

REPORT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
STATUS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE
WALRUS ISLANDS STATE GAME SANCTUARY

OCTOBER 1990

Prepared By:

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Larry VanDaele, Dillingham Area Biologist
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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Don W. Collinsworth, Commissioner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary in Northern Bristol Bay was established as Alaska's first state game sanctuary in 1960. The primary purpose for the sanctuary is to protect the largest haulout for the Pacific walrus in North America. The sanctuary consists of 7 islands and the waters within 3 miles of Round Island. Round Island is by far the most important area for walruses, with up to 15,000 using its beaches during peak times. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has maintained a field camp on the island since 1977. Two seasonal employees monitor walrus numbers, enforce sanctuary regulations, and assist visitors. Access to Round Island is regulated by ADF&G permit. Over 100 visitors camp on the Island during the summer and there are an additional 50-100 day-use visitors per season.

Proposal No. 37 for the fall 1990 Board of Game meeting provides more protection from unintended aircraft disturbance, specifies conditions for access permits more clearly, and identifies a small number of scientific/educational permits. The proposed changes are similar to permit conditions at McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. The department also intends to charge visitor use fees for the first time beginning in 1991.

BACKGROUND

Location: The Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary is located in northern Bristol Bay approximately 20 miles south of Togiak, Alaska within Game Management Unit 17. The sanctuary consists of 7 islands (Black Rock, Crooked Island, High Island, Round Island, Summit Island, and the Twins) and the waters within 3 miles of Round Island (Figure 1).

Physical environment: Crooked Island is the largest island in the sanctuary (6 mi²), followed in size by High (5 mi²), Summit (3 mi²) and Round (2 mi²). These islands are characterized by fairly steep shores cut by cliffs and bays. Grasses and low shrubs dominant the inland vegetation along with a rich variety of subarctic wildflowers. Tens of thousands of seabirds nest along the cliffs. The only known terrestrial mammals are red foxes, tundra voles, Siberian lemmings, and shrews.

The other 3 islands in the sanctuary (Twins [1 mi²] and Black Rock [0.5 mi²]) have steep sea cliffs, very little vegetative cover, and no known land mammals. They are, however, home for hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds, including: common murre, horned puffin, tufted puffin, black-legged kittiwake, cormorant, and pigeon guillemot.

Walrus and sea lions regularly haul-out on Round Island, Crooked Island and the Twins. Harbor seals haul-out on Black Rock and the Twins.

Regulatory history: In 1960, the Alaska State Legislature recognized that ". . . the Walrus Islands are the sole remaining place in the state where walrus annually haul out on land and all similar "hauling grounds" in the state which were formally utilized have been abandoned due to excessive molestation and slaughter . . ." (Alaska Statute Sec. 16.20.090). The purpose of the

sanctuary was to ". . . protect the walruses and other game in the Walrus Islands." (AS 16.20.100). The Boards of Fish and Game have regulatory authority over the sanctuary, and ADF&G is responsible for managing it.

The sanctuary was closed to hunting when it was first designated. The state lost the authority to manage walrus in 1972 with the passage of the U.S. Marine Mammals Protection Act, returned to limited management under federal guidelines in 1978, and stopped management again in 1979. However, the state continues to work productively with other agencies and institutions in planning management options and in promoting international walrus conservation. Staff on the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) at Dillingham have been especially helpful in cooperative efforts concerning sanctuary management.

In 1979, the People of Togiak filed suit against the Federal Government over the state's management of walruses. The court ruled in favor of the People of Togiak. However, its ruling specifically did not resolve the issue of the state's jurisdiction over hunting on Round Island.

Although the state no longer directly manages walrus populations, it continues to have authority for restricting access and public activities on any of the islands in the sanctuary (5 AAC 92.066) (Appendix I). In 1979, the Board of Game amended regulations concerning the administration of the sanctuary and currently hunting is only allowed on the Twins (5 AAC 92.510). Access to islands in the sanctuary is presently controlled only on Round Island.

ADF&G established a temporary field camp on Round Island in 1975 and built a cabin in 1976. In 1977, a 2 person crew began occupying the camp during the summer months. Field crews were originally intended to enforce sanctuary regulations and conduct

walrus research. Because visitor use of the island has increased dramatically in the past 15 years, ADF&G staff now spend the greatest proportion of their time administering public use.

In 1978, the Board approved a public access permit system for Round Island (5 AAC 92.066). Access restrictions around Round Island were expanded from 1/4 mile to 2 miles in 1983, and in 1989 from 2 to 3 miles (the maximum the state can legally protect). The Board further restricted access in 1988 by limiting permit numbers to 15 campers per night plus 15 day-use visitors per day.

WALRUS AND HUMAN USE OF THE SANCTUARY

Walrus use: Pacific walruses occupy Alaskan coastal waters from Bristol Bay to Barrow, and similar coastal areas in the Soviet Union. During the winter, animals use the edges of pack ice. During the summer, all females, young, and some males follow the ice edge as it retreats northward. A large number of males remain in the ice-free waters of Bristol Bay throughout the summer. While in the Bay, they feed on clams and other benthic organisms, and haulout on a few traditional areas, the most consistent being Round Island. Because the walruses feed at sea for 7-10 days, secure terrestrial resting areas are very important for the 1-7 days they are hauled out.

