

## The Importance of Protection

The *Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary* (WISGS) was established in 1960 to protect Pacific walrus haulout sites on seven small craggy islands in northern Bristol Bay: Round Island, Summit Island, Crooked Island, High Island, Black Rock, and The Twins.

The sanctuary includes the surrounding waters that support a diverse group of marine mammals, seabirds, and other marine wildlife.

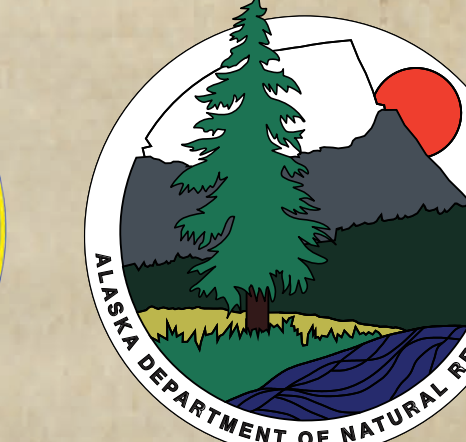
- **Haulout Protection:** The WISGS is one of 32 State of Alaska wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, and critical habitat areas managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to protect wildlife habitats.
- **Natural and Historical Designations:** Portions of the sanctuary are designated as a National Natural Landmark and a National Historic Landmark for their unique resources.
- **Breeding:** Walrus breed in the Bering Sea during late winter and move north with the ice each spring.
- **Haulouts and Feeding:** A portion of the male population stays behind using southern haulouts, including Round Island. Since sanctuary establishment, Pacific walrus have returned to using at least four other haulout sites in Bristol Bay.
- **Subsistence:** The importance of Qayassiq's cultural and subsistence heritage to the local Yupik continues to this day. The Qayassiq Walrus Commission plays an active role in managing fall subsistence hunts.



### Pacific Walrus Haulout

- |                                   |                                     |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Cape Blossom                   | 21. Dezhnev Bay                     | 42. Tyulen'e Ozero Bay          |
| 2. Somnitelnaya Spit              | 22. Anastasia Bay                   | 43. Srednyaya Bay               |
| 3. Davidova Spit                  | 23. Bogoslava Island                | 44. Somneniye                   |
| 4. Gavai                          | 24. Cape Tiomney                    | 45. Olutorskaya Spit            |
| 5. Kolyuchyn Island               | 25. Cape Sery-Anana                 | 46. Lekalo Spit                 |
| 6. Belyaka Spit                   | 26. Verkhoturova Island             | 47. Cape Vankarem               |
| 7. Strait of Neskenpil'gyn Lagoon | 27. Cape Golenishcheva              | 48. Cape Onmyin                 |
| 8. <i>Unlisted</i>                | 28. Cape Semionova                  | 49. Ayon Island                 |
| 9. Cape Inkigur                   | 29. Little Diomede Island           | 50. Cape Serdtse-Kamen'         |
| 10. Cape Dezhnev                  | 30. Kotzebue Sound                  | 51. Ryrkaipii                   |
| 11. Big Diomede Island            | 31. King Island                     | 52. Cape Shelagsky              |
| 12. Kriguigun                     | 32. Gambell                         | 53. Cape Lisburne               |
| 13. Arakamchechen Island          | 33. Savoonga                        | 54. Corwin Bluff                |
| 14. Nuneangan                     | 34. Punuk Islands                   | 55. Point Lay Barrier Islands   |
| 15. Rudder Spit                   | 35. Cape Newenham                   | 56. Point Lay Barrier Islands N |
| 16. New Haulout (1989)            | 36. Cape Pierce                     | 57. Icy Cape                    |
| 17. Meechkin Spit                 | <b>37. Round Island</b>             | 58. Icy Cape East               |
| 18. Russkara-Koshka Spit          | 38. Cape Seniavin                   | 59. Wainwright SW               |
| 19. Cape Navarin                  | 39. Dvukh Pilotov (Two Pilots) Spit | 60. Naokok                      |
| 20. Burunneyeh Island             | 40. Vasily Island                   | 61. Asiniak Point               |
|                                   | 41. Burunnye Island                 | 62. Peard Bay                   |

The following agencies, together with the Bristol Bay Native Association and the Qayassiq Walrus Commission, work cooperatively to manage resources within the WISGS.



These panels were created by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Interpretation and Education Unit.