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Last Name of PRESENTING Author Kryukova
Middle Name or initials of PRESENTING Author V.
First Name of PRESENTING Author Natalia

Country of PRESENTING Author Russia

Institution, organization or general address Kamchatka Branch, Pacific Institute of Geography FEB
RAS
Theme

- -Theme 2: Observing in Support of Adaptation and Mitigation
- -Theme 3: Observing in Support of Indigenous Food Security and Related Needs

Author list (in order) Burkanov, Vladimir

Poster title (brief) Pacific walrus in the changing Arctic

Abstract - text box

Walrus life is closely related to ice. At present, on the one side, there are serious changes in the ice situation in the Chukchi and Bering Seas - the ice-free period has extended and the area released from ice in the summer-autumn period has increased. On the other side, the Pacific walrus is the object of harvest by small native residents of Chukotka, whose extraction in Russia is subject to annual quotas requiring biological rationale. According to our observations, in autumn the walrus form numerous coastal haulouts of up to 100 thousand individuals (Cape Serdtse-Kamen and Keniskin Bay), there is a high mortality of walrus in places of large accumulations, near some haulouts polar bears concentrate, creating panic among walruses, thus increasing mortality (Cape Schmidt). It is necessary to carry out annual observations on walrus coastal haulouts, to assess the dynamics of the number of individuals, their mortality, to assess health. We have begun to expand diverse research (feeding, reproductive organs, toxicology, etc.) to have a more complete picture of what is happening to animals - traditional harvest allows to collect samples for toxicology, trichinellosis, etc. Animal health monitoring is very important both for understanding the processes taking place in the population and for the native people using meat in raw and sluggish form.