

REPRODUCTIVE PARAMETERS OF BELUKHA WHALES IN NORTHWEST
ALASKA

Burns, John J.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Road,
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Preliminary results of belukha investigations in northwest Alaska have already been reported. Additional information obtained in 1980 to 1983, combined with previous data, indicate the following reproductive parameters: a sex ratio of 1:1, first pregnancy at age 4 to 7, first birth at age 5 to 8, reproductive activity throughout life in females, a pregnancy rate (early pregnancy) of 0.335, a rate of calf production estimated at 0.104, and a population structure that includes 32% to 33% sexually mature females. The birth period is prolonged, extending from April to perhaps August with a peak in mid-June to late July. Peak period of breeding is not presently known.

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