



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
222 W. 7th Avenue, #43
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7577

August 31, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: David R. Cormany *DRC*
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SUBJECT: 2000 Pribilof Islands Subsistence Fur Seal
Harvest - Final Report

Subsistence harvesting of northern fur seals was conducted on St. Paul Island for 15 days between July 5, 2000 and August 8, 2000 and on St. George Island for 11 days between June 5 and August 8. A total of 754 seals were taken on St. Paul Island during the 2000 season and 121 seals were taken this year on St. George Island. The combined total number of seals taken in the 2000 subsistence harvest was 875. Please see the attached tables for specific details.

St. Paul Island

By prior agreement with the Tribal Government of St. Paul Island only whole carcasses were removed from the field.

The annual Community Development Quota (CDQ) local fishery for halibut, which occurs during the same time of the year as the subsistence harvest on the Pribilofs, created significant time conflicts for the St. Paul Island sealing crew. Many of the experienced sealers are involved with the CDQ fishery upon which they depend for a large part of their annual income. The lack of experienced sealers available to participate in the harvest caused significant delays in beginning many of the harvest events such that none of these events were able to begin before 11 a.m. The environmental conditions during several harvest days were such that a total of 4 seals died of heatstroke during the 2000 harvest season, the meat of which was not taken.

As the appearance of young female seals mixing with non-breeding male seals on the haulout areas occurred somewhat earlier this year than usual, 1 female seal was accidentally killed on St. Paul Island during the 2000 harvest, the meat was not taken.

There were 4 bull seals accidentally struck/injured and 1 bull seal was accidentally struck and killed, the meat of which was not taken.



A minimum of 5 seals were disentangled from marine debris (primarily trawl net and packing bands) during the harvest and released in good condition.

There was a significant problem regarding the amount of waste during the 2000 harvest. In addition to those mortalities resulting from heatstroke and accidentally, the carcass dump and other areas were monitored daily where a minimum of 8 seals taken during the harvest were observed to have been discarded with only the front flippers removed. The number of seals directly observed to have been wasted totaled 15.

As a result of this level of waste, a temporary halt to the harvest on St. Paul Island was imposed from July 24 through July 31 during which time the problems contributing to the high level of waste were identified and discussed. Individuals thought to be responsible for discarding edible seal meat were contacted and admonished by representatives from the Tribal Government and the harvest foreman. The St. Paul harvest was resumed without further incident on August 1 and terminated on August 8 as per regulations at 50 CFR 216.72(3)(f).

St. George Island

There was 1 incident of heatstroke on St. George Island during the 2000 harvest of which the meat was not taken. No female seals or any bull seals were accidentally struck.

Only whole carcasses were removed from the field. A total of 25 rib sections were not removed from the field during the 2000 harvest season on St. George. However, this constitutes a very small portion of the total amount of edible meat available from each animal and is not regarded as significant.

Both Islands

A moderate amount of edible parts not required to be utilized such as stomachs, kidneys and blubber were also taken on both islands, as were some inedible parts such as throats, pelts, teeth and bone for use in traditional arts and handicrafts as permitted by regulation.

The carcass dumps on both islands were monitored daily by NMFS monitors. No bacula were observed to have been removed from any seals taken in the harvest on either island.

A certified veterinary pathologist served as the Humane Observer on St. Paul Island and NMFS staff monitored the daily harvests on both islands. Other than the incidents occurring on St. Paul described above, there were no significant problems with the 2000 harvest and for the most part, it was conducted within the regulations at 50 CFR 216 Subpart F.

2000 harvest summary for **St. Paul Island** is as follows:

Number of harvest days.....	15
Total number of seals taken *.....	753
Number of whole carcasses taken **.....	747
Number of females unintentionally taken.....	1
Number of mortalities due to heatstroke.....	4
Number of animals seriously injured.....	4
Number of seals disentangled during daily harvests.....	5

2000 harvest summary for **St. George Island** is as follows:

Number of harvest days.....	11
Total number of seals taken*.....	121
Number of whole carcasses taken**.....	120
Number of females unintentionally taken.....	0
Number of mortalities due to heatstroke.....	1
Number of animals seriously injured.....	0
Number of seals disentangled during daily harvests.....	0

*NOTE: Total number of seals taken includes females, heatstroke and those animals mortally injured but not taken.

**NOTE: The number of whole carcasses taken is the total number of animals taken minus butterfly cuts, heatstroke, females and others not taken for food.

