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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Marine Mammal Bulletin

*Polar Bear, Sea Otter and Walrus  
News for Harvest Taggers*

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## Tagger Profile: Marvin Mack, King Cove



John Trent/ USFWS

Everyone in King Cove calls him “Big Shot,” the human dynamo who is the walrus ivory and sea otter tagger in that busy fishing community.

Marvin Mack was born in King Cove. His dad Paul Mack was from Germany and his mom Fannie Ferguson from Pauloff Harbor on nearby Sanak Island.

Marvin has been a harvest tagger for 10 or 15 years, a job he inherited more or less from his nephew. “Somebody’s got to do it,” says Marvin. “And that way I can keep everyone down at the docks informed with the latest posters about marine mammals.”

Marvin is very active in the community of King Cove; a fisherman who wears many other hats. He is also well known and admired for his cottonwood smoked salmon. Yum!

When asked why his village nickname is “Big Shot,” Marvin replied, “Holy Smokers, I don’t know. Everyone was yelling ‘Big Shot’ and when I looked around, they were yelling at me!”

*The mission of the U.S.  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
is working with others  
to conserve, protect, and  
enhance fish, wildlife,  
plants, and their habitats  
for the continuing benefit  
of the American people.*

## Goodbye Rodney Sr.

By John Trent

Brad Bentler/USFWS



On June 16 2011, Mr. Rodney Ungwiluk Senior, P. O. Box Number 1, Gambell Alaska, passed on.

Rodney Senior was an esteemed elder, Presbyterian Church patriarch and community leader. He was

also a long-standing walrus ivory tagger for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He will be sorely missed.

Rodney Senior was born in Gambell May 8, 1942. He is survived by his wife Josephine, six children, twelve grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Ungwiluk's tradition as a marine mammal tagger will be carried on by his son Archie who remembers Rodney Sr, "as a great father."

## Tagger Payment Changes are in the Wind

Beginning October 1 this year there will be two big changes to the WHMP and MTRP payment system.

We will be writing your payment checks directly from the Anchorage office and we will no longer be making direct deposits into banking accounts.

These adjustments are part of a complete reorganization of the USFWS payment system that begins October 1.

The good news is that we will no longer have to send your pay vouchers to Denver Colorado and then issue a pay check or bank deposit from the U.S. Treasury in San Francisco. We will give you more details as they become available to us in the weeks ahead.

## What taggers can do to help us pay you more quickly:

1. Send us a complete pay voucher with your name, address, telephone number and social security number and the number of items that you tagged. Also include the completed white tag certificates.
2. Make sure that the envelope you send has enough postage. If you need more prepaid mail envelopes, vouchers, tags or other items for your tagging kit, call us at 1-800-362-5148. Leave a message if we do not answer. We will send them to you.

*Those of us working in the Marine Mammals Management Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service really appreciate what you are doing for us as subsistence harvest taggers. You are providing an important service to your communities, helping to directly manage important marine mammal resources and ensuring the continuation of subsistence hunting rights. We thank you and will do everything we can do to get you paid as quickly as possible.*



John Trent/USFWS

*An unusual three-tusked male walrus from Savoonga, May 2011 courtesy of Tom Akeya.*

## Checklist for All U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Harvest Taggers

- Safeguard tags and tag books assigned to you;
- Fill out the white tagging certificate at the time you tag;
- Give the pink copy to the hunter, and keep the yellow for your records;
- If you need to make a house call, we will pay an extra \$2.00 for each item tagged;
- Mail in your completed (white) tag book certificates at least once a month after you tag;
- Encourage subsistence hunters in your community to tag their harvest within 30 days of kill;
- Call 1-800-362-5148 if you have any tagging questions/concerns or need supplies;
- Call 1-800-858-7621 for questions or concerns about law enforcement issues concerning sea otters, polar bears or Pacific walruses and...
- Keep on tagging!

