

What International travellers, shop owners and artisans need to know

A Customs Guide to Alaska Native Arts

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A Customs Guide to Alaska Native Arts

USING THE GUIDE

This guide applies only to wildlife materials used in Alaska Native arts that will leave the United States.

This guide organizes information about export restrictions and regulations into user friendly charts for a number of key foreign markets.



Photo Credit: USFWS

To determine whether or not the export of a given item is allowed and if permits are required you must:

1. determine the species of the wildlife materials used in the item
2. determine if the item is made from or with Walrus, Polar Bear, or Sea Otter
3. turn to the chart for the destination country and find the reference for the appropriate wildlife species
4. determine if it is considered a commercial or non-commercial export
5. if non-commercial determine how the item will be exported (i.e. hand-carried, mailed, etc.)
6. match the symbols provided on the chart to the key to determine if the wildlife species is legal for export and what documentation may be required

STEP #1 Identify the Materials

Alaska Native artists employ a number of different wildlife materials in their work, often including products from multiple wildlife species in a single work. The numerous treaties, laws, and agreements that govern the trade of wildlife products apply to a wide array of various and overlapping groups of species. As a result, it is important to identify exactly what species an artist used in the creation of a given work. Shopkeepers and artists may wish to specify the materials used, by both common and scientific names, on sales tags or provide documentation at the time of sale.

U.S. export officials **strongly advise** that international tourists carry documentation of the exact origin of the wildlife used in Native arts when returning home with their purchases, even if export or sale of that product is not restricted. A bill of sale or an invoice is sometimes acceptable, but a government form – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Declaration Form 3-177 – is best. This form is available at <http://www.fws.gov/le/pdf/3-177-1.pdf> or can be filed electronically at <http://edecs.fws.gov>.

The Anchorage Museum of History and Art, as well as shopkeepers and artists around the state, helped develop a list of wildlife products most often used in Native arts. Please be prepared to provide the common and scientific name (see page 26 for a list of scientific names) for the material in question when exporting Alaska Native arts.

STEP #2 Is the item made with Walrus, Polar Bear or Sea Otter

The Marine Mammal Handicrafts fact sheet on page 3 of this document is produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and states what constitutes an authentic Native Alaska Handicraft. An item made from these 3 species must be significantly altered to be sold to a non-Native Alaskan. The fact sheet will help you determine if your item qualifies as "Significantly Altered" and therefore marketable to non-Natives.

STEP #3 Match the Product with the Destination Country

This guide provides detailed information, in a chart format, for several countries: Australia, Canada, China, the European Union (includes several countries), Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Taiwan (R.O.C.), and general information for other countries.

Large numbers of visitors from these countries come to Alaska each year. For each country covered, the guide provides a chart that lists the steps necessary, if any, for the export of a given material. In addition, the guide provides foreign contact information for import officials from each country. It is important to remember that each country controls what may cross its borders, and these laws change over time.

Some U.S. states have their own import restrictions as well. Check the following site for more information:
<http://offices.fws.gov/statelinks.html>

STEP #4 Is it Commercial?

If a handicraft is exported by the purchaser in checked luggage or mailed as a gift to a friend and the exporter will not gain financially; it is considered a non-commercial or personal shipment. The export may require documentation, but this documentation is generally at no cost except in cases where a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) export permit is required.

If a handicraft is sold over the internet, via a telephone/fax or over the counter, and a business or person is exporting the handicraft on the purchaser's behalf, then it is considered a commercial export. A commercial export also includes handicrafts exported in checked baggage that will be resold or used for commercial display. Commercial exports require an export fee and documentation is required from the USFWS.

For example, if the purchaser hand carries the item on the airplane home, less paperwork is generally needed and it is generally free depending on the materials used in the item. But if the same purchaser has the business mail the item to them, then the export becomes a commercial export and the export will cost at least \$93.

