

1982

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Dan Timm
Regional Management Coordinator
Anchorage

DATE: October 5, 1982

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 842-5925

FROM: Ken Taylor
Area Biologist
Dillingham



SUBJECT: 1982 Round Island Report

Attached is Jim and Cindy's 1982 report for Round Island. The late spring and poor weather throughout the summer kept visitor use to a minimum. The lack of walrus in May due to pack ice prevented the usual conflicts with herring fishermen. It was apparent when Jim and Cindy arrived that someone had been on the island before May 1, but nothing was taken from their cabin and there was no evidence of vandalism.

Jim and Cindy left the island September 23. Weather conditions generally deteriorate after mid-September and evidence of poaching is usually slight. This October, however, we experienced several days of excellent weather, and the Sanctuary was quite vulnerable to trespass. I had an opportunity October 3 to check conditions on Round Island and saw no indications that any poaching activity had occurred. Approximately 800 walrus were hauled out on both sides of the spit and no carcasses were evident.

Constructing an addition to the existing cabin took a major portion of Jim and Cindy's free time. Cindy also completed another season of field work on red fox behavior. No walrus research was conducted this summer, but a proposal for a radio telemetry study by satellite tracking was submitted to NOAA for the 1983 season.

Several equipment problems arose this summer. The Craftsman generator quit putting out electricity in August. The wind generator blew up in a wind storm in September. Both generators have been shipped to the manufacturers for overhaul. The Avon Red Shank was severely damaged by a walrus and needs to be replaced. I strongly recommend a Zodiac Mark II compact as a replacement for the following reasons:

1. It is somewhat larger making it easier to carry passengers and cargo to and from shore, but is still light enough to be handled by two people on the rocks.
2. It is much more durable than Avon rafts.
3. It has larger flotation pockets with heavier reinforcing.
4. It has a permanent wood transom for engine mounting.
5. The 25 hp Evinrude in the Dillingham office would be suitable for this size and model.

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Operational changes for the 1983 field season include:

1. a redraft of the permit requiring boats to contact the island before arriving;
2. a proposal to the Board of Game to include permit conditions under Miscellaneous Game Regulations;
3. a proposal to the Board of Game to extend trespass limit to one mile; and
4. employment dates for Jim and Cindy: April 15 - September 15 (subject to weather).

KT/mn

Attachment

Visitor Use of Round Island
1982

Twenty-four groups of ninety-six visitors came to Round Island during 1982. Six of these parties camped on the island, fifteen groups stayed only a few hours, and two parties slept on their fishing boats. The number of camping parties was similar to past years: eight in 1981, seven in 1980. The number of day visitors dropped from 1981. The usual visitation by herring fishermen during May did not occur this year due to no walruses. Seventy-four percent of the day visitors in 1981 were herring fishermen. During 1982, the pack ice did not leave Bristol Bay until early June. The walruses must have preferred hauling out onto the pack ice rather than Round Island as no walruses arrived on Round Island until the first week in June. Nineteen parties arrived by boat and only four groups used float plane transportation. All of the visitors were either from Alaska or were Bristol Bay fishermen with the exception of one Swiss and one Norwegian party.

Nineteen of the twenty-four parties were silver salmon fishermen. This is the first year Round Island has had such heavy use by silver fishermen. Due to the poor red salmon run, many more boats stayed in Bristol Bay to fish silvers.

The silver season was open Monday through Friday and closed on weekends. Consequently, we could predict when people would arrive rather than never knowing what day out of ten to expect a permit holder. A regular VHF schedule with boats needs to be written into the Round Island permit and strictly enforced. It is imperative that personnel on Round Island know when to expect boats so that illegal boats can be distinguished from permitted boats. We suggest a morning schedule of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., during which time Round Island personnel will stand by on the VHF. If boats do not notify us beforehand of an estimated arrival time, we feel their permit should be revoked. It is very common for the Round Island personnel to be on a remote part of the island and not see or know that a boat has arrived. This makes it obvious to visitors how difficult it is to protect the sanctuary at all times and can be a temptation for violations.

On two occasions, illegal boats were caught on the remote west side of Round Island only because they became beached and swamped their motors in the heavy surf. Both of these boats had to be towed off the beach by 32-foot fishing boats that were called in to help. The two men involved in these incidents both were in danger of hypothermia and would have been in serious jeopardy if we had not seen them. On the west beaches, there is not access up the 800-foot vertical rock cliffs. When high tide came in, these men would have had no retreat. The fact that these two parties were caught only because they beached their boats illustrates the problems involved in protecting the sanctuary. Boats can easily approach Round Island from the west unobserved by people stationed on the island.

ROUND ISLAND
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<u>DATE</u>	<u># OF VISITORS PER PARTY</u>	<u>LENGTH OF STAY</u>	<u># OF MAN DAYS</u>	<u># OF CAMP DAYS</u>	<u>MODE OF TRANSPORTATION</u>
5/24	3	3	9	6	boat
6/15	4	1	4	0	widgeon
7/5	4	7	28	28	widgeon
7/11	3	7	21	21	boat
7/8	25	1	25	0	NOAA ship
7/25	5	3	15	0	boat
7/31	5	1	5	0	boat
7/30	5	3	15	0	boat
7/30	2	1	2	0	boat
8/4	4	1	4	0	boat
8/4	3	2	6	0	boat
8/5	2	2	4	0	boat
8/4	3	1	3	0	widgeon
8/4	4	4	16	12	widgeon on; boat off
8/4	2	1	2	0	boat
8/4	1	5	5	4	widgeon on; boat off
8/5	1	13	13	13	boat
8/8	4	1	5	0	boat
8/21	2	1	2	0	boat
8/21	1	1	1	0	sailboat
8/21	2	1	2	0	boat
8/28	2	1	2	0	boat
9/1	3	1	3	0	boat
9/5	5	1	5	0	boat
TOTALS	96		198	84	