

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

Eddie Grasser, Director



Department of
Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ADF&G sends condolences to family and communities in tragic polar bear attack

Jan. 20, 2023 (Juneau) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is deeply saddened about the tragic polar bear attack in Wales. Our sympathies go to the family of Summer Myomick and Clyde Ongtawasruk and to the communities of Wales and St. Michael. We do not know what may have caused or contributed to the incident, but we are working with our partners to gather facts, information and circumstances surrounding the incident.

Department staff and Alaska State Troopers traveled to Wales to collect biological samples for disease testing. Future news releases will be issued if something definitive is discovered.

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Media Contact: ADF&G Contact: Rick Green, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, 907-267-2228.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducts research on polar bears, but for questions related to Chukchi Sea polar bears and human/polar bear conflict, please contact The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Dave Gustine david_gustine@fws.gov , 907-786-3621; Emma Roach emma_roach@fws.gov 907-312-4237