Little objective data on the number of walruses hauled-out on Round Island are available prior to 1977. Since then, peak haul-out numbers have fluctuated from 15,000 (1978) to 3,000 (1983) (Figure 2). Exact reasons for the fluctuations are not known, but probable causes include: changes in population size, use of alternate haul-outs (such as Cape Peirce), changes in food supplies, and disturbance from fishing vessels and aircraft.

In response to concerns about disturbance from fishing vessels, in 1989 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council established a temporary restriction which prohibits vessels associated with the yellow-fin sole fishery from approaching closer than 12 miles from Round Island. The council is now considering a continuance of this restriction. Concern about disturbances caused by aircraft prompted a restriction of overflights within 1/2 mile of the island (1983).

Human use: Archaeological remains indicate that the Walrus Islands have been used by humans since prehistoric times. Most of this use was probably associated with hunting marine mammals and collecting seabird eggs. Residents of Togiak, Manokotak and other coastal villages continue to use these islands, on a limited scale, at the present time.

Today there are no permanent human settlements in the sanctuary. Scientists, administrators, commercial fishermen, professional photographers and outdoor enthusiasts are the most common visitors, primarily to Round Island. Research conducted within the sanctuary has included walrus behavior studies, walrus movement investigations, development of walrus census methods, fox behavioral studies, and seabird productivity investigations. Besides the staff on Round Island, ADF&G-Commercial Fisheries Division maintains a field camp on Summit Island during the spring herring season. Bristol Bay is one of the richest fisheries in North America and fishermen frequently visit the sanctuary during closed fishing periods for safe harbor, sightseeing, and beachcombing.

Round Island is one of the few places in the world where people can observe and photograph large numbers of walrus from the land. Consequently, it has attained world-wide recognition. Annual visitor numbers have increased from 58 to 168 during the past decade (Figure 3). Fluctuations in annual visitor numbers are

commonly caused by the number of fishermen who are day-use visitors. From 1980-90 the number of overnight visitors has increased from 7 to 110 (Figure 4). A large proportion of the overnight visitors are commercial photographers.

Notoriously severe weather conditions, expense in getting to the island, and permit restrictions all limit visitor use, but interest in visiting the island remains high. Prior to establishment of a charter boat service in 1984 (Don's Round Island Boat Charter, Togiak), access to the island was difficult for anyone other than fishermen. Boats were rarely available for charter and aircraft access was usually hampered by weather. As long as there is a reliable, and relatively easy way of getting to the island, the demand for permits will continue to exceed the supply.

During the 1990 season, advance permits for the favored viewing period (late June through July) had all been issued by the middle of April. Some visitors admitted to requesting more permits than they intended to use so that they could be assured of an uncrowded visit. To obtain better information of visitor profiles and their desires for management direction for the sanctuary, the department developed a draft questionnaire this year and distributed it to approximately one third of the visitors. Appendix II describes questionnaire results concerning visitor expenses, a user fee and perceptions of crowding at existing use levels.

BUDGET

ADF&G will allocate at least \$43,700 this fiscal year to administer the Round Island Program. All funding is provided by the General Fund. Personnel costs are approximately \$33,500, and operating costs are at least \$10,000 (travel, food, fuel, misc.). Any significant equipment expenses (e.g. rafts, outboard motors, facility improvements) or overtime payments must be obtained via

reprogramming of other funds. We estimate that the total program cost for fiscal year 1991 will be \$53,400.

Potential sources of other funding include: other agencies, non-governmental organizations, and user fees. From 1977 to 1984, and again in 1990, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided some funding for personnel costs associated with research activities. The Eskimo Walrus Commission has taken an active role in supporting the sanctuary by selling ivory which has been salvaged from Round Island beaches and donating the profits from the sale back to ADF&G for walrus research and management activities. ADF&G is proposing a user fee for visitors to Round Island starting in 1991.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 1991

ADF&G is proposing 2 changes in sanctuary management: a refinement of current access provisions; and, institution of a user fee.

Proposal #37 for the fall 1990 Board of Game meeting describes access permit restrictions that were adopted by the Board in March 1989, but were not legally approved because of incomplete public notice. A new provision in the proposal is establishment of scientific/education permits.

ADF&G also plans to administratively institute a user fee for visitors to Round Island in 1991. The fee structure will be similar to what is in place at the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. Our plans are to charge campers \$50/person for 5 day permits, and day-use visitors \$10/person/day. The expected revenue from these fees will be \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year. Appendix III describes the draft user fee program in detail.

