



Agenda Item I-1
December, 1979

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 7, 1979

TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee and
Advisory Panel

FROM: Jim H. Branson

SUBJECT: A Proposal to Study The Seasonal Use and Feeding Habits of
Walruses in the Proposed Bristol Bay Clam Fishery Area

ACTION REQUIRED

Approval for funding.

BACKGROUND

Earlier this year Dr. Bud Fay submitted this proposal to the Council to study the distribution and abundance of walrus in the Bristol Bay clam fishery area. It has been reviewed twice by the Scientific & Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel and all of the problems with the proposal have been resolved with Lloyd Lowry, the co-principle investigator who met with the SSC last week.

Other funding sources have been pursued for this contract but none appear available. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service might provide an observer for the survey and also a 32 foot boat suitable for Bristol Bay observations by next April. This proposal now meets the criteria established by the Council for funding research projects; no other funding is available, it relates directly to the development of a fishery management plan and is short term in nature.

It has been approved by the SSC and AP as a Council funded research project. SSC and AP personnel have been assigned to a Contract Monitoring Committee and will work directly with the principle investigators in the review of the project. The total cost is \$87,220.

You received a copy of the research proposal at our last meeting so none are included in the agenda books. A limited number are available if you wish to have one.

MIH