

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR PROPOSES LIST OF HANDICRAFT AND CLOTHING ARTICLES ALASKAN NATIVES MAY MAKE FROM POLAR BEAR AND WALRUS PARTS

A proposed list of items that would qualify as authentic Alaskan Native articles of handicraft and clothing as provided for in the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 is being published in the Federal Register, Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The Act provides that Alaskan Natives residing in Alaska may take marine mammals for subsistence purposes and for making authentic Native articles of handicraft and clothing.

The following items on the proposed list are considered authentic articles of handicraft and clothing.

--Hunting pants, boots, mattresses, cushions, rifle pads, and ornamental trim made from polar bear fur and hide.

--Buttons, jewelry, ornaments, and art carvings made from polar bear teeth.

--Sculpture and art carvings, inlay, jewelry, and tools and utensils made from walrus ivory.

--Tossing blankets, skin boats, skin houses, harpoons, clothes lines and lashings, and food made from walrus skin.

--Baskets, trim on ivory carvings, toothpicks, and novelties made from walrus whiskers.

--Drum heads, rain parkas, sewing bags, water bags, and snow shirts made from walrus intestines and stomachs.

--Bases for ivory carvings, harpoon heads and sockets, and tools and utensils made from walrus bone.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service, both of which have responsibilities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, will hold public hearings on the proposed list at the following locations:

September 27, 1974

City Council Chambers
Loussac Library
Anchorage, Alaska
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

September 26, 1974

City Council Chambers
Alaska State Bank Building
Fairbanks, Alaska
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

September 24, 1974

District Court Chambers
District Court
Nome, Alaska
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Written comments on the proposal will be received and included in the Hearing Record through October 14, 1974. Comments should be sent to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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