

Arctic Survey,
1957

A survey and game patrol was conducted to twelve Eskimo villages in the Arctic from April 24 to May 2, 1957.

The survey was made by Agent Ray Tremblay and myself, using a Cessna 180 airplane N742.

The main purpose of this trip was to determine the wildlife use and economic status of each village. This information is not intended to be as complete as the report by Supervisor Woolford in 1954, but only to learn the take of caribou or other major wildlife forms and the unearned monetary intake of each village.

On arrival in each village, contact was made with the chief or a council member and a meeting called and conducted in the schoolhouse. We generally interviewed the head of each family or all hunters in the village. The total take of caribou was obtained, also of Polar bear, and notes were made of the use, abundance or scarcity of other forms of wildlife. The school teacher or postmaster was able to furnish us with the total unearned income for each village and, in some cases, the earned income also.

Their problems and recommendations with regard to wildlife were taken and discussed.

Clear weather prevailed during the entire trip, although two days of high winds were encountered.

KOBUK:

Population 55 - 9 families
No. of dogs 66
Caribou taken 30
Beaver 1

Unearned Income:

No.	Type	Month	Year
8	Old Age Compensation	\$400	\$4,800
5	Unemployment "	780	4,680 (6 mos.)
3	Aid Dependent Children	105	1,260
	TOTAL		\$10,740

Annual unearned income per capita - \$166.90
Annual unearned income average per family 1,020.00

Caribou were not present in sufficient numbers to furnish necessary meat. Rabbits and ptarmigan, being very abundant, were heavily utilized. A request for an open season on moose in the upper Kobuk was made. They were informed we would attempt to make a thorough census of the Kobuk drainage before the next commission meeting to determine the population before a season could be opened.

Dog salmon and Shee fish run was excellent. A request for an earlier duck season was made.

Mudshark (Lingcod) have been taken in large numbers through the ice this winter; a haul of 180 in one night was made recently.

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SHUNGNAK:

Population 165 (32 families) (32 men with 20 present)
Dogs 172
Caribou take 106
Beaver 19

Unearned Income:

No.	Type	Month	Year
4	Old Age Compensation	\$286	\$3,432
5	Unemployment "	800	4,800 (6 mos.)
7	Aid Dependent Children	545	6,540
TOTAL			\$14,772

Annual unearned income per capita - \$84.69
Annual unearned income average per family - \$436.62

The Shungnak Native store reports doing \$20,000 worth of business during 1956. A considerable amount of goods are also purchased from Kotzebue and from various mail-order houses.

Caribou were not present in large numbers, and rabbits were used extensively for meat. Few fish were taken, the excuse being too many Shee fish are being taken on the lower river and near the mouth of the river. Ptarmigan were also plentiful and being utilized.

Most of the men had worked during the past summer at various construction jobs. They complained of hard times and stated a number of their dogs had died of starvation because they were unable to get food for them.

SELAWIK:

Population 296 (over 1 year) (35 families)
Dogs
Caribou taken 30

Unearned Income:

No.	Type	Month	Year
23	Old Age Compensation	\$1,265	\$15,180
?	Unemployment "	-	-
17	Aid Dependent Children	1,309	\$15,708
2	Aid to Blind	110	1,320
TOTAL			\$32,208

Annual unearned income per capita - \$108.80
Annual unearned income average per family - \$920.22

Several of the men went to Kotzebue to find work the past summer, but only two reported to have worked a little and returned to Selawik.

As indicated, few caribou were taken; these were found forty miles east of the village. Rabbits were scarce, but Shee fishing is very good. One fisherman caught 100 in 2 days fishing. The average fisherman caught 40 Shee fish per day during the spring months. Ptarmigan are reported to be scarce, also. A few pike are taken from the slough in the village.

One old Eskimo who weighed, at least, 275 pounds inquired if we had seen any ducks yet and stated he was starving. He reached out and rubbed a very fat paunch and related how hungry he was and how starved he was for ducks.

KIANA:

Population 184 (40 families)
No. of dogs
Caribou taken 250

Unearned Income:

No.	Type	Month	Year
4	Old Age Compensation	\$255.50	\$3,060
21	Unemployment "	1,130.00	6,780 (6 mos.)
	Aid Dependent Children	550.00	6,600
2	Social Security	77.00	924
	Veterans Pension		2,000
	TOTAL		\$19,364

Annual unearned income per capita - \$142.08
Annual unearned income average per family - \$653.60

The Kiana area had a great abundance of rabbits and ptarmigan were also plentiful. Two grizzly and one black bear were taken in April 1957 which were eaten. As indicated above, at least half of the men were engaged in construction work at Kotzebue and various defense installations during the past summer.

