

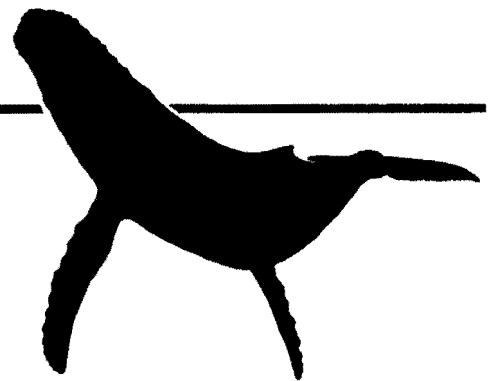
REPRODUCTIVE STATUS OF FEMALE BELUKHA WHALES FROM WESTERN ALASKA

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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.

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Abstracts



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