



Tuluq el Petlu

Walrus Ivory & You

The subsistence use of Pacific walrus and other marine mammals by Alaska Natives and the ability to create and sell authentic Native handicrafts are recognized under the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

The ability to harvest marine mammals does come with responsibilities. Please familiarize yourself with the dos and don'ts of harvesting, owning and transferring walrus ivory.

Protect Your Raw Ivory—Get It Tagged

● **Ivory found on the beach and ivory from harvested walrus must be tagged. It is the hunter's or finder's responsibility to do this within 30 days of harvest or finding on the beach.**

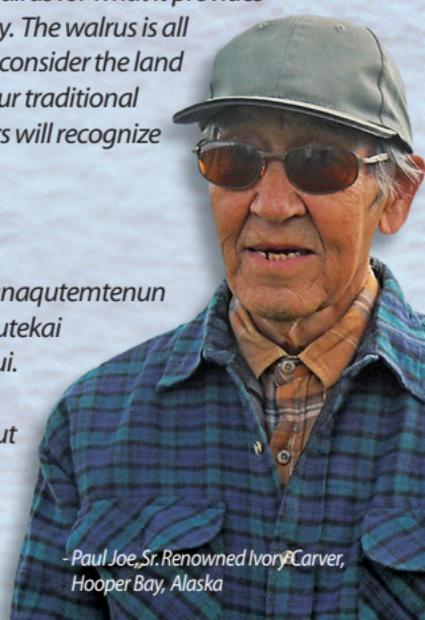
- **Raw ivory is "tagged" when a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) representative inserts a numbered wire tag into the tusk and records date, location and sex of kill or find.**
- **Coastal Alaska Native subsistence hunters can usually find at least one USFWS tagging representative in their walrus hunting village.**
- **Non-Natives who find walrus ivory or other hard parts from dead walruses on the beach must get them tagged within 30 days at a USFWS Office in towns like Bethel, Nome, or Anchorage. Call 800-362-5148 to locate the USFWS tagger nearest you.**

A Tradition of Subsistence

The walrus is Alaska's treasure. It is important to our livelihood and tradition. For thousands of years, the people depend on the walrus for what it provides—the meat, the oil, the skin, the intestines and the ivory. The walrus is all used and not wasted. Our ancestors, elders and we consider the land and the sea very important to give and keep alive our traditional way of life. Through our traditional way of life others will recognize and understand us.

Piciryaraq Yungnaqutemtenun

Asveret Alaska-armiut tuquutekai. Arcakertut yungnaqutemtenun piciyarmtenun-llu. Akwarpak tayima yum cacetequtekai asverem paivutai; kemga, uqua, amia, qilui, cali tului. Asveq tamalkuan caunguarutkevkenaq aturluku. Ciuliamta, teganemta wanguta-llu arcaqautekarput nuna cali imarpik unguvatemtenun cali yuyarmtenun-llu. Allat yut litaqciqaakut cali taringumaciqaakut maaggun piciryarmteggun.



- Paul Joe, Sr. Renowned Ivory Carver, Hooper Bay, Alaska

Walrus Ivory Dos & Don'ts

Raw ivory found on the beach by non-Natives can only be possessed if tagged at a USFWS Office within 30 days of finding. This tagged ivory cannot be transferred to another owner without written USFWS permission.

Who can...	Alaska Natives*	Non-Natives
Possess "raw" ivory? "Raw" ivory is ivory from a Pacific walrus that has not been significantly altered from its natural form into an authentic Native article of handicraft or clothing.	YES , but must be tagged by USFWS within 30 days	YES , but only beach-found ivory tagged by USFWS within 30 days of finding
Sell, barter or transfer tagged (raw) ivory?	YES , but only to other Alaska Natives	NO
Possess authentic Native handicrafts made from walrus ivory?	YES , (Natives may also make and sell authentic walrus ivory handicrafts)	YES
Take raw ivory out of the U.S.?	NO , (but limited exceptions)	NO
Own, buy or sell fossilized ivory from walruses that died before 1972?	YES	YES
Hunt Pacific walruses for subsistence in a non-wasteful manner?	YES , but only those who dwell on the coast	NO , (harassment of Pacific walruses is also prohibited)
Own, buy or sell mammoth or mastodon ivory that was lawfully collected with the landowner's permission?	YES	YES

*As defined by the Marine Mammals Protection Act of 1972

For More Information:

- "Walrus Ivory Dos and Don'ts"; USFWS Office of Law Enforcement, Anchorage: **800-858-7621**
- Tagging Walrus Ivory in Bethel or nearby Villages; Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge: **907-543-3151 or 800-621-5804**
- Harvest and Conservation Information about Walrus; USFWS Office of Marine Mammals Management, Anchorage: **800-362-5148** or <http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/mmm/mtrp>