NOORVIK:

Population 350, approximately (55 families, approximately)
No. of dogs
Caribou taken 25

Unearned Income:

No.	Type	Month	Year
21	Old Age Compensation	\$1,182	\$14,184
9	Unemployment "	1,440	8,640 (6 mos.)
12	Aid Dependent Children	940	11,280
15	ANS Welfare	773	3,092 (4 mos.)
	TOTAL		\$37,196

Annual unearned income per capita - \$106.27
Annual unearned income average per family - \$676.27

The Noorvik people used mainly rabbits for meat during the past winter. All able-bodied persons in the village would participate in rabbit drives which sometime netted 1,000 rabbits. Here, again, an Eskimo asked how things in Fairbanks were. We stated, "The snow is gone, it's warm and lots of dust". He blurted, "Lots of 'ducks' you say!! We haven't seen any yet!"

A comparison of prices at the Noorvik Native store is noted below for 1954 and 1957.

	1954	1957
Flour	\$12.70	\$16.60 CT.
Sugar	.08	.20 LB.
Coffee	1.20	1.50 LB.
Milk	9.80	9.60 Case
Reindeer	-	.40 LB.

The people here were taking advantage of the Shee fishing and were doing very well.

NOATAK:

Population 315 (40 families, 60 school children)
 No. of dogs
 Caribou taken 362

Unearned Income:

No.	Type	Month	Year
8	Old Age Compensation	\$ 417	\$5,004
?	Unemployment "	1,200	7,200 (6 mos.)
6	Aid Dependent Children	503	6,036
6	BIA Relief	310	3,720
1	Social Security	18	216
	TOTAL		\$22,176

Annual unearned income per capita - \$ 70.40
 Annual unearned income average per family - \$554.40

The Noatak Eskimos leave the village in late May or early June and travel by boat to the coast summer camp of Sheshalik for sealing and whaling, returning to Noatak before the fall freeze-up.

Most of the young men worked on construction jobs during the past summer.

One moose was seen during the spring near the village. Rabbits and otarmigan were scarce. The caribou did not appear in large numbers, and a dog-team trip of 40 or 50 miles was necessary to obtain caribou. One grizzly bear was taken during the spring.

KIVALINA:

Population 132 (23 families, 32 school children)
 No. of dogs 162
 Caribou taken 35
 Polar bear taken 0

Unearned Income:

No.	Type	Year
?	Old Age Compensation	\$4,878
?	Aid Dependent Children	
?	Army Dependents Allotments	943
?	BIA Relief	1,350
	TOTAL	\$7,171

Annual unearned income per capita - \$ 54.32
 Annual unearned income average per family - \$311.78

The following is copied from the ANS school teacher's report at Kivalina; it is the annual report covering the year 1956:

KIVALINA - 1956

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>USE</u>
Caribou and waterfowl	62,000 lbs.	\$18,000	Personal
Seal, walrus and whale	60,000 lbs.	15,000	Oil, 1,000 lbs. sold, 5,000 used
Berries and greens	1,800 lbs.	180	Personal
Fish	6,200 lbs.	8,800	2,000 lb. sold, 4,200 lb. used
Other native food products	75 lbs.	150	25 lbs. sold, 50 lbs. used
Raw furs	650	3,500	300 sold, 350 used
Skin sewing products	370	4,500	150 sold, 220 used
Ivory carvings	25	75	Sold
Arts and crafts	380	1,150	Sold
Gross income of arts & crafts		9,225	Expenses \$100

INCOME:

Wages (Non Indian Service)	\$35,929
Other wages	1,061

Distribution of Families by Estimated Incomes: (Cash and Native Products)

Total Families	\$400 to \$499	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 to \$1,999	\$2,000 and over
	23	1	5	2	6	1
						8

The above report is submitted annually by all ANS teachers; the accuracy is questionable.

At Kivalina a shop has been installed, and students are making jewelry (ear-rings, necklaces, cuff links, tie-clasps, etc.) from caribou hooves. The craftsmanship is very fine. One boy averages from three to six dollars in an afternoon.

The people report "quite a few" wolverine taken and suggest a longer season of October to March, with February producing the best skins. More snow than usual is reported. Twenty-two seals were taken in one night by two hunters in April.

POINT HOPE:

Population	267 (53 families, 73 school children)
No. of dogs	
Caribou taken	0
Polar bear taken	26 (Dec. 1956 to April 25, 1957)

POINT HOPE: (cont'd)

Unearned Income: (Teacher's report)

Old age Compensation, Aid to Blind, and Aid Dependent Children	\$11,593
BIA Relief	5,189
TOTAL	\$16,782

Annual unearned income per capita - \$ 62.85
Annual unearned income per average family - \$316.64

\$57,272 earned income from arts and crafts and considered
value of seals, whales, polar bears, etc., taken.