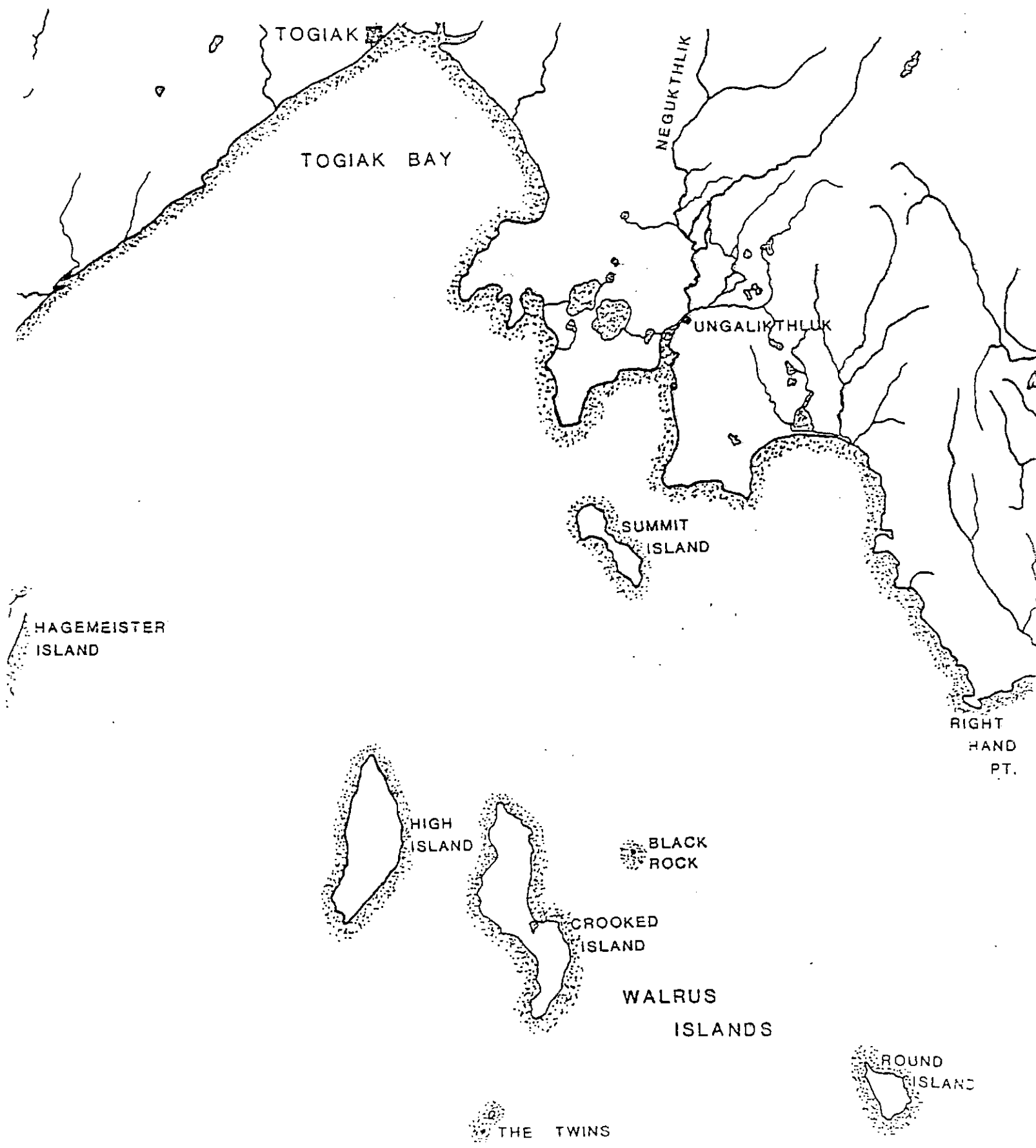


Figure 1. Location of the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, Game Management Unit 17, Alaska.

