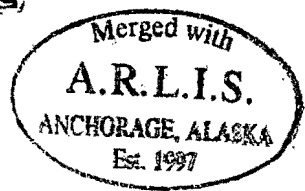


FWLB  
0848  
C3

Progress Report 1984 *Walrus Harvest*  
Health and Welfare Study at Wales, Alaska

Library  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



This document is restricted to internal U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service use

Scott L. Schliebe  
Marine Mammal Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska

3 3755 000 44662 5

**ARLIS**  
Alaska Resources  
Library & Information Services  
Anchorage, Alaska

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contracted a local individual, Metrona Anungazuk to monitor the walrus harvest at Wales, Alaska during the spring of 1984.

The primary objectives of the study in Wales were to determine the numbers, sex, and chronology of the walrus harvest. Neither teeth nor contaminant specimens were acquired. A representative collection of these specimens were acquired from hunters of Little Diomedede Island.

Wales is located on the mainland near the Bering Straits and is comprised almost entirely of Inupiat Native people. Historical utilization of marine mammals and other resources have been demonstrated. 1984 marked the 5th consecutive year of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service walrus harvest monitoring program in Wales.

**ARLIS**  
Alaska Resources  
Library & Information Service  
Anchorage, Alaska

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The recorded harvest between 21 May and 30 June in Wales was 271 walrus (Table 1). The magnitude of the harvest was greater than any of the preceding four years. The harvest was comprised of 90 adult males (33.2%), 132 adult females (48.8%), 12 calves (4.4%) and 37 adult unknown sex (13.6%). A 40:60 male to female sex ratio was exhibited in the harvest of known sex adults (Table 2). The 1982 harvest was the only other year in the last five years when the harvest favored females. Approximately 16 man-hours/walrus were expended based upon a sample of 35 hunting trips, 2146.5 man hours effort and retrieval of 134 walrus. Since some hunting effort was directed toward seals and waterfowl during the course of walrus hunting the catch per unit figures should be considered as inflated. A total of 15 hunting days occurred during the study period. Boat captains and hunting effort are listed in Table 4.

The recorded harvest of other marine mammals consisted of 40 bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*), 6 additional bearded seals were recorded to have sunk, 9 ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*), 2 polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) and a gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) which sank and was unable to be retrieved (Table 3). No documentation of seal harvests occurred after June 9 although a note from Metrona Anungozuk stated that mostly walrus and no bearded seals were taken after this date.

Past harvest monitoring efforts have concluded during mid-June. A single day harvest of 76 walrus occurred on June 30, 1984, although ice conditions were dissimilar from any of the preceding 4 years and may have promoted a late season harvest. Chronic high wind conditions persist in the vicinity of Wales and may also contribute to hunting effort. The standard boat size is approximately 18-20' with outboard sizes ranging from 15-50 HP (Table 4).

This was the first year that Metrona Anungozuk collected harvest data. She had no immediate supervision and very little introductory training. Frequent phone calls were placed in order to clarify questions. She eventually used the single data form which was easiest for herself although the standard form complemented her early data collection effort. This form allowed for cross-checking accuracy which revealed some inconsistencies. In case of differing harvest reports for the same hunter and same date the greater harvest figure was used. Metrona had calculated a total harvest of 255 walrus while the corrected (sic) calculations tallied 270 walrus. It appears that the error factor is slight. I believe that greater explanation and demonstration of correct use of the data forms and consistency should remedy this condition in the future and that Metrona will prove to be a valuable asset to the marine mammal harvest program.

TABLE 1 WALRUS HARVEST AT WALES, ALASKA, 1984

DATE	MALES	FEMALES	CALVES	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
5/21	-	1	-		1
5/24	3	5	2		10
5/27	21	6			27
5/28	2				2
5/29		5			5
5/30	30	17	3		50
6/2	5	7			12
6/3	1	1		37	39
6/8		5			5
6/9	1	14			15
6/10	3	2			5
6/16	6	6			12
6/17	2	9			11
6/18		1			1
6/30	16	53	7		76
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	90	132	12	37	271

TABLE 2 COMPARISON OF 1980-84 DOCUMENTED WALRUS HARVEST  
AT WALES, ALASKA

	ADULT MALES	ADULT FEMALES	CALVES	SEX UNKNOWN	TOTAL
1980	37	31	0	0	68
% of total	54.4	45.6			
% of known sex adults	54.4	45.6			
1981	94	34	0	0	128
% of total	73.4	26.6			
% of known sex adults	73.4	26.6			
1982	43	58	3	15	119
% of total	36.1	48.7	2.5	12.6	
% of known sex adults	37.1	50.0		12.9	
1983	45	21	0	1	67
% of total	67.2	31.3		1.5	
% of known sex adults	67.2	31.3		1.5	
1984	90	132	12	37	271
% of total	33.2	48.8	4.4	13.6	
% of known sex adults	40.5	59.5			

TABLE 3 RECORDED HARVEST OF SEALS AND POLAR BEARS  
DURING SPRING WALRUS HARVEST PERIOD, WALES, ALASKA, 1984

DATE	SEALS		POLAR BEARS	OTHER
	BEARDED <sup>a</sup>	RINGED		
5/21	1/1	1		
5/24	1			1 gray whale sank with floats
5/27	11/1	2 females		
5/28	1,1		1 male 1 female	
5/30	8/1			
6/2	6/1			
6/3	5/2	3		
6/9	6	3		
TOTAL	40/6	9	2	1

\*No documentation of seal harvest after June 9.

A note from Metrona Anungozuk stated that mostly walrus and no bearded seal were taken after this date.

<sup>a</sup>

Retrieved/Lost

TABLE 4

HUNTER	HUNTING TRIPS	BOAT SIZE	OUTBOARD
Roland Angnaboogok	5-27-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	25HP Mariner
	5-28-84		
	5-29-84		
	6- 2-84		
	6- 8-84		
	6- 9-84		
	6-10-84		
6-30-84			
Vincent Okpealuk	5-21-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	35HP Evinrude
	5-24-84		
	5-27-84		
	5-28-84		
	6- 3-84		
	6-17-84		
	6-30-84		
Ernest Oxereok	5-27-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	35HP Evinrude
	5-30-84		
	6- 2-84		
	6- 3-84		
	6- 9-84		
	6-16-84		
6-30-84			
Frank Oxereok	5-30-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	25HP Evinrude
	6-30-84		
Victor Ongtawasruk	6- 2-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	50HP Evinrude
	6-16-84		
Roland Ongtawasruk	6-30-84	?	?
Raymond Seetook	5-27-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	50HP Evinrude
	5-30-84		
	6- 3-84		
	6-30-84		
Pete Sereadlook	6-30-84	?	?
Jonah Tokienna	5-30-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	15HP Evinrude
	6- 2-84		
	6- 9-84		
	6-18-84		
	6-30-84		
Pete Sereadlook	6-30-84	?	?
Jonah Tokienna	5-30-84	18-20' (Aluminum)	15HP Evinrude
	6- 2-84		
	6- 9-84		
	6-18-84		
	6-30-84		
Winton Weyapuk Jr.	6-30-84	?	?