As part of a study conducted since 1977, reproductive tracts from 229 female belukhas taken by Eskimo hunters have been examined. Of this sample, mainly obtained in June-July, 41 (18%) were sexually immature and 188 were parous. Of the latter, at the time they were taken, 27.7% were postpartum or supporting a term fetus, 33.5% were supporting a new fetus, and 38.8% were neither pregnant nor postpartum. Age at sexual maturity and gross productivity of the sampled population will be discussed, as will potential sampling bias.
Fifth Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals

Abstracts

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