PEAK WALRUS COUNTS

ROUND ISLAND HAUL-OUT AREAS

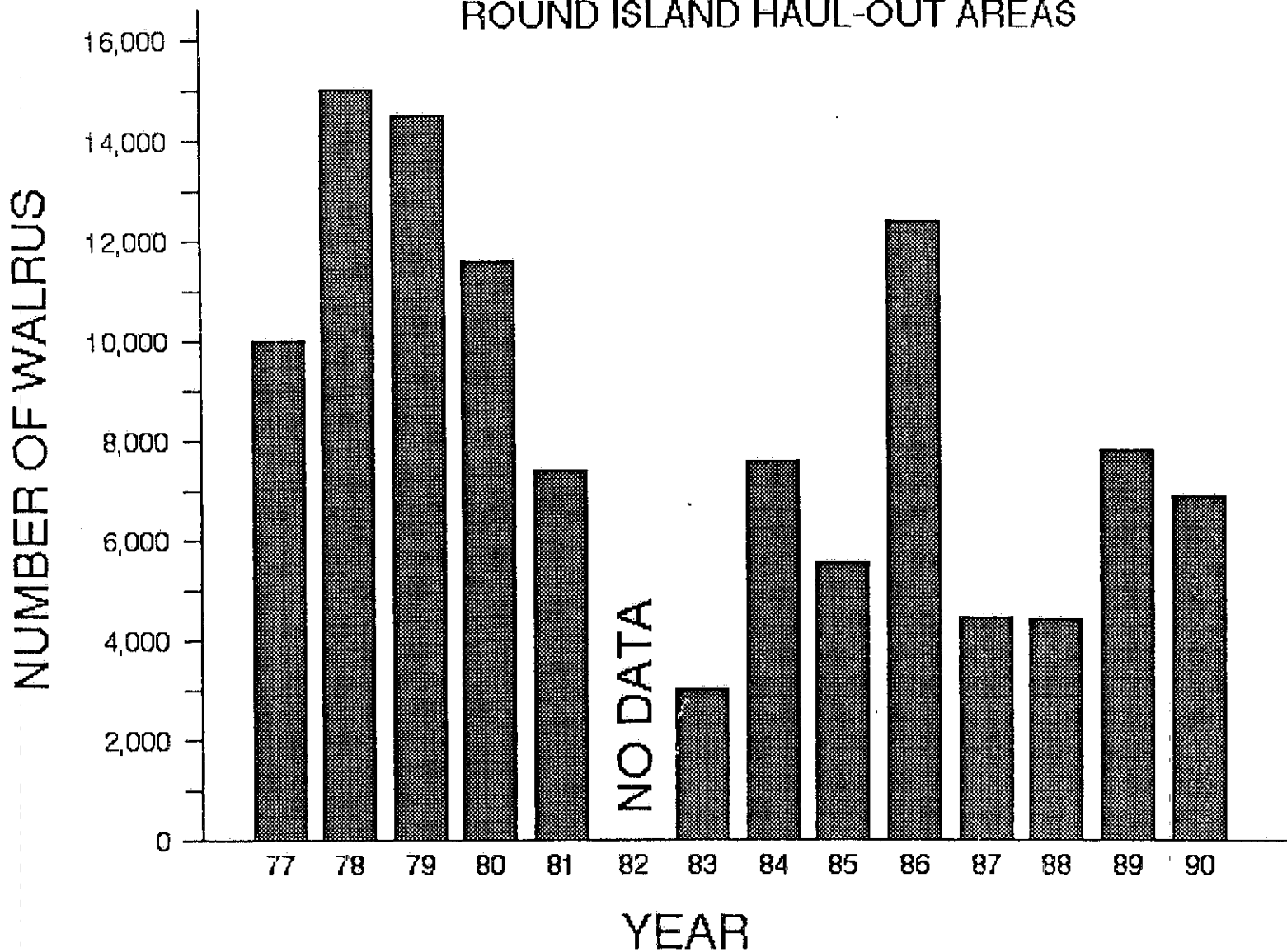


Figure 2. Number of walrus hauled out on Round Island beaches during peak periods, 1977-1990, Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, Alaska.