The people all responded to a meeting in the school, and we considered
it the best meeting, from all viewpoints, of any conducted.

They report the loss of from \$1,800 to \$2,000 per month for the village
for the months of March and April due to airplane hunters taking Polar bear near
the village. They claim March is the best Polar bear month for them, but from
January to March is their general bear hunting period. It was further stated they
generally travel thirty to forty miles for bear. They rent dog-team and driver to
white bear hunters for twenty dollars per day.

The old-timers report Polar bear occasionally bear young around Cape
Lisburne and Cape Thompson, and take the young out of hibernation in April. "In
March, on land, bear poke small hole in snow and peek out".

They request, also, a longer wolverine season.

During January, 285 seals were taken. They requested us to send them
some bulletins on how many whales are being taken by outfits along the West coast
of North America and by Japan and Russia.

They took two bow-head whales during April.

POINT LAY:

Population	30 (7 families, 9 school children)
No. of dogs	
Caribou taken	76
Polar bear taken	3

Unearned Income:

Old Age Compensation, Social Security, Aid Dependent Children, Blind, and BIA Relief	\$1,812
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Annual unearned income per capita - \$ 60.40
Annual unearned income average per family - \$258.85

Total Earned Income: \$33,365.26
(Arts, crafts, and value of seals, whales, etc.
Furs and hides valued at \$335.)

Caribou were reported in the area since October 1956, scattered during
the fall, but plentiful all winter. In the spring they turned to seal hunting.

Three of the men worked for three months in the fall for Puget Sound and Drake Deadline construction. There are presently thirty to thirty-five white men at the radar site.

The people recommend a wolverine season from October 1st to May 1st. Two land otter were seen by a native trapper on the Kukpowruk River during the fall of 1956.

WAINWRIGHT:

Population	240 (45 families, 55 school children)
No. of dogs	
Caribou taken	672
Polar bear taken	15
(2 bear taken by white hunters, unknown)	

Unearned Income:

	<u>Year</u>
Old Age Compensation and Social Security	\$1,200
Army Dependents	1,200
Aid Dependent Children and BIA Relief	9,000
TOTAL	<u>\$11,400</u>

Annual unearned income per capita - \$ 47.50

Annual unearned income average per family - \$253.33

A meeting with twenty-four men present was held which was interesting as well as exasperating at times. The caribou taken during the winter were found thirty to forty miles from the village and were plentiful.

No recommendations were made on wolverine, except they wondered what to do if they were caught in fox traps after wolverine season closed. I gave them the stock answer, whereupon I was immediately presented with a recently killed wolverine that had been robbing a cache.

A few lynx were reported, the first, they claim to have seen since 1929. Only fifty seals were taken during the winter.

The group recommended White fox season to continue to March 30, as they are prime until then. The young were reported to be born in June; mating occurred in April. Average price per pelt was \$16.00. Polar bear came in for the usual report of airplane hunters leaving the meat out and taking bear too near the village.

Upon informing them that we may cut the limit on bear to one, a controversy arose. They felt they were being taken advantage of. They were reminded that although the limit was three each, the whole village had taken only fifteen bears. Laughter broke out, and the argument ended.

Ptarmigan season was attacked. It seems the ptarmigan arrive or become huntable around May 1st. No ptarmigan are available during the fall, and hunting in the winter darkness is — poor? They state, "White man's season no good for Eskimo." Ptarmigan lay their eggs in June.

Ducks and geese arrive in May and return past Icy Cape in September. This includes Brant, White front, Snow geese, Eiders, Old squaw, Pintails, Mallards, and loons. Icy Cape was reported to be the place we should count the birds in May and September. Few or no eggs are reported to be gathered.

POINT BARROW:

This village, like Kotzebue, with its readily noticeable dislike for white men makes it difficult to obtain sufficient or accurate information for a complete or accurate report.

Most of the caribou taken were brought in from Meade River on the eat-train hauling coal. The operator of this train figured he had hauled in about 500 caribou during the winter's operation.

Here, again, the Polar bear situation against airplane hunting was strongly expressed.

A number of the Eskimo men paid income tax on \$15,000, one individual on \$19,000, from salaries gained from the nearby radar installation as well as being a shipping point to other DEWline stations along the coast.