STEP #5 If non-Commercial determine how it will be exported

If the export is indeed personal (i.e. non-commercial), you need to determine how it will be exported. Some countries have exemptions if an export is checked as personal baggage or hand-carried on the plane.

Once you have determined whether the shipment is commercial or personal and how it will be exported, you can now refer to the appropriate column on the applicable country chart to determine what documentation is required.

STEP #6 Determine the required paperwork, permit, or action

Each country chart has symbols that can be matched to the key to explain what documentation and/or permit types, if any, are needed to export a given wildlife species. Be aware that some of these documents may have fees associated with their issuance, may require a scheduled inspection, and may also involve significant time to process permits for restricted materials.

***A Final Note:** The collection of ivory, bone, or artifacts is restricted on public and Native-owned lands. The Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) makes it illegal to excavate, damage, remove, sell, or transport any archaeological resources located on federal (public) lands. Also, be aware that wildlife taken from non-federal lands may be in violation of state or local laws, and transporting the wildlife in interstate or foreign commerce becomes a federal violation. When in doubt, ask about the source of the wildlife, and consider reporting suspicious objects to the Archaeological Resources Crime Hotline at (800) 478-2724.*



Marine Mammal Handicrafts

Significantly Altered

What is an Authentic Native Handicraft?

Authentic Native handicrafts are items composed wholly, or in some significant respect, of natural materials which are significantly altered from their natural form.

Marine mammal parts must be significantly altered and qualify as authentic Native handicrafts, to be sold to non-Natives.

If you have questions about handicrafts that you wish to produce, please contact the USFWS at 907/786 3311 or 1 800/362 5148.

The following are examples of marine mammal parts that are NOT significantly altered, do NOT qualify as authentic Native handicrafts, and may not be sold to non-Natives.



Polar bear skull on a plaque

This skull is not considered a legal handicraft because no artwork (i.e. scrimshaw or carving) has been done to physically alter the skull in a significant manner. Attaching a polar bear, walrus, or sea otter skull to a plaque does not qualify as a legal handicraft.



Sea otter hide with drawing on back

This sea otter hide is not considered a legal handicraft because merely drawing, painting, or sketching on the back of an otherwise unaltered hide does not qualify as significantly altered.



Polar bear claw on a string

This claw is not considered a legal handicraft because the only physical alteration is a hole drilled through the claw. This does not qualify as significantly altered.



Walrus head mount with carving on nose plate and raw tusks

This head mount is not considered a legal handicraft (even though the nose plate is carved) because the tusks have not been physically altered.

Walrus tusk with minimal light scrimshaw

A walrus tusk with drawing, painting, or extremely light scrimshaw is not considered a legal handicraft. In the case of drawing and painting, the tusk has not been physically altered. Scrimshaw should be deep enough to hold ink or pigment and not be easily sanded off to return the tusk to a natural state. Scrimshaw or carving should cover a significant portion of the tusk.



Marine mammal products that can be easily converted back to their natural state, or that have only been tagged and/or signed, are not considered authentic native handicrafts and cannot be sold to non-Natives.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

In General (For countries other than those listed specifically in this guide)

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	E, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Brown	E, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Polar	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	⊙, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Harbor	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Northern Fur	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ribbon	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ringed	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Spotted	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Sea Lion	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
BALEEN	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
BONE / TEETH	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Pre-Act BONE / TEETH	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Wolf	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 2, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

Australia

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Brown	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Polar	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	⊙, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Harbor	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Northern Fur	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ribbon	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ringed	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Spotted	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Sea Lion	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whales	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Pre-Act Whale	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Wolf	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	I, S, 2, 3, 4	I, S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	I, S, 2, 3, 4	I, S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

Canada

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	D, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Brown	D, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Polar	D, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	⊙, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	D, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	D, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	⊙, *	⊙, *	⊙, *
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Harbor	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Northern Fur	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ribbon	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ringed	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Spotted	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Sea Lion	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whales	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Pre-Act Whale	*, S, 3, 4	*, S, 3, 4	*, L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Wolf	D, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	D, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	D, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