## Subsistence Hunters Checklist

For "No Worries" polar bear, walrus or sea otter subsistence hunting in Alaska, carefully follow this checklist:

- You must be a one-quarter or more blood quantum Indian, Aleut or Eskimo residing in coastal Alaska;
- Hunting must be for subsistence or to create authentic Native handicraft or clothing;
- Non-wasteful hunting only;
- Native hunters cannot hunt for

## Tagger News Continued

non-Natives, also, non-Natives may not participate or assist hunting these marine mammals;

- Check with your tribal office to see if there may be other local requirements including areas where hunting is allowed or prohibited;

- It is your responsibility as a hunter to get both the hide and skull or walrus tusks tagged within 30 days of kill;

- Keep skins and skulls from the same animal identified for your tagger;

- Keep tags on skins, skulls and walrus tusks until they are made into handicrafts or clothing;

For more information call USFWS Marine Mammals Management 1-800-362-5148 or the Office of Law Enforcement 1-800-858-7261.

## USFWS News

### Pt. Lay Walrus Protection and Research

By Jim MacCracken and Joel Garlich Miller

A large number of walrus (8,000-20,000) have again hauled out on the barrier island beach near the village of Pt. Lay. The haulout began forming in August, about a month earlier than in 2010.

The Pt. Lay community has been actively involved in efforts to study and protect these animals. Leo Ferreira III and Warren Harding-Lampe assisted researchers from the US Geological Survey deploy satellite transmitters as a way to study walrus migration and feeding patterns. You can view the movement of the animals at: <http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/walrus/tracking.html>

Leo Ferreira also helped the US Fish and Wildlife Service collect genetic samples at the haulout using biopsy darts. The objective of the genetics study is to identify individual animals and use this information to investigate the size and composition of the population.

Village resident and EWC Commissioner Willard Neakok also helped lead a carcass survey to investigate mortality levels at the haulout. Preliminary results of the carcass survey indicate that mortality rates have been quite low this season, suggesting that community efforts to prevent disturbances have been paying off.

Samples collected from the walrus carcasses at Point Lay have been sent off for disease

screening. Results of the disease assessment will be reported back to the community as soon as they are available. To report a sick or dead walrus in your region please contact our marine mammals management office at 1-800-362-5148, or the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management at 907-852-0350.

Minimizing disturbances at coastal haulouts in Alaska has become a significant management concern in recent years. Efforts to protect walrus along the coast have included establishing temporary flight restrictions near haulout areas and working with the US Coast Guard, commercial air-carriers, the oil and gas industry, and local communities to avoid activities that could potentially cause disturbances.

This winter we plan on hosting a regional workshop in Barrow Alaska to get input and advice from communities along the Chukchi sea coast about ways to minimize impacts to walrus coming to shore.



### "Outstanding Partner Award" goes to the Native Village of Point Lay



North Slope Borough Communications Liaison Marie Tracey displays the plaque awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Last April the USFWS awarded its "Outstanding Partner" award to the Native Village of Point Lay. In September 2010 village residents took the initiative to protect tens of thousands of walrus resting on nearby beaches from unnecessary disturbance.

Point Lay has a distinguished history of working closely with wildlife scientists, especially on beluga and bowhead whale issues. In this instance the entire community also took the initiative to effectively demonstrate respect and provide respite for the thousands of weary walrus resting near the village.

## Question: Are Walruses Now Listed Under The Endangered Species Act (ESA)? No, Not Yet

By Jim MacCracken

After a thorough review and analysis of all the information, the USFWS decided that the loss of sea ice habitat was a major threat to walrus.

In the future, sea ice will decline even more and the walrus population will probably decline too. Hunting could also become a threat if the population declines and if harvest levels do not adjust downward along with changes in population size. These

conditions led us to conclude that placing the walrus on the list of threatened and endangered species was warranted.