Unearned Income:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
28	Old Age Compensation	\$1,685	\$20,220
	Aid Dependent Children	2,192	26,304
(20 parents & 55 children)			
1	Blind	90	1,080
	TOTAL		\$47,604

ANAKTUVUK PASS:

Population 82 (13 families - no school)
Caribou Taken 2,000 (estimated)

Unearned Income:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
2	Old Age Compensation	\$ 130	\$1,560
	Aid Dependent Children	330	3,960
(3 parents and 8 children)			
	TOTAL		\$5,520

Annual unearned income per capita - \$ 67.32
Annual unearned income average per family - \$424.61

Caribou have been available to the Eskimos at Anaktuvuk Pass all winter. It is estimated approximately 2,000 animals have been taken. A certain amount of resentment was expressed against airplane wolf hunters taking wolves near the village which lessens the Eskimos chances of obtaining bounty money. This village was visited early in April and the above information was obtained.

TABLE OF UNEARNED INCOMES - 1954 and 1957

VILLAGE	POPULATION		NO. OF FAMILIES		TOTALS		PER CAPITA		AVERAGE PER FAMILY	
	1954	1957	1954	1957	1954	1957	1954	1957	1954	1957
Kobuk	53	55	9	9	\$ 6,400	\$10,740	\$120.75	\$166.90	\$711.11	\$1,020.00
Shungnak	142	165	42	32	11,643	14,772	81.99	84.99	277.21	436.62
Kiana	178	184	44	40	16,808	19,364	94.43	142.08	382.00	653.60
Noorvik	300	350	64	55	23,460	37,196	78.20	106.27	366.56	676.27
Selawik	300	296	52	35	30,720	32,208	102.40	108.80	590.76	920.22
Noatak	290	315	45	40	25,520	22,176	88.00	70.40	567.11	554.40
Wainwright	225	240	41	45	15,000*	11,400	66.67	47.50	365.85	253.33
Point Barrow	1,200	1,250-60	175	-	250,000	47,604**	208.33	-	1,428.57	-
Anaktuvuk Pass	75	82	13	13	4,368	5,520	58.24	67.32	336.00	424.61

TOTALS

\$383,919 \$200,980

NOTE: * Wainwright received \$4,000 Government life insurance.

** Point Barrow unearned income for 1957 is figured only on Aid Dependent Children, Old Age Compensation, and Aid to Blind. Unemployment compensation figures were seemingly unobtainable.

CARIBOU TAKE

VILLAGE	MAY 1953 - MAY 1954	MAY 1955 - MAY 1956	MAY 1956 - MAY 1957	JANUARY 1956 - JANUARY 1957
Kobuk	25	350	30	
Shungnak	250	2,700	106	
Kiana	800	2,000	250	
Noorvik	200	1,125	25	
Selawik	150	-	30	
Noatak	750	1,650	362	
Kotzebue	1,000	2,050	50	
Kivalina	500	550	35	
Point Hope	-	75	0	
Point Lay	500	143	76	
Wainwright	1,000	550	672	
Point Barrow	2,000	700	500	
Anaktuvuk Pass	2,000	-	2,000	
Hughes				0
Hualia				1
Koyukuk				0
Stevens				0
Beaver				2
Venetie				55
Arctic Village				326
TOTALS	9,175	11,893	4,136	384

REPORTED CARIBOU TAKE

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>1954*</u>	<u>1957</u>
Kobuk	25	30
Shungnak	250	106
Kiana	800	250
Noorvik	200	25
Selawik	150	30
Noatak	750	362
Kotzebue	1,000	50**
Kivalina	500	35
Point Lay	500	76
Wainwright	1,000	672
Point Barrow	2,000	500**
Anaktuvuk	2,000	2,000**
Point Hope	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	9,175	4,111

NOTE: * Covers 12 month period preceding date of visit.

** Estimated figures

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Caribou were not generally available on the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers. It appears that due to a light snowfall on the Arctic Slope, the caribou remained there throughout the winter, generally inland from Point Lay east to the Colville River. Pilots and residents of the area report light snow coverage and report caribou scattered on the flats between Barrow and the Colville, "just thick enough to make a landing hazardous" over the area in general. They were generally not near any village, which accounts for the reduced take.

It is surprising to note the interest the Eskimo has with regard to the various game seasons. One could expect them to be indifferent, particularly if we consider the infrequent patrol work done along the Arctic Coast.

The caribou take reported herein is as actually reported by the village groups unless otherwise noted. In case of those not attending the meetings, an average was figured for them and added to those reported.

"Have you ever conducted a meeting and asked a question, only to be answered by a complete silence and the intense, stoic stare of thirty pairs of black eyes???" Oh, well.....

STAN S. FREDERICKSEN