European Union

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Brown	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3	⊘, 4
Polar	S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	⊘, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	D	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Harbor	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Northern Fur	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Ribbon	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Ringed	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Spotted	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Sea Lion	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whales	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Pre-Act Whale	S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Wolf	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3	⊘, 4
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	I, S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	E, 2, 3, 4	I, E, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, E, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊘⊘	⊘⊘	⊘⊘
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

Japan

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Brown	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Polar	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	⊘, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Harbor	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Northern Fur	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Ribbon	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Ringed	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Spotted	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Sea Lion	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whales	⊘, 4	⊘, 4	⊘, 4
Pre-Act Whale	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Wolf	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	I, S, 2, 3, 4	I, S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊘⊘	⊘⊘	⊘⊘
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

Russia

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	E, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Brown	E, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Polar	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	⊙, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Harbor	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Northern Fur	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ribbon	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ringed	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Spotted	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Sea Lion	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whales	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Pre-Act Whale	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Wolf	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

South Korea

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	E, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Brown	E, 1, 3	E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, E, 1, 3
Polar	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Harbor	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Northern Fur	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Ribbon	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Ringed	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Spotted	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Sea Lion	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whales	⊖, 4	⊖, 4	⊖, 4
Pre-Act Whale	S, 3, 4	S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Wolf	E, 3	E, 3	L, D, \$, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊖⊖	⊖⊖	⊖⊖
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

Switzerland

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Brown	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Polar	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Harbor	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Northern Fur	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Ribbon	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Ringed	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Spotted	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Sea Lion	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whales	Ø, 4	Ø, 4	Ø, 4
Pre-Act Whale	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Wolf	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	I, S, 2, 3, 4	I, S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	ØØ	ØØ	ØØ
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

Taiwan

	Personal/Non-Commercial		Commercial
	Hand-carried	Mailed	
MAMMALS			
BEARS			
Black	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Brown	I, E, 1, 3	I, E, 1, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 1, 3
Polar	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Beaver	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Caribou	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Coyote	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Fox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Lynx	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Mink	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Moose	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Musk Ox	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Muskrat	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Otter (Land)	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Otter (Sea)	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Porcupine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Rabbit	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Reindeer	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Sable	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
SEALS			
Bearded	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Harbor	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Northern Fur	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ribbon	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Ringed	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Spotted	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Sea Lion	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Squirrel	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Weasel (Ermine)	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
WHALE			
All Whale	⊙, 4	⊙, 4	⊙, 4
Pre-Act Whale	I, S, 3, 4	I, S, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 3, 4
Wolf	I, E, 3	I, E, 3	L, D, \$, I, E, 3
Wolverine	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
IVORY			
Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	I, S, 2, 3, 4	I, S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, S, 3, 4
Pre-Act Walrus (Ivory, All Parts)	S, 2, 3, 4	S, 2, 3, 4	L, D, \$, I, S, 2, 3, 4
Mammoth Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
Mastodon Ivory	Legal - no documents required, 2		
BIRDS			
Grouse	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Ptarmigan	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Other Migratory	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
FISH			
Halibut Ear Bone	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Salmon (or Sheefish) skin	>\$250	D	L, D, \$
Shell	>\$250	D	L, D, \$

PERMIT SYMBOLS (Key)

* Canada's wildlife law prohibits the import of items made from Sea Otter or Beluga Whale

⊘ Illegal to export

⊘⊘ Illegal to export and/or sell

>\$250 If the value of the handicraft is less than (<) \$250, it is legal to export without any paperwork.

If the value of the handicraft is more than (>) \$250, USFWS Form 3-177 (see D below) is required for export.

This symbol only applies to personal items exported via checked or hand-carried luggage, which are not to be sold for economic gain or commercial display.