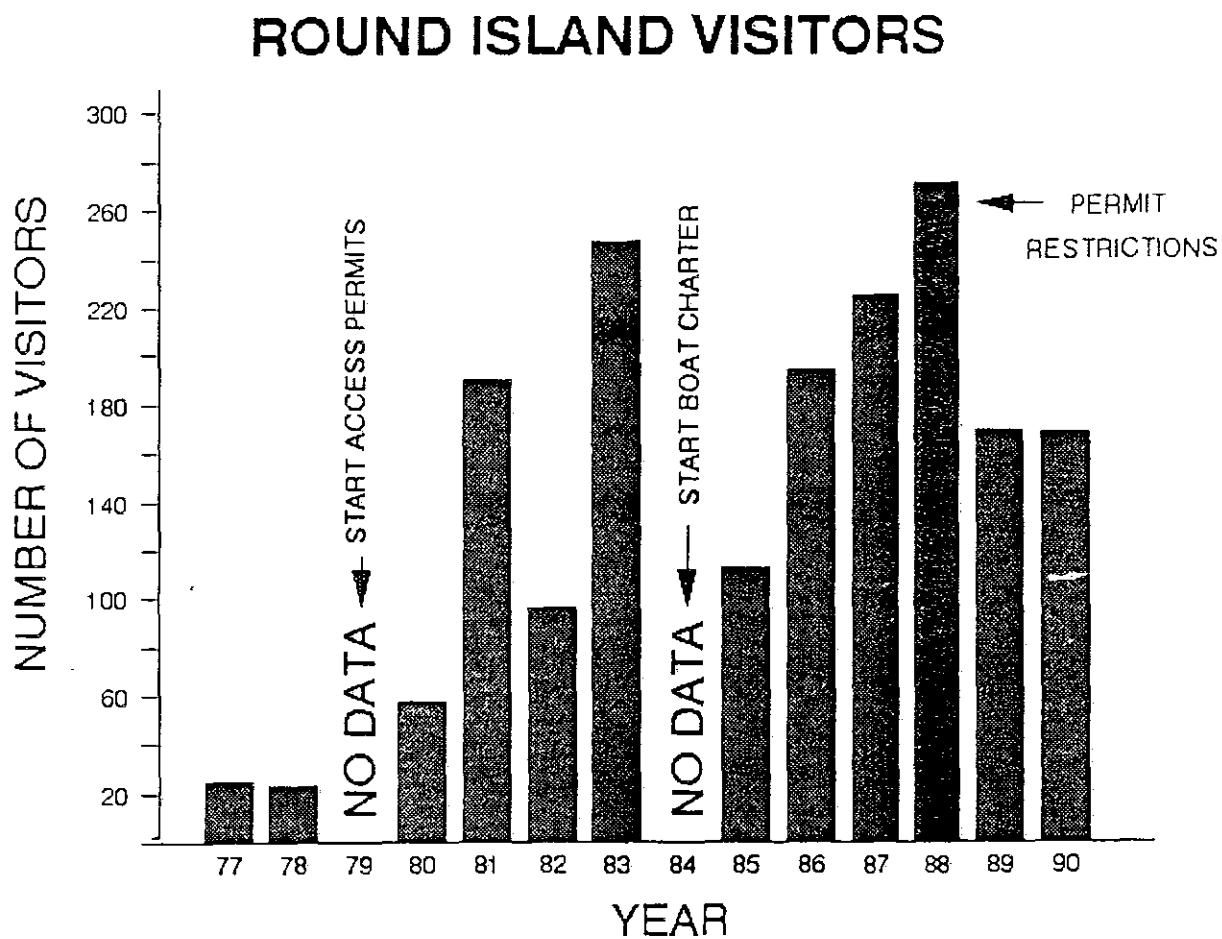


Figure 3. Annual number of visitors to Round Island in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, Alaska, 1977-1990.

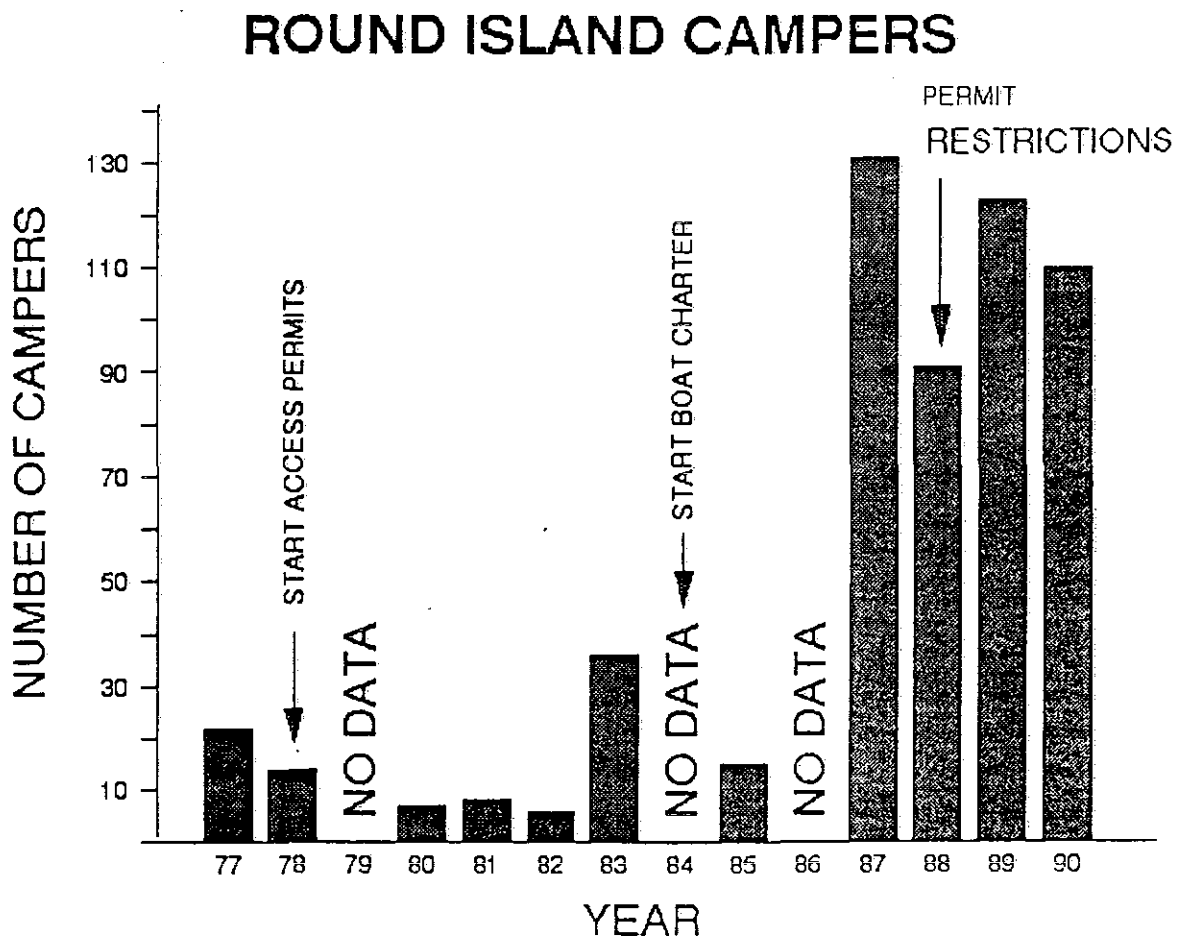


Figure 4. Annual number of overnight visitors (campers) to Round Island in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, Alaska, 1977-1990.