However, the listing of walrus under the ESA was put off (precluded) because there are other species that need protections more than walrus. That decision makes the walrus a “candidate species” and requires the USFWS to review the situation once a year.

Those yearly reviews could lead us to decide that nothing has changed and the walrus should remain a candidate species, or that things have gotten worse and the walrus needs to be listed as threatened or endangered, or that things have gotten better and ESA protections are not needed. Only time will tell, but we will all have to take action to help walruses adjust to life in a warming arctic.

## St. Lawrence Island Residents Set Trip Limits for Walrus Hunting

By Jim MacCracken

In 2010, the Native Villages of Gambell and Savoonga both passed tribal ordinances creating a Marine Mammal Advisory Committee for each village.

The Committees were given the job of establishing traditional hunting trip limits, recommending people to be appointed as tribal

monitors, developing agreements with the USFWS and the Eskimo Walrus Commission, enacting emergency and other regulations if needed, acting as a regulatory tribunal, and reporting to the IRA Councils.

The first action of both Committees was to set a limit of

four adult walrus per hunting trip for 2010. Savoonga increased that limit to five for 2011. Gambell also applied for and was awarded a tribal wildlife grant from the USFWS in 2011 to hire tribal monitors for each village and to help the committees build wildlife management capacity.

## USFWS to Conduct Pilot Project for Walrus Population Count

By Patrick Lemons



Walrus hauled out at Cape Seniavin

One of the most important pieces of information needed to help keep the walrus population healthy is a good estimate of population size. Counting walrus from airplanes has been the best way to do that, but has many problems that are hard to fix.

Another way to estimate population size that has been used with whales and seals is to

collect skin and blubber samples for genetic (DNA) identification. We would then use capture-mark-recapture methods to estimate population size and condition. This type of data can be used to not only estimate population size, but also population growth rate, and age and sex-specific survival rates.

This year we will test the equipment and our ability to

collect large numbers of samples to see if this works for our walrus studies. We will try collecting samples at coastal walrus haulouts in Bristol Bay in summer and in northwest Alaska in the fall. If we are successful, the main project will start in 2012. In the future, samples from subsistence harvested walrus will be also an important source of genetic sampling.

## The USFWS continued with its Walrus Harvesting Monitoring and Biosampling Program in both Native Villages of Gambell and Savoonga

By Jonathan Snyder

Gambell crew leader Shena Anningayou and other village residents were assisted by Brad Benter, John Trent and Christopher Putnam of the USFWS in collecting walrus harvest data and biological samples from hunting crews. We thank Shena for stepping up to the challenge of managing the project in Gambell this year and look forward to working with her and her crew in future years. Harold Kiyuklook led 14 WHMP crewmembers in Savoonga. This

was Harold's fifth season as crew leader. The Savoonga crew also did a great job.

This year we continued the collection of reproductive tracts and blubber samples for research. We also began a new project looking for signs of a disease (phocine distemper) in walrus. We did this by collecting fluids with a Q-tip from the nose of hunter-killed animals. None of the walrus sampled showed signs of the disease.



Tisha Noongwook "temp tags" ivory at Savoonga.

John Trent/USFWS

## Sea Otter News

### Government to Government Consultations with Alaska Native Tribes

By Doug Burn



John Trent/USFWS

Doug Burn and Crystal Leonetti

In February 2011, the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invited Alaska Native Tribes to consult with us on sea otter co-management in Alaska. We contacted the 55 Tribes within the range of sea otters, and 16 accepted the invitation to consult. To date, we have met with nine Tribes, seeking their advice and opinions on how we should approach

co-management of sea otters.

All of the Tribes that we have met with expressed the desire for direct communications between the Service and their Tribe. In addition, many Tribes stated they wanted to develop local management plans for sea otters in their areas. The Service made a commitment to provide technical assistance in the development of management plans, such as providing information on population surveys and subsistence harvest.