D USFWS Form 3-177

This is a legal document declaring the materials used in the handicraft. Both the USFWS and Import/Export officials issue these. The forms can be obtained by calling (907) 271-6198 or go to: <http://www.fws.gov/le/pdffiles/3-177-1.pdf> or file online at: <https://edecs.fws.gov>. This form must be validated by the USFWS prior to export. Call USFWS in Anchorage at (907) 271-6198 or Fairbanks (907) 456-2335 for validation.

L, D, \$ Commercial Import/Export license required

A license is required for a business or individual selling and exporting an authentic Alaska Native handicraft via the Internet, by phone, by fax, through mail order, or simply exporting an item purchased over the counter for a customer.

- 1) Contact the USFWS to obtain an Import/Export license: Anchorage (907) 786-3311 or Fairbanks (907) 456-2335. Cost is \$100 and the license is valid for one (1) year.
- 2) **AND** for each export:
 - a) pay an administrative fee of \$93 (fee is \$145 for exports outside of Anchorage), plus an additional \$93 for exports requiring a CITES permit
 - b) file a completed USFWS Form 3-177 (See D above)
 - c) provide a commercial invoice
 - d) obtain a CITES permit (if required)
 - e) obtain an international air waybill from the shipping company (if required)

Contact USFWS in Anchorage at (907) 271-6198 or Fairbanks at (907) 456-2335 for processing.

I CITES IMPORT PERMIT

The foreign country of import requires a CITES Import Permit. Permission from the foreign country must be obtained prior to import (prior to shipping or departure from the US). The USFWS recommends that you contact the foreign government for approval prior to export. This permit usually has to be obtained by the importing party (foreign receiver). In some cases the foreign country may not allow the import based upon their own laws, rules or regulations. For International contacts: <http://cites.org/cms/index.php/lang-en/component/cp/>

E CITES EXPORT PERMIT

If a CITES permit is required, call 1-800-358-2104 for information. The USFWS will fax, mail, or give the exporter of the Alaska Native handicraft a permit application. It will take 60-90 days to process the paperwork. Once the CITES permit is complete, make an appointment with the USFWS or Import/Export officials to file a Declaration Form 3-177 (See D above). The officials will then validate the permit. The permit costs \$100 and there is a \$186 inspection fee if exported from Anchorage or \$238 if outside of Anchorage.

S SPECIAL CITES EXPORT PERMIT

These are needed for the transporting of handicrafts that include the following MARINE MAMMALS:

Sea otter	(Enhydra lutris)
Polar bear	(Ursus maritimus)
Walrus	(Odebenus rosmarus)
Whale	(Cetacea species)

Only the USFWS office in Virginia may issue these permits.

Please contact:

US Fish & Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Room 700
Arlington, VA 22203
800 358-2104

Be aware that this process will take 60-90 days and costs \$75 to \$100, and \$186 inspection fee if exported from Anchorage or \$238 if outside of Anchorage.

- 1** See [FACT SHEET – Sales of handicrafts made with bear fur](#) on PAGES 15-16
- 2** See [Ivory Issues and FACT SHEET Walrus Dos & Don't](#) on PAGES 17-18
- 3** See [CITES FAQs](#) on PAGE 19
- 4** See [Marine Mammals FAQs](#) on PAGES 20-22

WARNING: Be aware that international laws and regulations change over time. The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (Commerce) provides this guide as a service to Alaska visitors, artists, and shopkeepers. While intended to be accurate, it does **not in any way supersede** any national laws or international agreements.

It should also be noted that the regulations and paperwork cited in this guide apply only to materials when they are used in traditional Alaska Native Arts. The U.S. export regulations described apply only to materials leaving the country. Keep in mind that the import requirements for other countries may be different than U.S. export requirements.