APPENDIX I - Alaska Administrative Code 5 AAC 92.066, Permit for access to Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary.



5 AAC 92.066. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO WALRUS ISLANDS STATE GAME SANCTUARY. A permit is required for access to Round Island and adjacent waters within three miles of Round Island in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary (Bristol Bay — Unit 17); permits shall be issued as follows:

(1) an application for a permit must be submitted to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 1030, Dillingham, Alaska 99576;

(2) a permit may be issued to an individual for a specified period of time during the period from May 1 through September 1 only; each permittee must abide by rules established by the department, and set out in the permit, to preserve the natural habitat and the fish and game of the sanctuary; the rules are a condition of the permit, and violation of these permit terms is a misdemeanor and a basis for immediate revocation of the violator's permit; the department's rules must cover

(A) visitor access, location of trails and camping areas, and areas closed to public use;

(B) discharge of firearms;

(C) removal of garbage and personal gear;

(D) removal of wildlife or parts of wildlife;

(E) disturbance or harassment of wildlife; and

(F) additional restrictions, if necessary to accommodate large groups of visitors;

(3) visitor access to Round Island is allowed by permit issued on a first-come first-served basis; not more than 30 permittees may be permitted to visit Round Island each day, nor may more than 15 be permitted to remain overnight. Ten of the 15 permits available for an overnight period may be issued up to 6 months in advance; the remaining 5 may not be issued more than 10 days in advance. (Eff. 7/5/85, Register 95; am 8/8/87, Register 103; am 8/20/89, Register 111)

Authority: AS 16.05.255
AS 16.05.925
AS 16.20.120

Editor's notes. — Before 8/20/89, Register 111, the substance of 5 AAC 92.066 was contained in former 5 AAC 83.250.

The history note for 5 AAC 92.066 includes the history of the provision before 8/20/89.

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: John Trent
Management Coordinator
Region II(S)
Anchorage

DATE: October 11, 1990

FILE NO.:

THRU: TELEPHONE NO.: 267-2185

SUBJECT: Round Island Survey

FROM: Rick Sinnott *RS*
Wildlife Biologist
Anchorage

We talked about using some of the information I gathered in my summer 1990 pre-survey of visitors to Round Island to support our Board of Game proposals for further limiting numbers of visitors/day. I have summarized responses to pertinent questions.

As you know, this year's questionnaire was a pre-survey. It was only intended to test Round Island visitors' response to the questions themselves so that the questions could be refined for a full-blown survey next summer. However, 37 people completed the questionnaires in June and July. Thus, Polly and Gay sampled a substantial proportion of the 110 campers this summer. Many of the questions need to be refined for next year's survey. However, I believe the figures summarized below are very valuable indicators of visitor expenses and attitudes.

Travel Costs

The average cost for transportation to Round Island was \$682. Costs ranged from \$260 to \$1,250. Total cost for the 31 visitors that completed this question was \$21,140. Estimated total cost for all 110 campers is \$75,020, most of which was spent in Anchorage, Dillingham, and/or Togiak for air fare and boat charters.

Equipment Costs

Spotting scopes, binoculars, and photographic and camping equipment purchased primarily for the trip to Round Island averaged \$157/person. Campers reported that these costs ranged from 0 to \$1,000. The estimated total cost for all 110 campers is \$19,250. Once purchased, of course, most of this equipment can be used for other activities.

Consumer Surplus

Consumer surplus is the difference between the maximum amount that an individual is willing to pay for an activity and the actual amount paid. One way to measure consumer surplus is to set up a hypothetical situation that the respondent can identify with, and ask them how much they would be willing to pay to either help or

prevent the situation from occurring. The pre-survey included three such hypothetical situations. Two seem relevant to this issue:

- o If transportation, lodging, currency exchange rates, or other costs had risen while you were making arrangements to come, how much more would you have been willing to pay to visit Round Island before the cost was too high?

The average answer among the 26 respondents to this question was \$405. The responses ranged from \$50 to \$1,500.

- o If funding for Round Island is not approved each year by the Legislature, we would have to close the sanctuary to visitors. Assuming that while you were making arrangements to come you had heard a special fund was established to pay for staff and maintenance, how much money would you have been willing to contribute to guarantee the opportunity to visit Round Island?

This question has direct bearing on our plan to ask for user fees to help run the visitor program. I tried to avoid using terms such as "permits" and "user fees" in the pre-survey, because I thought it might somehow bias responses. Unfortunately, many found this question confusing. In the real survey, I will probably simplify it by asking visitors how much a permit should cost.