Other topics of discussion included the need for a clear definition of what constitutes an authentic native article of handicraft or clothing. Federal regulations state that items must be "significantly altered from their natural form" before they may be sold to non-Natives. Clear guidance is

needed, as that determination is currently made on a case-by-case basis. The Service is currently working with the National Marine Fisheries Service and Alaska Native leaders to develop such guidance.

If your Tribe would like to consult with the Service on sea otter co-management, they may contact the Sea Otter Program Leader, at 907-786-3800 or Crystal Leonetti, Alaska Native Affairs Specialist, at 907-786-3868.

*Douglas Burn was Supervisory Biologist for the Northern Sea Otter Program in the Office of Marine Mammals Management from 2000 to September 2011. He has since taken another position in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*



©R. Davis

## Kake Sea Otters Get Radios

A unique partnership among U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, University of Alaska researchers, local fishermen, charter boat operators, and community members recently culminated in a 2-week trip to capture, sample, and implant radios in 30 sea otters in southern Alaska, near the village of Kake.

The sea otter is considered a bellwether species for the near-shore marine ecosystem, so all animals captured had samples taken to provide data for a variety of projects; including a tooth to determine their age, urine to determine levels of PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning), oral and rectal swabs to look at bacteria, and whiskers for diet analysis.

The various samples will also be screened for evidence of a variety of diseases.

All otters were fitted with VHF radios and flipper tags. The radios are designed to last for up to two years, allowing researchers to track the animals' long-term movements and feeding habits.

## Polar Bear News

### Chukchi Sea Polar Bear Harvest Quota Agreed to by U.S.-Russia Commission

By Eric Regehr and Karyn Rode

An annual Chukchi Sea subsistence harvest quota of 29 polar bears is scheduled to begin in January 2013 for Alaska communities south and west of Point Lay (and including Point Lay). A subsistence quota of 29 was also set for Chukotka, Russia, which harvests from the same Chukchi Sea population. However, the Russian government may wait several years before allowing this quota to be used, because of concerns about poaching on the Russian side.

This decision on a subsistence quota for the Chukchi Sea population was agreed to in June 2010 by the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Commission when it met in Anchorage. Native and Federal Commissioners examined all available information and then agreed upon a total harvest limit of up to 58 polar bears per year, of which no more than 19 will be female, to be divided evenly between the U.S. and Russia (that is, 29 for each side).

The Bilateral Commission is four people who must make decisions by consensus. They consist of a U.S. government official, an Alaska Natives representative, and their counterparts on the



The U.S.-Russia Commissioners (left to right) are: Sergei Kavry, Amirkhan Amirkhanov, Geoff Haskett, and Charles Brower (alternate for Charlie Johnson).

Russia side. The Commissioners for the U.S. are Geoff Haskett, Director of the Alaska Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Charlie Johnson, Executive Director of the Alaska Nanuuq Commission.

Polar Bears in the Chukchi Sea region face a number of conservation challenges, including potentially unsustainable levels of human-caused mortality (most likely due to poaching in Russia), sea ice loss due to climate change, and the future exploration and development of natural resources.

The Alaska Nanuuq Commission and its partners are currently

figuring out the details on how to fairly apply the quota of 29 bears to Alaska subsistence polar bear hunters. In the Chukchi Sea region of Alaska, the Alaska Nanuuq Commission has the main responsibility for organizing and operating the new quota system, and for working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on polar bear management issues. The Alaska Nanuuq Commission has its main office located in Nome, Alaska, and has local commissioners in all the western Alaska polar bear hunting communities.

We will publish more details about the new polar bear quota system as they become available.

## 2011 Chukchi Sea Polar Bear Research Results

By Karyn Rode and Eric Regehr



Eric Regehr/USFWS

*The sow and cub were released unharmed.*

In spring 2011, for the fourth year in a row, USFWS biologists studied polar bears in the Chukchi Sea region. As in previous years, aircraft crews were based in Kotzebue and at the Red Dog Mine port facility. Until this study began, little modern scientific information was available for polar bears in this sea region. The purpose of the study is to better understand the size and health of the Chukchi Sea population, which is shared between Alaska and Russia.