Federal Subsistence Management Program

Sales of Handicrafts Made from Bear Fur Including Claws

(As defined in the *Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska*, effective July 1, 2004- June 30, 2005)

At its May 18-20, 2004 meeting, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted new regulations allowing the sale of handicrafts made with brown bear fur from bears taken for subsistence in Southeast Alaska, the Eastern Interior and the Bristol Bay regions. The Board also clarified its intent to continue to allow the sale of handicrafts made with black bear fur, which can include the claws, which has been allowed in Federal regulation since July 1, 2002.

To implement these Board decisions, the new Federal subsistence regulations clarify that subsistence users may sell handicraft articles made from black bear "fur", which can include the claws, taken statewide, and handicraft articles made from brown bear "fur", which can include the claws, taken from Units 1-5, 9(A), 9(B), 9(C), 9(E), 12, 17, 20 and 25.



The new regulations:



- Clarify that Federally qualified subsistence users may sell handicraft items made from black bear fur, which can include claws, taken under Federal subsistence regulations statewide.
- Provide regulatory authority for Federally qualified subsistence users to sell handicraft items made from brown bear fur, which can include claws, taken under Federal subsistence regulations within Southeast Alaska, Eastern Interior, or Bristol Bay regions.
- Do not affect the rules on sharing and barter. Federally qualified subsistence users may continue to barter fish or wildlife or their parts, taken under Federal subsistence regulations.
- Are consistent with the views expressed by some Regional Advisory Councils that rural residents traditionally utilize bear fur and/or claws in handicrafts and for regalia. The sale of these items is a customary practice consistent with the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

What is the Federal Subsistence Program definition of "bear fur"?

Bear fur defined in the Federal Subsistence Program regulations includes the entire external covering of the bear, with claws attached. Therefore, the use of the term "fur" throughout this brochure means fur and/or claws.

What is a handicraft?

A **handicraft** is a finished product in which the shape and appearance of the natural material has been substantially changed by the skillful use of hands, such as sewing, carving, etching, scrimshawing, painting, or other means, and which has substantially greater monetary and aesthetic value than the unaltered natural material alone.

What is meant by "substantially changed"?

The regulation says that both the shape and appearance of the material must be changed. This can be accomplished by incorporating the material within the handicraft item, such as sewing or otherwise attaching the fur or claws to a garment or hat, or pendants or similar jewelry items, and/or by carving, scrimshawing or painting a design on the claws and/or fur as traditionally done by Alaska rural artists.

What kinds of products made from bear fur (including the claws) qualify as handicrafts that can be sold?

Parts of the fur (with or without claws attached) substantially changed into handicrafts such as mukluks, parkas, mittens, hats, etc., may be sold. Bear claw necklaces or similar claw products, which don't incorporate any other part of the fur, meet the definition of handicraft if each individual claw is artfully attached to something or incorporated into a design, through the use of an artistic technique such as sewing, mounting, carving, scrimshawing, etching or painting, resulting in a substantially greater monetary and aesthetic value. Bearskin rugs and mounts cannot be sold, as they do not meet the definition of handicraft in which the shape and appearance of the natural material has been substantially changed.

Can I drill a hole through a bear claw, add a string to make it into a necklace, and call that a handicraft?

No. The definition of handicraft requires that the natural material be substantially changed resulting in a greater monetary and aesthetic value. A bear claw on a string does not substantially alter the value and appearance of the natural material.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS (continued)

Can these handicrafts be resold? By whom?

Yes. However, only Federally qualified rural residents are allowed to sell or resell handicrafts made from bear fur and/or claws harvested for subsistence under Federal regulations on Federal public lands. State regulations, which apply to all Alaska residents, allow for the sale of handicrafts made from bear fur, but not claws. For more information about State regulations, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In addition, the transport of bear parts between states or countries may be subject to both State and Federal permitting, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES Act) for species such as bears, which may become threatened or endangered if trade is not strictly regulated and monitored.

As a gift shop owner in an urban area can I purchase bear fur handicrafts and/or bear claw handicrafts from a Federally qualified rural resident and sell these items to tourists?