Among the 33 who responded, the average amount they were willing to pay for a "user fee" was \$88. Values ranged from \$25 to \$200.

When laymen are introduced to the willingness-to-pay concept, their first concern is whether it is valid in the real world. Research has shown that willingness-to-pay figures are not necessarily grossly inflated. If the hypothetical situations could become real, respondents seem to give realistic estimates. I believe the estimates provided in the pre-survey are realistic.

Crowding

Round Island will never be crowded in the sense that Coney Island is. Nevertheless, visitor perceptions and the quality of the experience are important considerations in managing a remote site primarily for wildlife viewing. A reduction in the maximum number of visitors/day is one of our chief proposals to the Board.

Visitors were asked how crowded the island was during their visit, on a scale from 1 (not at all crowded) to 9 (extremely crowded). All 37 responded to this question, with an average value of 2.9 (slightly crowded). Values ranged from 1 to 8.

During one period a group of 8 coincided with several smaller groups, resulting in the maximum of 15 visitors on the island at the same time. Comparing visitor perceptions during this period with other periods was of particular interest. Before and after the large group, the average response was 1.9 (not at all crowded). While the large group was on the island, the average response of visitors in this and other groups was 4.4 (slightly to moderately crowded). Clearly, allowing a maximum of 15 campers on the island at any one time begins to exceed the tolerance level of visitors.

Visitors were asked to suggest the greatest number of visitors that could be allowed on the island at any one time without it becoming too crowded. The average response was 13 (58% of the campers suggested 12 or less). Responses ranged from 6 to 20.

Visitor Facilities

Part of the island's attraction is its wilderness character. To maintain this, visitor facilities must be limited. However, there may be a few additional facilities that could improve the visitor experience and minimize future habitat or wildlife disturbances.

Visitors were asked if facilities on the island were adequate. One-third felt they were not. They most frequently suggested a cook shack and level tent sites or platforms.

Summary

Visitors to Round Island would support a reduction in the maximum number of visitors/day. Our proposal to limit the number of overnight permits available to the public to 12 is supported by a majority of visitors.

Visitors are also likely to support a user fee of \$50/person. There seems to be a large consumer surplus, as costs could rise approximately 60% before visitors would choose not to come. None of the visitors seemed to be against paying a justifiable user fee, and \$50 is little more than half of what the average visitor said they would pay. Compared to the high transportation costs, a \$50 fee appears nearly inconsequential if it will help preserve the visitor program on Round Island.

cc: John Westlund
Larry Van Daele
Polly Hessing
Nancy Tankersley

APPENDIX III - Specific information on the proposed Alaska Department of Fish and Game user fee program for Round Island.

M E M O R A N D U M
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

TO: John Trent
Management Coordinator
Region II(S)
Anchorage

DATE: 18 September 1990

FILE: RNDIS

FM: Larry Van Daele
Area Biologist
Dillingham

PHONE: 842-1013

SUBJECT: Round Island User Fees

One of the most significant changes for the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary that we are proposing to the Board of Game this fall is the implementation of user fees for visitors to Round Island. In this memo I will outline the proposed system, project potential revenue from the fees, briefly discuss the management and allocation of those revenues, and, finally, present draft language for the proposed regulation.

OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

Under the proposed system, all visitors to Round Island (except for Alaska Department of Fish & Game [ADF&G], Division of Wildlife Conservation staff in Dillingham) will be required to have a permit from the department prior to accessing the island. Three types of permits will be issued: Camping permits; Day-use permits; and, Scientific/Education (sci/ed) permits.

Camping Permits: These permits will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis from the Dillingham office. They will cost \$50 per person and be valid for a specified 5 day time period. The permit fee will be nonrefundable but permits will be transferable. Up to 6 campers may apply on a single application. Campers will be able to receive only one confirmed camping permit per season, but if there is a vacant slot when a given time period begins, a camper can get another permit (for \$50).

To obtain a permit an individual must first submit an application, along with a \$50 fee, to the ADF&G office in Dillingham. These applications will be available from Juneau, Anchorage and Dillingham ADF&G offices. The applications will ask for the name, address, and phone number of the applicant. Applicants will be allowed to apply for a specific time period and 2 alternate periods. If two or more applicants wish to go as a party, we will ask them their preference if the number of permits available for a time period is less than their party size. We will also include basic information on how to get to Round Island, what to expect, and what to bring.

When applications are received in Dillingham we will assign permits to successful applicants and immediately mail them, along with a detailed suggested equipment checklist, general walrus information and information on other things of interest on Round Island (birds, mammals, wildflowers). The application fee will be converted to a nonrefundable user fee and be deposited in an ADF&G account. The time that an application is received in the Dillingham office will be used to determine the priority for allocation of permits. Unsuccessful applicants will have their application fees returned to them (uncashed) via certified mail.

Applications for camping permits will be accepted after 1 January on the year that applicants would like to visit the island. Up to 10 permits will be issued up to 6 months in advance. Two additional permits will be issued up to 10 days in advance.

