

## **WHICH FEDERAL AGENCIES MANAGE MARINE MAMMALS?**

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages all cetaceans and pinnipeds including whale, dolphin, porpoise, seal, and sea lion species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages walrus, sea otter and polar bear in Alaska.

## **WHO MAY HUNT/USE MARINE MAMMALS?**

Alaska Natives (Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos) who resides in Alaska and who dwells on the coast of the North Pacific Ocean or the Arctic Ocean may harvest marine mammals for subsistence purposes or the creation and sale of authentic Native articles of handicraft or clothing if the harvest is not wasteful, as culture and tradition dictate.

**It is illegal for a person who is NOT Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo to actively participate in any manner in marine mammal hunting.**



Nick Tanape – Seal Hunter from Nanwalek, Alaska

## **ARE THERE A HARVEST LIMITS?**

No. Alaska Natives are not limited by Federal Law in the number that can be harvested, providing the harvest is not wasteful.

Harvest limits can be imposed on those species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, or those listed as depleted under the MMPA.

## **ARE THERE HUNTING SEASONS?**

Seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals may be harvested anytime during the year. ANHSC suggests that hunters check with local tribal entities for guidelines on respectful hunting times, locations and practices.

## **ARE THERE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?**

There are No reporting requirements for harbor seals or sea lions however, ANHSC and the ADF&G's Subsistence Division conducts an annual harvest survey of these species. If you hunt seals or sea lions we strongly urge you participate and call 907 354-0554. The ANHSC Harvest Data Assessment program has proven to be instrumental in the co-management of these species and providing a voice for local community concerns.

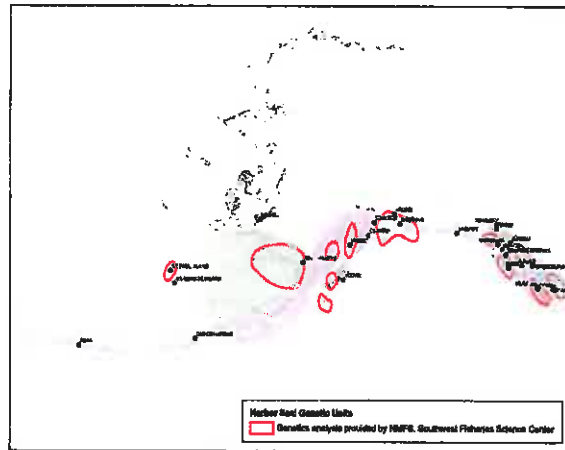


Figure 1, Range of harbor seal habitat in Alaska, including proposed genetic units.

## **WHAT IS A "NATIVE HANDICRAFT"?**

Authentic Native handicrafts may be sold to a non-native. "authentic native articles of handicrafts and clothing" means items composed wholly or in some significant respect of natural materials, and which are produced, decorated, or fashioned in the exercise of traditional native handicrafts without the use of pantographs, multiple carvers, or other mass copying devices. Traditional native handicrafts include, but are not limited to weaving, carving, stitching, sewing, lacing, beading, drawing and painting"



Jamie Foode at Nuchek Spirit Camp

## **OTHER LEGAL USES OF MARINE MAMMALS FOR ALASKA NATIVES?**

Any edible portion from, sea lions and harbor seals may be sold if it is sold in "native villages and towns in Alaska or for consumption."

## **MAY RAW (TANNED OR UNTANNED) HIDES BE SOLD OR TRANSFERRED?**

Yes, but only to an Alaskan Native within Alaska or to a federally registered agent for resale or transfer to an Alaskan Native within Alaska. It is illegal to give as a gift, trade, or sell either tanned or untanned hides to a Non-Native.

## HOW MAY I HAVE A HIDE TANNED?



Don Kompkoff-Seal Hunter with students at Nuchek Spirit Camp

Alaska Natives may have harbor seal or sea lions hides tanned by a taxidermist or tanneries which have a permit from NMFS. A list of Authorized Tanneries is available upon request.

Individuals sending hides to be tanned by a commercial tanner may wish to include a signed and dated statement indicating they are an Alaskan Native and may possess marine mammal hides.

## HOW CAN A TANNERY OR AGENT BECOME REGISTERED?

If you wish to act as a registered tannery or agent to legally possess and process marine mammal products for Alaska Natives you can apply to:

### National Marine Fisheries Service

Eliza Stevens  
222 West 7th Avenue, Box 10  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7577  
Phone: (907) 271-1823  
Fax: (907) 271-4915

A registration application should include the applicant's name and address; a description of how materials will be processed, shipped, stored and

received; a proposal for inventorying or bookkeeping to maintain accurate records of marine mammal hides; the applicant's signature; and the following language:

"I hereby certify that the foregoing information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that this information is submitted for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an exception under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 through 1407) and regulations promulgated thereunder, and that any false statement may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001, or to penalties under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972."

## WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

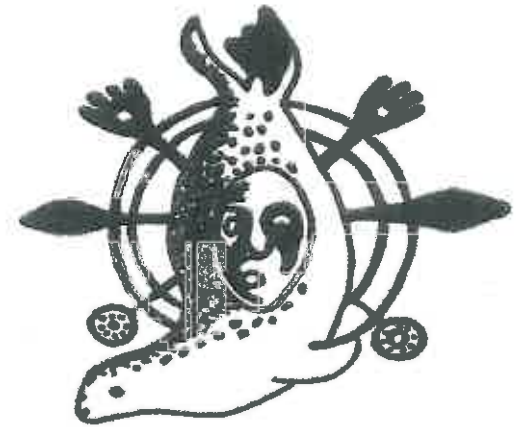
### Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission

800 E. Dimond, Suite 3-625  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515  
Phone: (907) 345-0555 or 345-0554  
Fax: (907) 345-0566

[www.harborsealcommission.org](http://www.harborsealcommission.org)

NOAA Fisheries  
Protected Resources Division  
Harbor Seal Management Program  
PO Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668  
Phone: (907) 586-7248  
Fax: (907) 586-7012

This educational fact sheet was developed through the co-management process by ANHSC and NMFS to provide guidance for hunters and the public at large relating to marine mammal harvest in Alaska.



### Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission

"Ensuring that harbor seals remain an essential cultural, spiritual, and nutritional element of our traditional way of life, and to promote the health of harbor seals in order to carry forward the cultural, spiritual, and nutritional traditions of Alaska Natives"

### Harbor Seals and Sea Lions harvests

The co-management agreement between the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service sets forth the operational structure for the conservation and management of harbor seals in Alaska, its goals include:

- Promote the sustained health of harbor seals
- Protect the culture and way of life of Alaska Natives who rely on the harvest for subsistence uses
- Promote scientific research and data collection, ...traditional knowledge..., to facilitate management decisions
- Conflict resolution through a consultative process
- Increase the understanding of sustainable use, management, and conservation of harbor seals.