This is a summary of findings from the 2011 field season:

- We captured, collected information from, and released 77 polar bears. Of these, 16 had been tagged before during polar bear studies in the Chukchi Sea region from 2008-2010. No bears were injured or killed.
- We put Global Positioning System satellite radio collars on 17 adult females. The radios will be dropped off by an automatic release device after one year. We also put out 14 glue-on satellite transmitters, applied just behind the shoulder, and 10 ear-mounted satellite transmitters on adult males and subadults of both sexes.
- The sex and age structure of captured bears differed from 2008-2010. The 2011 sample included 3 single adult females, 15 adult females with dependent young, 16 adult males, 17 subadults (some of

which may have been independent two-year-olds), 16 two-year-olds with their mothers, 7 yearlings with their mothers, 1 independent yearling, and 2 cubs-of-the-year. The high proportion of two-year-old bears in 2011 likely reflected the large number of yearlings observed in 2010.

- 2011 marked the first year that cubs-of-the-year were captured or observed since the study began in 2008. Two adult females, each with one male cub, were captured. The cubs appeared healthy and weighed 49 and 52 lb.
- Overall, captured polar bears appeared to be in poorer nutritional condition compared to 2008-2010. This may have reflected the younger age of captured bears, reduced access to food resources, or both. Average body weights were 478 lb for adult females, 911 lb for adult males, 339 lb for subadult females, 496 lb for subadult males, 331 for two-year-old females, 443 lb for two-year-old males, 194 lb for yearling females, 253 lb for yearling males, and 50 lb for cub-of-the-year males.
- Fewer ringed and bearded seals were observed in the study area compared to 2008-2010.
- Similar to previous years, our observations suggest that the offshore area between Shishmaref and Point Hope is important breeding and feeding habitat for polar bears in the spring.

The USFWS expects to continue polar bear studies in the Chukchi Sea region in future years. Polar bears are long-lived animals that live in a variable and rapidly changing environment. Long-term studies are necessary to understand year-by-year variation and monitor population trends.

Questions or comments?

If you have any questions or comments about this study, please contact Karyn Rode (Karyn\_Rode@fws.gov) or Eric Regehr (Eric\_Regehr@fws.gov) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management office in Anchorage, AK, or call us toll-free at 1-800-362-5148.

We ask that hunters who harvest a polar bear please check for ear tags and a tattoo. If the bear has these research marks, please notify your local polar bear tagger under the USFWS Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program, or contact Karyn Rode or Eric Regehr directly. The USFWS will provide hunters with information about the bear such as its age and when it was captured for research. Studies show that Telazol, the drug used to sedate polar bears, is almost completely out of the animal's system within two weeks. If a polar bear with a radio collar or other satellite telemetry device is harvested, we ask that the hunter or local tagger contact Karyn Rode or Eric Regehr directly so that arrangements can be made to obtain the collar. Important data can be obtained from collars that are retrieved.



Eric Regehr/USFWS

*Beluga carcass eaten by polar bears.*



John Trent/USFWS

### Ellen Baier Says "Good-bye"

The friendly telephone voice of Ellen of the Marine Mammals Office is no longer with us.

For 11 years Ellen Baier was the administrative assistant who most often answered the telephone for MTRP taggers calling in to Anchorage. She also took the first steps in paying 150 taggers for the work that they do—a very important person indeed!

And Ellen was a marine mammal tagger herself. When no biologists were around she tagged walrus ivory and sea otters at the Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Anchorage is Ellen's town. She was born here and attended Dimond High School. Her parents are from the Seward Peninsula—Mom from the Kakaruk family at Shishmaref and Dad from Mary's Igloo.

For Ellen, the marine mammal taggers were a family she got to know over the telephone.

