

Ice Seal Committee – Regional Report

Billy Adams – NSB

March 2022

Report on activities:

First of all, let us thank the Lord for allowing us to come together as a group in person or communicating by other means. Let us also remember our loved ones those that are not with us here that they are in a better place. I have confidence in this committee to move forward and catch up with each other.

We as a group must reignite our plans and goals for the next coming years as restrictions from covid are lessening. I hope each and every community for blessings of bountiful harvest of seals and other resources that we depend on as Alaskan Natives. Our relationship with our neighboring Regions continues to be excellent in giving updates on weather and ice conditions, health of harvested animals, and issues that we should be aware of.

Let us build up our relationships also with our State and Federal agencies along with our Circumpolar Indigenous members for we share resources such as ice seals, bowhead whales, belugas, polar bears, walruses, fish and birds. Our efforts to preserving our Native rights depends on each other to be responsible stewards of our natural resources and we hope to keep them in perpetuity.

My North Slope harvest update: The bearded seal hunting in the spring and summer was good overall as the pack ice was closer and stayed longer this year. The winter hunt for ringed seals for Pt. Hope was excellent, in Wainwright it was okay for the most part, but in Barrow we had no hunting on the ice from October to January due to conditions. Late February and March was a complete blessing as hunters rebounded and provided almost 5 seals for the Barrow and other villages that were shared with.

I look forward for a great meeting and a safe return for everyone.

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Billy Adams