

Kibal'chich, A. A. 1982. Migrational characteristics of the Pacific walrus, pp. 159-160. In *Studies, Protection, and Rational Use of Marine Mammals*. USSR Ministry of Fisheries, Astrakhan. (abstract)
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Investigations of the Pacific walrus, describing the migrations of this subspecies (Belopol'skii, 1939; Nikulin, 1940; Kenyon, 1960; Fedoseev, 1962; and others), mainly focused attention on the time, direction, and method of movement of the groups; almost no information was given concerning the sex and age composition of animals in the areas to which they migrated or along the way.

From 1972 to 1981, we acquired age information from more than 1100 specimens from different parts of the range and conducted visual counts of walruses on haulouts ashore and on the ice.

Our observations and those by other investigators (Nikulin, 1940; Freiman, 1940; Fedoseev and Gol'tsev, 1960; Fedoseev, 1981; Fay et al., in press) have shown especially striking differentiation by sex and age in summer-fall, when the Pacific population spatially forms two groups. The first (Bering) is composed of males older than 7 years, which remain in summer in the Bering Sea and partly in the southern Chukchi Sea, going in the ice-free period onto coastal haulouts, from Karaginskii Island in the South to Cape Inchoun in the North. The second (Chukchi) is made up of females with young up to 6 years of age, with a small number of adult males more than 13-14 years, in a sex ratio of 1:6-7.

Such a division of the walruses in summer is accounted for by the change in ice conditions, when the edge of the drifting ice withdraws to the North. Being more attached to the ice because the young can be looked after more easily there, the females migrate into the Chukchi Sea and form aggregations of herds on ice in the vicinity of Wrangel and Herald Islands (western group) and on the edge of the ice between 171° and 154°W (eastern group). If the edge of the ice withdraws beyond the 100-m isobath, where the walrus has difficulty in harvesting food, they go to rest on coastal haulouts at Wrangel and Herald Islands and, at the time of the return migration to the Bering Sea, on Kolyuchin and Ildidlya Islands, Inchoun, etc.

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Differential distribution and the practically complete change area of residence in summer allow the walrus to utilize the underwater "pastures" more fully and extensively and the females to rear their offspring at less expense to the population.