"I really enjoyed getting to know some of you over the telephone," she said. "You all were always so polite. Sometimes we would talk about family or weather and I liked being able to help you to get paid. I know how hard it is to find money in the villages."

Ellen Baier has taken a new job "across town" with the BIA. We are all really going to miss her but we are already searching for another friendly voice for the MTRP.



John Trent/USFWS

### Kristin Worman is a Biological Science Technician in our Sea Otter Rehabilitation and Stranding Program.

She began by collecting dead and dying sea otters for the USFWS in the Homer area in 2008. Now she is in our Anchorage office where she assists with necropsies—kind of a "sea otter CSI"—to determine causes of stress or death. Kristin also works at data entry, and sea otter field work, including population surveys and live-capture projects.

Kristin is currently a senior at the University of Alaska Anchorage and is interested in pursuing a career in either veterinary or human medicine.



Christopher Putnam

### Wildlife Biologist Christopher Putnam joined the Marine Mammals Polar Bear Program in March 2010.

He is one of two of our biologists who work directly with the oil and gas industry to minimize disturbance to polar bears.

Christopher grew up on a family ranch in Texas that raised Appaloosa horses. He attended Arizona State University and worked for many years as a biologist in the deserts and mountains of Arizona and the southwest. He is also a U.S. Army veteran where he served in Iraq as an Infantry Sergeant with the 1st Cavalry Division.



©R. Davis

*"And that gumboot I ate was this long!"*



Brad Benteer/USFWS

Walrus haulouts in the Bering Sea.

**Cathy Shaw joined our marine mammals office about a year ago, in August 2010.**



John Trent/USFWS

Her job title is “Office Automation Clerk” meaning that she keeps our office running smoothly. She also is a key player in getting everyone paid, including the taggers!

Cathy describes herself as a rock hound, tree hugger and animal lover. She enjoys all kinds of music, oil painting and is an active thespian in church plays. One of her claims to fame is that she still owns and until recently used, a dial telephone!



John Trent/USFWS

**Biologist Michelle St. Martin joined our Polar Bear Program in December 2010.**

She is no stranger to working in rural Alaska. Michelle completed her Master of Science degree by developing a reindeer management plan for the St. George village corporation in the Pribilof Islands.

Now she is a field biologist for our Polar Bear Program. She prepared for and then participated in polar bear live captures in the Chukchi Sea last spring where bears were captured, measured, sometimes fitted with satellite collars and then released. In the fall she flies coastal polar bear counts along the Beaufort Sea.



Eric Regehr/USFWS

Michelle with polar bear cub in the Chukchi Sea, April 2011.

**Dr. Patrick Lemons joined the Marine Mammals Walrus Program in November 2011.**



Justin Crawford/ADF&G

Patrick ready to deploy a biopsy dart at the haulout near Point Lay September 2011

Patrick comes to us from a researcher’s job at the U.S. Geological Survey in Anchorage. In that position he worked on waterfowl population biology and behavior. He has years of experience with black brant and emperor goose studies at the Kashunuk and Manokinak Rivers near Chevak.

Here in the Office of Marine Mammals Management, Patrick is developing a way to estimate the size of the Pacific walrus population by using genetic sampling. He plans to collect the genetic samples from walrus by using crossbows (*pictured above*).



Brendan Smith

Calf with female hauled out on ice.



**North Slope Borough  
Department of Wildlife Management**

P.O. Box 69, Barrow, Alaska 99723  
(907) 852-0350

## Help Minimize the Disturbance of Walrus along the Chukchi Sea Coast of the North Slope

The North Slope Borough, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Eskimo Walrus Commission, and the Native Villages of Barrow and Point Lay, is requesting your support and cooperation in minimizing disturbances to walrus herds along the Chukchi Sea coast. Walrus are sensitive to the sight, sound, and odor of humans and machines, and may stampede back into the water when disturbed. Large-scale mortality events have occasionally resulted from herd stampedes, with calves being particularly vulnerable to trampling injuries. Frequent disturbances may also impact animal health and condition if walrus are unable to obtain sufficient rest between feeding excursions.



