Eskimo Walrus Commission

Bering Strait Maritime Symposium
February 5-6, 2013
Nome, Alaska
Established in 1978, EWC represents 19 Alaska Native coastal communities in Bristol Bay, the Bering Straits, the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to advocate for and represent Alaska Native concerns regarding federal management of the Pacific walrus. Through the Marine Mammal Protection Act’s (MMPA) Section 119 “Cooperative Agreements in Alaska”, EWC is authorized to co-manage subsistence uses of the Pacific walrus population in Alaska’s coastal communities in cooperation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
Arctic Marine Mammal Coalition
Brief Background/Purpose

Two workshops held in March 2012 & September 2012

- March 2012 followed from ongoing discussion in 2010
- Five ANOs (AEWC, ABWC, EWC, ISC, ANC) participated representing marine mammal hunters from St. Lawrence Island north to Beaufort Sea
- Gathered to address concerns about possible increases in maritime transport, including commercial shipping, and whether the organizations should look for an opportunity to combine resources to address hunters’ concerns related to shipping.
With the very significant hurdles faced by Alaska Natives in trying to communicate their individual concerns to federal regulators and decision makers, it is especially important for ANO representatives to look for ways to join together and speak with a unified voice on areas of common concern.
Arctic Marine Mammal Coalition Meeting
Bowdoin College
The 93m, 1753 dwt trawler Kapitan Bolsunovskiy sank in the Bering Sea near Dezhnev Point, Chukchi Peninsula, Russia. The trawler struck sea ice, cargo hold quickly flooded. All 90 crew on board were safely rescued by the F/V Dersu Uzala before she sank near the Russian coast 40nm offshore / 480 nm WNW of St. Paul I. on the Anadyr Bay boundary. Approx. 200,000 gal. of fuel oil onboard. No pollution sighted.
Key Concept of Arctic Marine Mammal Coalition

“The Alaska Native voice is essential and is only effective mechanism for the protection of Alaska Native marine subsistence resources and Native culture.”

Earl Comstock

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