walrus is conservatively estimated at about 160,000 animals.

"We do not intend for the annual harvest to exceed 2,000 animals. If more than that are harvested, we will impose more restrictive regulations and if the take exceeds 3,000 animals, we will close the season," Rausch said.

The new regulations probably will result in a reduction in the annual harvest of walrus, Rausch said.

"In recent years, the harvest of walrus for their ivory tusks has grown considerably and could reach proportions that would endanger the walrus population," he noted.

"The new regulations stipulate that persons buying or selling raw ivory to be exported from Alaska," Rausch said. "This should reduce the raw ivory trade to transients, increase the supply to carvers and contribute to the reduction in the walrus harvest."

He added that resumption of sport hunting also probably will result in a reduction of the total walrus take.

"Instead of hunting walrus mainly for their tusks and to a lesser extent for food, villagers in some areas will be able to make more money guiding sport hunters. In addition, most of the meat from animals taken by

sport hunters will go to the village people so they still will have it for subsistence purposes," Rausch said.

With the income from sport hunters and the meat from sport-killed animals, the villagers probably will harvest fewer walrus themselves and the total take is expected to be reduced, he said.

The following areas are closed to the taking of walrus by any person:

Otter Island in the Pribilof group, game management unit 10 Sledge Island and waters within one mile (near Nome), unit 22 The Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary; Round Island; Crooked Island; High Island; Summit Island; the Twins and Black Rock and all adjacent state waters, all in Bristol Bay, unit 17.

Walrus may be taken legally only with a hand-held nonautomatic rifle using a centerfire cartridge larger than .264 caliber (6.5 mm), except that .30-30 caliber may not be used or with the aid of spears or harpoons that are hand held or thrown. Only surface transportation may be used and all boats engaged in walrus hunting must be equipped with two functional harpoons including lines and floats.

Commission to hold economic development hearings in Phoenix

Ernest L. Stevens, American Indian Policy Review Commission Director, announced recently that the commission will hold hearings on Indian economic development May 29 and 30 outside Phoenix, Arizona, at the Scottsdale Hilton, 6333 N. Scottsdale and Lincoln, Scottsdale 85253.

The purpose of the hearings—which will be held from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on May 29, and from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on May 30—is to obtain public testimony and focus national attention on certain vital issues. Among these are:

—the effectiveness of certain federal agencies in promoting economic development among Indian people;

—alternatives to the present method of promoting development;

—problems of Indian development of resources;

—problems of state taxation of Indian resources; and

—issues raised by the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act in regards to Native development and control of their resources.

Testimony at the Phoenix hearings will be presented by Indian tribes, organizations and individuals, and by representatives from the BIA and other federal agencies. The hearings will be conducted on both days by Sen. James Abourezk (D-SD), AIPRC chairman.

The commission requests all those submitting testimony to make five copies to be available at the hearings. Any amount of written testimony and additional documents for the record may be submitted. There will be time



VICTORY HIGH SCHOOL students graduating May 21, at Scenic Park Bible Church in Anchorage are, from left, Verna Kolyaha, Pedro Bay; Nina Abalama, Egegik; Mary Jane Smith, Haines Junction, Yukon Territory; Glen Kalmakoff, Ivanof Bay; and Paul Holmberg, Sand Point.

Victory High School graduation

Victory High School, located at Mile 95 on the Glenn Highway, will hold its graduation ceremonies Friday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Scenic Park Bible Church in Anchorage.

The Rev. John Gillespie, general director of Arctic Missions, Inc., will give the commencement address for the high

school, which serves villages throughout Alaska. Special music will be provided by the Victory High School students and staff.

A baccalaureate service was held Sunday, May 16, at 3 p.m., in the Victory Community Church located at Mile 95. The Rev. Mr. Gillespie

was the speaker.

Those to graduate Friday are Nina Abalama, Egegik; Verna Kolyaha, Pedro Bay; Mary Jane Smith, Haines Junction, Yukon Territory; Paul Holmberg, Sand Point; Glen Kalmakoff, Ivanof Bay.

A reception honoring the graduates will follow the ceremony.

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SOUTHBOUND
READ UP
Train No. 1775

9:00 a.m.
10:32
12:08 p.m.
2:45
3:09
4:12
4:45
6:17
7:55 p.m.

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8:35 p.m.
7:02
5:22
2:45
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12:40 p.m.
11:14
9:30 a.m.

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