*Walrus hauled out on the beach near Barrow in 2007 (photo credit: Craig George)*

Please remember that harassment of walrus or other marine mammals violates the **Marine Mammal Protection Act** and, if the disturbance involves an aircraft, the **Federal Airborne Hunting Act**.



*Walrus haulout near Point Lay this fall (photo credit: Bill Tracey)*



*Walrus haulout near Icy Cape in the fall of 2009.*

Photo by Cynthia Christman  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
AFSC, Natl Marine Mammal Lab  
FFW Permit No MA212570-0

### PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

**PILOTS:** Avoid flying near coastal haulouts. Fixed-winged aircraft traveling along the coast should maintain a minimum altitude of 1,500 feet and maintain a lateral distance of 1/2 mile. Activities such as buzzing, circling, landing, taking off, and taxiing near walrus groups are likely to cause disturbances. When weather conditions allow, fly well inland from walrus groups to avoid flushing animals into the water.

**MARINE VESSELS:** Maintain a 1/2 mile buffer from shore when traveling past a walrus haulout. Avoid excessive speed or sudden changes in direction near walrus groups encountered in the water.

**LAND BASED-VIEWING:** Approach walrus cautiously when hauled out on land. Viewing walrus should be done in a manner that allows them to remain unaware of human presence. NSB recommends that approaches are made quietly from downwind, and may require maintaining a distance of 300-500 yards. The use of binoculars can help to ensure a good view without causing disturbances.

**WALRUS HUNTERS:** The discharge of firearms near coastal haulouts can result in a stampede and incidental mortalities. Exercise caution when hunting near coastal haulouts to avoid unintentional disturbances and mortalities.

**For more information on walrus:** Eskimo Walrus Commission at <http://www.kawerak.org/servicedivisions/nrd/ewc/index.html> or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management at <http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/mmm/walrus/wmain.htm>

**To report sightings:** Call the Native Village of Barrow at (907) 852-4411 or (907) 350-9273, or NSB Dept of Wildlife Management at (907) 852-0350, or Native Village of Point Lay at (907) 833-2575, or USFWS/MMM office at (800) 362-5148



# Sea Otter Hunters

## PLEASE DO NOT HUNT SEA OTTERS THAT HAVE FLIPPER TAGS

Sea otters around Kake are part of a multi-year study on the impact of otters on marine resources. In May 2011, 30 otters were fitted with an internal VHF radio transmitter and brightly colored tags on their hind flippers.



Please **DO NOT** hunt sea otters with flipper tags but if you do unintentionally, or if you find a tagged carcass, please **SAVE** the carcass and **IMMEDIATELY CALL** this hotline

**1-888-774-7325.**

with flipper tag numbers and colors as well as the GPS location. We need fresh tissue samples for the study.

**THANK YOU!**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Marine Mammals Management Office**  
**1011 E. Tudor Road - MS341**  
**Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

Phone: 907/ 786 3800  
Toll Free: 800/ 362 5148  
Fax: 907/ 786 3816  
Web: <http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/mmm>

STANDARD PRESORT  
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## How Many Did You Catch?

*Total Reported Alaska Subsistence Harvests for the Last Five Years\*\**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	5-yr Avg.
<b>Northern Sea Otter</b>	710	711	664	880	1056	804
<b>Pacific Walrus</b>	1148	1837	1289	1774	1375	1484
<b>Polar Bear</b>	73	54	29	33	25	43

\*\*These are harvest statistics from your tagging certificates.

For further information, contact:

Brad Benter - MTRP Coordinator  
John Trent - Supervisor  
Rosa Meehan - Chief, Marine  
Mammals Management

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://alaska.fws.gov>

**October 2011**