Day Use Permits: These permits will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis from the Dillingham office or from the staff on Round Island. No application form is required. Permits will be available starting 1 January on the year an individual would like to visit the island. They will cost \$10 per person and be valid for a specified day from 09:00 to 22:00. As with the camping permits, the permit fee will be nonrefundable but permits will be transferable. Up to 15 day-use visitors will be allowed on the island per day. Individuals may renew their permits for \$10/day but will be restricted to a total of 5 day-use permits per season. Boats used by day-use permittees may remain anchored in the access corridor during the permit period. All day use visitors must contact the Round Island staff on MVHF Channel 7 between 08:00 and 09:00 on the day they intend to arrive so that they can make arrangements for pick-up. Day-use visitors will be expected to follow the same rules as campers.

Scientific/Education Permits: Three permits per time period will be reserved for use by researchers, ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel, and individuals from other legitimate scientific or education groups. The permits will be free of charge and not limited to the 5 day camping period. All sci/ed permittees will be expected to camp in the visitor campground and observe the same rules that apply to other permittees, unless specifically authorized to do otherwise.

Sci/ed permits for ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel will be issued at the discretion of the ADF&G Area Wildlife Biologist in Dillingham. Sci/ed permits for researchers will be issued at the discretion of the ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Regional Supervisor in Anchorage after the researcher has submitted a detailed study plan. Sci/ed permits for other legitimate sci/ed groups will be issued at the discretion of the ADF&G Commissioner, using guidelines similar those developed for sci/ed permits for the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. If an individual or group cannot qualify for a sci/ed permit, they may apply for camping or day-use permits under the guidelines and fees established for the general public.

POTENTIAL REVENUE FROM USER FEES

We will establish 24 5-day time periods during the 1 May - 1 September field season (3 time periods will actually be 6 days long) as follows:

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
01-05	01-05	01-05	01-05
06-10	06-10	06-10	06-10
11-15	11-15	11-15	11-15
16-20	16-20	16-20	16-20
21-25	21-25	21-25	21-25
26-31	26-30	26-31	26-31

This will give us a total of 288 camping permits with a maximum potential revenue of \$14,400. During the 1991 field season I would expect about 150 campers with an anticipated income of \$7,500.

Although the potential revenue from day use visitors is high (15 visitors * 122 days * \$10/visitor/day = \$18,300), I would expect fewer than 50 day-use visitors. Consequently, the expected revenue from day-use visitors during the 1991 season would be \$500.

MANAGEMENT AND ALLOCATION OF REVENUE FROM USER FEES

Fees collected from successful camping permit applicants will be deposited in a ADF&G/Round Island account at the National Bank of Alaska (NBA) in Dillingham. Day-use fees collected by ADF&G staff on Round Island will be sent to the Dillingham office as soon as possible and will also be deposited in the NBA account. The ADF&G, Wildlife Conservation staff in Dillingham will be responsible for collecting the fees, issuing receipts and managing the NBA account. At the end of the field season, or whenever requested, funds will be transferred from the NBA account to the appropriate account in Juneau (ADF&G/Admin).

It is my intent that revenue generated from user fees be used for operating expenses incurred on Round Island. These funds should be supplemental to our existing allocation from the legislature. Consequently, we should not subtract \$8.0 from our present allocation because we anticipate generating that much revenue from user fees.

DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR THE PROPOSED REGULATION

5 AAC 93.XXX PERMIT APPLICATION AND FEES FOR WALRUS ISLANDS STATE GAME SANCTUARY ACCESS PERMIT. (a) As provided in 5 AAC 92.066, the department will issue an individual a reserved,

transferable permit for access to Round Island in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary during the period from 1 May to 1 September on a first-come-first-served basis under the following conditions:

(1) each application for a camping permit must be accompanied by a fee of \$50 per person; applications must be sent to the department's wildlife conservation office in Dillingham after 1 January; the department will notify all applicants by mail; unsuccessful applicants will receive a full refund of their application fee; successful applicants will have the entire amount of their application fee used as a nonrefundable use fee;

(2) an application that is incomplete or illegible or is not accompanied by complete fees is void and any money accompanying a voided application will be refunded;

(3) not more than six individuals may apply as a group on one application; no individual may acquire more than one camping permit per season unless a given time period is undersubscribed when that period begins;

(4) applicants may request a preferred time period and two alternate time periods; the time that an application is received in the department's wildlife conservation office in Dillingham will be used to determine priority in allocating permits;

(5) day-use visitors may obtain a permit from the department's Wildlife Conservation office in Dillingham or from ADF&G staff on Round Island; the fee for a day-use permit will be \$10/person/day; individual day-use visitors may acquire up to five permits per season;

(6) scientific/education permits may be issued by the department to qualified individuals or groups (5 AAC 92.066); scientific/education permits will be free of charge.

- cc: D. Timm
- J. Schoen
- P. Hessing
- G. Sheffield
- N. Tankersley
- R. Sinnot
- L. Lowry