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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 1668 - JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

*file*

February 7, 1978

Honorable Kay Poland  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Poland:

In response to the request by the Senate Resources Committee in their final day of hearings on Senate Bills 439 and 440, and Senate Joint Resolution 37, the following information is submitted:

The average yearly take of bowhead whales by all Alaskan Eskimo villages for the past ten years is 24.4 whales. The take in 1976 was 48 whales.

The average yearly take of bowhead whales in Barrow for the past ten years is 13 whales. The take in 1976 was 23 whales.

The average yearly take of bowhead whales by Soviet natives for the past five years is 2 whales. They took no bowhead whales in 1976.

A call this morning to Dr. George Harry, Director of the Marine Mammal Division of National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle, confirms that there has been no take of bowhead whales by Canadian Eskimos in recent years.

Bowhead whale catch statistic tables have been attached for your information. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

*Harry L. Rietze*

Harry L. Rietze  
Director, Alaska Region

Table 13.--Bowhead whales taken by USSR natives in recent years

Year	Chukchi Sea	Bering Sea	Total
1972	0	1	1
1973	0	2	2
1974	1	2	3
1975	2	2	4
1976	0	0	0

Source: Personal communication from Dr. V.N. Mineev.

Tables taken from: "The 1976 Catch of Bowhead Whales (Balaena mysticetus) by Alaskan Eskimos, with a Review of the Fishery, 1973-1976, and Biological Summary of the Species." by Willman Marquette, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, May 1977

Table 14 --- Bowhead whales taken by Alaska natives in the western Bering Sea

Year	Barrow	Pt. Hope	Wainwright	Nuigsut	Icy Cape	Kaktovik	Gambell	Savoonga	Kivalina	Misc.	Total
1852	17										17
1853	7										7
1854-79											-
1880											5
1881	18										18
1882	1										1
1883	2										2
1884	10										10
1885	28	12									40
1886											-
1887	6										6
1888	2										2
1889	4										4
1890	1	1									2
1891	18										18
1892	8	0									8
1893											-
1894	10										10
1895	4										4
1896	6	33									39
1897	5										5
1898	42 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1									43
1899											-
1900	19										19
1901		1									1
1902		2									2
1903	4	0									4
1904	2	0									2
1905	5										5
1906	1										1
1907	9	0									9
1908	23	13			10-12						46-48
1909	11	13			1						25
1910	2+										2
1911	1	3									4

Table 14 . (continued)

Year	Barrow	Pt. Hope	Wainwright	Nuigsut	Icy Cape	Kaktovik	Gambell	Savoonga	Kivalina	Misc.	Total
1912	2	1									3
1913	4	1									5
1914	1	2			1						4
1915		3									3
1916	5	7	1							1	14
1917		3			3					2	11
1918	1	7									8
1919	1	2									3
1920		3									3
1921		2									2
1922	1	13	3								17
1923										2	2
1924		16								9	25
1925	19	10	2								31
1926	4	13									17
1927	2	3									5
1928	11										11
1929	15										15
1930	7										7
1931	11	1									12
1932	7										7
1933	5										5
1934	4										4
1935	6										6
1936	4	4									8
1937	9										9
1938	4										4
1939	6										6
1940	0	5									5
1941	2	8	1								11
1942	10		1								11
1943	6										6
1944	0		2								2
1945	3	3									6
1946	9	2									11

Table 14. (continued)

Year	Barrow	Pt. Hope	Wainwright	Nuigsut	Icy Cape	Kaktovik	Gambell	Savoonga	Kivalina	Misc.	Total
1947	4	6									10
1948	5	0									5
1949	0	4	1								5
1950	4	2	2							1 (Cape Lisburne)	9
1951	9	4									13
1952	0	2+									2
1953	17	4					2				23
1954	1	3									4
1955	19	1	1				2				23
1956	2	2					1				5
1957	0	3					0				3
1958	0	2					0				2
1959	0	1									1
1960	15	4	0								19
1961	6	2	1				1				10
1962	5	6	1								12
1963	5	3	2								10
1964	17	1	1			2			1		16
1965	4	2	0								6
1966	7	5	1								13
1967	3	1	0								4
1968	10	3	2				1				16
1969	11	3	3							1 (Wales)	18
1970	15	8	0						1		24
1971	13	6	2				1		1	1 (Wales)	24
1972	19	14	2				2		1		38
1973	17	7	3	1		3	2	4			37
1974	9	6	1			2	2		0		20
1975	10	4	0				1		0		15
1976	23	12	3			2	1	7	0	0 (Wales)	48

1/. Combined catch of Eskimos and two vessels.