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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: Rod Towell and Rolf Ream

SUBJECT: 2009 northern fur seal adult male counts on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Adult male northern fur seals on St. Paul, and St. George Islands (Table 1) were counted during the period July 8 to 14, 2009. Counts of territorial males with females ("harem" males) on St. George increased by 8.4% compared to 2008, while idle males on St. George increased by 29.1%. On St. Paul the idle males increased by 3.5% and the "harem" males remained essentially the same, with only 2 more being counted in 2009 than 2008 (Figure 1). Overall, the total number of adult males counted on the Pribilof Islands in 2009 increased by 4.1% from 2008 to 11,044. The total number of territorial males with females increased by 1.4% on the Pribilof Islands.

The rate of entanglement among adult females on St. Paul in 2009 was estimated during the counting of adult males, following established protocol. This year the results produced an estimated entanglement of 0.0% (Table 2). A sample of females was also counted on St. George Island in 2009 and no females seen in the sample were entangled or scarred.

Table 1.--Number of adult male northern fur seals counted, by rookery, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, July 2009.

Rookery	Date (July)	Class of adult male ^a			Total
		2	3	5	
<u>St. Paul Island</u>					
Lukanin	12	32	145	122	299
Kitovi	12	47	240	159	446
Reef	8	151	501	342	994
Gorbatch	11/14	150	324	465	939
Ardiguen	11	7	66	14	87
Morjovi	10	122	380	352	854
Vostochni	10	217	727	613	1,557
Polovina	13	29	97	231	357
Little Polovina	13	5	1	212	218
Polovina Cliffs	13	108	342	121	571
Tolstoi	12	133	430	204	767
Zapadni Reef	9	67	175	183	425
Little Zapadni	9	144	273	279	696
Zapadni	9	224	420	493	1,137
Island total		1,436	4,121	3,790	9,347
<u>St. George Island</u>					
South	12	54	178	42	274
North	14	102	305	236	643
East Reef	13	25	84	57	166
East Cliffs	13	42	184	143	369
Staraya Artil	13	14	43	33	90
Zapadni	12	34	79	42	155
Island total		271	873	553	1,697

^a Class 2 are territorial without females, Class 3 are territorial with females, and Class 5 are idle.

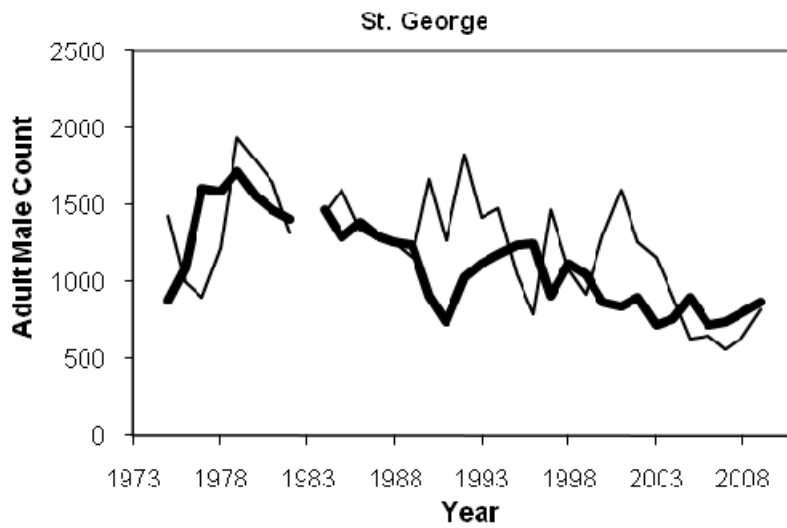
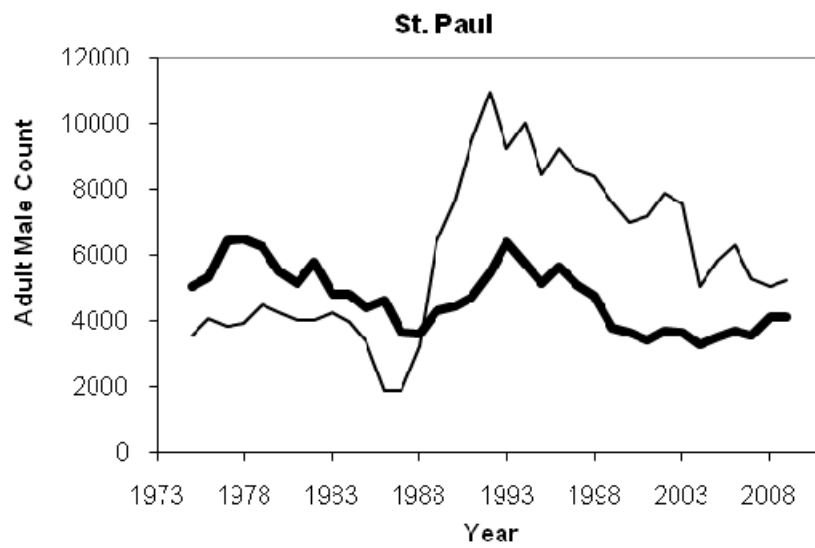


Figure 1. – Northern fur seal adult males (harem – thick line, idle – thin) counted on the Pribilof Islands 1975-2009.

Table 2. Summary of entanglement observed among adult female northern fur seals on St. Paul Island, Alaska, 1991 – 2009 and on St. George Island, 2009.

Year	Total count	Number entangled	Number scarred	Total (entangled + scarred)	entanglement rate (%)
1991	16,009	3	7	10	0.019
1992	25,089	3	6	9	0.012
1993	31,638	3	11	14	0.009
1994	30,269	7	10	17	0.023
1995	29,109	3	8	11	0.010
1996	30,426	4	7	11	0.013
1997	30,406	2	9	11	0.007
1998	28,461	3	8	11	0.011
1999	22,820	2	6	8	0.009
2000	7,746	3	5	8	0.039
2001	5,917	3	0	3	0.051
2002	9,607	1	1	2	0.010
2003	6,426	1	1	2	0.016
2004	19,701	2	7	9	0.010
2005	8,643	2	3	5	0.023
2006	9,039	1	2	3	0.011
2007	11,305	2	0	2	0.018
2008	-	-	-	-	-
2009					
St. Paul	3,902	0	0	0	0.000
St. George	4,570	0	0	0	0.000