2000 Harvest: St. Pauli Island

DATE	LOCATION	TAKE	TOTAL	TEMP	WIND(k)	GRASS	WEATHER	DRIVE	HARVEST
5-Jul	Reef	31	31	46	16 NE	Wet	Mist	1315 - 1326 *	1340 - 1429
10-Jul	Polovina	42	73	46	15 SE	Wet	Fog	1139 - 1144	1201 - 1326
14-Jul	Big Zapadni	44	117	47	15 S	Wet	Fog	1313 - 1326	1339 - 1417
17-Jul	Zapadni Reef	61	178	47	14 W	Wet	Fog/Mist	1259 - 1307	1317 - 1425
19-Jul	Reef	51	229	48	14 W	Wet	Overcast	1229 - 1234	1244 - 1330
21-Jul	Polovina	35	264	49	8 N	Damp	Part Overcast	1332 - 1338	1350 - 1420
22-Jul	Lukanin	41	305	48	9 E	Dry	Overcast	1334 - 1351	1407 - 1438
1-Aug	Big Zapadni	58	363	48	30 NW	Wet	Mist	1204 - 1224	1237 - 1357
2-Aug	Zapadni Reef	33	396	48	11 E	Wet	Mist	1154 - 1200	1208 - 1243
3-Aug	Polovina	59	455	50	16 SW	Wet	Mist	1149 - 1155	1207 - 1243
4-Aug	Reef	46	501	49	12 SW	Damp	Overcast	1149 - 1153	1207 - 1353
5-Aug	N.E. Point	45	546	48	11 S	Damp	Overcast	1151 - 1155	1206 - 1312
7-Aug	Big Zapadni	85	631	48	6 W	Damp	Overcast	1347 - 1357	1405 - 1446
8-Aug	Zoloto/Reef	123	754	46	9 SW	Wet	Overcast	1127 - 1142*	1156 - 1359
		TOTAL	754						

NOTES *NOTES

- 5-Jul 2 separate drives
- 10-Jul 1 three year old male seal disentangled (packing band).
- 14-Jul 1 bull seal (aprox. 5 years old) accidentally struck. Recovered but injured.
- 17-Jul 3 seals disentangled (2 packing bands, 1 grey trawl net). 1 heatstroke (meat not taken).
- 14-Jul 1 bull seal accidentally struck/injured. Most throats taken.
- 19-Jul 1 heatstroke (meat not taken).
- 21-Jul 2 heatstroke (meat not taken). 1 female seal accidentally struck/killed (meat not taken).
- 22-Jul None
- 1-Aug Harvest resumed after 7 day suspension due to number of heatstroke and observed waste of edible meat.
- 2-Aug 4 yr old bull accidentally struck, injured
- 3-Aug 1 bull seal accidentally struck/killed, meat not taken. Most throats taken.
- 4-Aug 6 year old bull accidentally struck, injured.
- 6-Aug None
- 7-Aug None
- 8-Aug 1 three year old seal disentangled (packing band). Two separate drives.

2000 Harvest: St. George Island

DATE	LOCATION	TAKE	TOTAL	TEMP (F)	WIND(kt)	GRASS
5-Jul	Northeast	13	13	50	15 NE	Wet
12-Jul	Zapadni	17	30	48	5 SW	Wet
17-Jul	Northeast	12	42	48	18 SW	Wet
19-Jul	Zapadni	8	50	51	5 SW	Wet
21-Jul	Northeast	5	55	49	5 NW	Dry
24-Jul	Zapadni	13	68	49	10 SW	Wet
27-Jul	Northeast	12	80	50	15 W	Dry
31-Jul	Zapadni	6	86	49	15 SW	Wet
5-Aug	Northeast	17	103	47	17 SW	Dry
6-Aug	Zapadni	8	111	47	18 SW	Wet
8-Aug	Zapadni	10	121	50	5 SW	Wet

TOTAL 121

NOTES

- 5-Jul 7 sets of ribs not taken
- 12-Jul 1 set of ribs not taken
- 17-Jul 2 sets of ribs not taken.
- 19-Jul None
- 21-Jul 1 set of ribs not taken.
- 24-Jul 3 sets of ribs not taken.
- 27-Jul 1 heatstroke (meat not taken).
- 31-Jul None
- 5-Aug 6 sets of ribs not taken.
- 6-Aug 3 sets of ribs not taken.
- 8-Aug 2 sets of ribs not taken.