

- Gol'tsev, V.N. 1978. Materials on the reproduction of the Pacific walrus, p. 89. In Marine Mammals. Abstracts of papers VIIth All-Union Conference. Moscow: Ministry of Fisheries, Ichthiol. Commission.

In the opinion of the majority of investigators (Chapskii, 1936; Nikulén, 1941; Buckley, 1958; Popov, 1960; Tikhomirov, 1964; Krylov, 1969), mating in walrus takes place in the period of calving or immediately thereafter, i.e. from April to the middle of June. Hence, pregnancy lasts about 11 months. The basis for this has been largely hypothetical, inasmuch as the studies of the walrus have taken place principally in the period of harvest (autumn), when reproduction already is finished. However, Fay (1955), studying the condition of the testes of some males taken in winter, came to the conclusion that the season of reproduction extends from December to May, with a peak in February-March.

Our material was obtained on the ZRS "ZAGORYANY" from 20 March to 11 April 1976, in the southern part of the Bering Sea. The sample size was 115 males and 35 females, of which 101 and 34 were sexually mature.

In the period of collection of these materials, spermatogenesis was marked in 71% of the mature males. This was principally in animals 11 to 19 years of age. In the rest (20%) spermatogenesis either was already finished (this group was composed principally of old males, 17-32 years) or was in the beginning stages (maturing animals 8-10 years). Evidently, in males of the Pacific walrus, the period of sexual activity occurs in the winter-spring period (probably in the span indicated by Fay). The first to enter the rut are animals of the oldest age groups, and step by step, the younger ones follow.

Among the sexually mature females, 14 (41%) were with near term embryos, and 15 (44%) had corpora lutea of ovulation.