

Northern
Fur Seal
Harvests, St.
George
Island, AK

August 13

2013

Hertha Kashevarof, Island Sentinel, Kayumitax Eco-office

Aleut Community of St. George Island

St. George Traditional Council

Kayumitax Eco-office

P.O. Box 940

St. George Island, Alaska 99591

907.859.2447(voice) 907.859.2251 (fax)

Harvest report
for the 2013
Season

7.8.2013-
8.7.2013

2013 Northern Fur Seal Subsistence Harvest

INTRODUCTION

Laqum, northern fur seal (*callorhinus ursinus*) is an important customary traditional food for the Unangan of St. George Island, Alaska. Together, the Traditional Council of St. George along with the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service coordinated, monitored, and managed the subsistence harvest of northern fur seals to safeguard their existence. The 2013 subsistence fur seal harvest was conducted in accordance to 50 CFR §216 Subpart F on St. George Island.

METHODS

The Island Sentinel of the St. George Traditional Council Kayumixtax Eco-Office monitored the 2013 subsistence fur seal harvest for the Aleut Community of St. George Island and in accordance with the Co-management Agreement between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Aleut Community of St. George. Within this context, management and activities were conducted under a cooperative agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service. During the 2013 subsistence fur seal harvest information was collected on:

- a) the number of sub-adult male fur seals harvested
- b) incidence of by-products and waste during the harvest process
- c) the occurrence of older male seals judged to be 124.5 cm or more in length
- d) female seals killed or injured during the harvest operation
- e) the number of seal deaths due to overheating
- f) number of seals entangled in marine debris and the number of seals disentangled
- g) evidence of oil contaminated seal pelts
- h) other types of fur seal mortality
- i) weather conditions at the time of the harvest
- j) any other unusual conditions related to the harvest

k) Research conducted during the harvest, and visitors requesting to view or film the harvest

RESULTS

Harvests season was open 7.8.2013 to 8.8.2013 with the first harvest taking place on July 8th and ending the harvest season on August 7th. A total of 80 Northern Fur seals were harvested during the 2013 season. Eight harvests were conducted in the month period, with 4 being at the North haul out the other 4 being at Zapadni.

Table 1: Dates, locations, weather, harvest time and number of Sub-adult males harvested.

Date of Harvest	Rookery	Weather	Time of Harvest	# of seals harvested
7-8-2013	North	Wind: SW 8 Temp: 41	Start: 10:50am End: 11:20am	10
7-10-2013	Zapadni	Wind: Calm Temp: 46 (fog)	Start: 10:55am End: 11:15am	6
7-15-2013	Zapadni	Wind: SW 8 Temp: 45 (fog/mist)	Start: 12:30pm End: 1:15pm	10
7-18-2013	North	Wind: SW 10 Temp: 44 (fog/mist)	Start: 11:15am End: 11:40am	10
7-29-2013	Zapadni	Wind: S 6 Temp: 48 (fog/mist)	Start: 11:15am End: 11:45am	11
7-31-2013	North	Wind: NE 22 Temp: 47 (fog/rain)	Start: 11:05am End: 11:25am	10
8-5-2013	Zapadni	Wind: W 12 Temp: 44 (light rain/fog/mist)	Start: 11:25am End: 11:45am	10
8-7-2013	North	Wind: Calm Temp: 47 (fog)	Start: 10:35am End: 11:50am	13

Table 2: Shows the dates and serial numbers on the documented tags and the rookery where the seal with tags were discovered.

Tag	Rookery	Date	Tagged Flipper(L, R, B, ?)
0908E	Zapadni	7-15-2013	L

Note: Tagged animals were not captured or weighed. However they were let out of the groups to ensure no harm was done to them.

No tagged seals were harvested during the 2013 season.

Additional Information

-Research

Additional research was done with the seal harvests including sampling for the National Marine Mammal Laboratory

100% of the upper canine of each harvested Sub-adult male was collected, bagged and tagged.

94% of nasal swabs were taken and frozen in the stand up freezer located at the Eco Office.

Heat Strokes: No deaths of any fur seal occurred due to heat stroke during the 2013 subsistence seal harvest.

Entanglement: No entanglements were encountered during the harvest season.

Accidental Female Mortality: No deaths of any female fur seals occurred during the 2013 subsistence harvest.

Oil Contamination: No oil contamination was encountered on any of the harvested animals.

Other Mortality: No other fur seal mortality occurred.