

Pinigin, V. E., and V. G. Priianishnikov. 1975. On the appearance of a large group of walruses on Kamchatka, pp. 56 - 57. In Marine Mammals: Materials 6th All-Union Conf., Part 2. Kiev: Naukova Dumka.

p. 57
In the past century, the Pacific walrus regularly inhabited the eastern coast of Kamchatka. Their major haulouts were located on Cape Kronotskii (Ditmar, 1901) and on Karaginskii and Verkhoturov Islands (Arsen'ev, 1927). Arrival of individual animals was recorded on the Commander Islands (Barabash-Nikiforov, 1935) and Cape Shipunskii, and even in southern Avacha Bay.

With the increased marine animal harvest industry in the prerevolutionary period, especially by Americans (Boçnanov, 1910; Krylov, 1968), the stock of walruses underwent a catastrophic reduction, and the southern boundary of their distribution quickly receded northward. By the beginning of the present century, all of the coastal herds in Kamchatka had been destroyed (Chugunkov, 1970), although individual animals did appear in Kamchatkan waters up to 40 years ago (Razumovskii, 1931; Nikulin, 1940). In the subsequent 25 years, walruses did not occur on the coast of Kamchatka.

The overall decrease in the far eastern walrus stock made it necessary to introduce measures for regulation of the harvests. In 1956 the USSR began prohibition of commercial harvests of walrus. Restrictions were placed also on the harvests by the local people of Chukotka, who take walruses for their subsistence needs, authorizing them to crop up to a limit 2 to 4 thousand head. Beginning in 1964, an annual limit of cropping was set for the local aboriginal population of Chukotka. The adoption of these measures evidently had a favorable influence on the restoration of the numbers of walruses. Indirect indications of this were the increased frequency of appearance of walruses along the coast of Kamchatka. It is possible,

nevertheless, that these were chance occurrences of animals.

The data of KO TINRO show that in 1966, individual walruses were observed in Russkoi and Lictvenichnoi Bays and, furthermore, that in 1969, even groups of walruses of up to 20 - 25 head were present in the northern part of Verkhoturova Island. On the Commander Islands dead animals were recorded in 1967, 1969, and 1970. In 1971 the ^{first} live walruses were found ~~first~~, between Cape Buyan and Staraya Gavan', near Bering Island; second, in the direct proximity of the south-eastern hauling ground of fur seals on Medny Island, also in ^{the} water.

On the twelfth of June, more than 100 peacefully resting walruses were discovered on the rocks in Anastasia Bay. Some time later, on the 21st of June, a herd of walruses numbering more than 500 head was observed in the same place.

Regretably, it was not possible to conduct long term observations on that group of animals.