No. While there are no Federal subsistence regulation limits on who may purchase these items from Federally qualified rural residents, only Federally qualified subsistence users may sell these items. Non-rural residents with gift shops may not sell these items whether purchased or on consignment from Federally qualified subsistence users. These urban gift shop owners, other residents of urban areas and all non-Federally qualified subsistence users must comply with State of Alaska regulations.

Can I send a bear fur outside of Alaska to be tanned and returned for use in handicrafts?

Yes. It is not the Federal Subsistence Board's intention to prohibit qualified individuals from sending fur out of Alaska to be tanned. However, keep in mind that it would be required that the individual comply with all State and CITES requirements.

Can I send bear fur and/or claws outside of Alaska to be used in the creation of handicrafts for sale?

No. The regulation passed by the Federal Subsistence Board was with the intent to allow the customary practice of selling locally made handicraft items consistent with the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA. Items manufactured outside of Alaska would not be consistent with the Board's intent.

If I am visiting from outside of Alaska, can I purchase a handicraft made from bear fur (which can include claws)?

Yes. However, if claws are included, the brown bear must have been taken under Federal regulations on Federal lands in Southeast Alaska, Bristol Bay or Eastern Interior and a Federally qualified subsistence user is selling it. Handicrafts with black bear claws can be sold if taken from black bear harvested under Federal regulations on Federal lands throughout the state. State regulations allow the sale of handicrafts made from just the fur (no claws) of both brown and black bear.

Is it legal for the sale of handicrafts made from subsistence-harvested wildlife to occur outside of Federal jurisdiction?

It is the opinion of the Federal Subsistence Board that Federal regulations governing the sale of handicrafts made from subsistence-harvested wildlife extend to any legally taken subsistence wildlife regardless of where the actual cash transaction takes place. However, be aware that State officials may disagree with this interpretation and could decide to prosecute persons selling subsistence harvested bear claws on State or private lands.

Do I need a Federal permit to take a bear handicraft out of Alaska?

Lawfully created handicrafts made from authorized parts of black or brown bear must be accompanied by a valid CITES permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if exported from Alaska to another country. However, no permit is required for those traveling through Canada to the lower 48 states, if the handicraft is transported in personal accompanying baggage. For more information on CITES permits and requirements visit the Fish and Wildlife Service Internet web site at <http://alaska.fws.gov/law/permits.htm>, or contact Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement at (907) 271-6198 or e-mail them at ak_le@fws.gov.

Can any black bear or brown bear fur and/or claws be used under this regulation?

No. This regulation applies only to bears harvested under Federal subsistence regulations on Federal public lands. The State of Alaska has a similar, but more limited regulation that allows the sale of handicrafts made from black bear and brown bear fur, not including the claws. Therefore, only claws from black bear harvested under Federal subsistence regulations can be sold as handicrafts, and only claws from brown bear harvested under Federal subsistence regulations within the Southeast, Eastern Interior and Bristol Bay regions can be sold as handicrafts under these regulations.

Are sharing and barter affected by these regulations?

No. Sharing and barter are not affected by these regulations. Under Title VIII of ANILCA, sharing and barter are protected. **Sharing** refers to distribution of subsistence foods without receiving something in return, while **barter** is the limited exchange of subsistence-harvested fish and wildlife for goods other than cash.

Can these regulations be changed?

Yes. If the public, Regional Advisory Councils, Federal or State agencies identify a need to modify or provide for region-specific regulations following the implementation of the new regulations, the regulations can be revised through the annual regulatory review process.

For more information, contact Dan LaPlant at the Office of Subsistence Management, (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3871 (dan_laplant@fws.gov), fax 786-3333; or write the Office of Subsistence Management, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030, Anchorage, AK 99503. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the Web at: <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>

IVORY ISSUES

Illegal ivory smuggling is to wildlife enforcement agencies what cocaine or heroin smuggling is to drug enforcement agencies. Consumers should be knowledgeable before purchasing any handicrafts made with ivory. Several animals produce what can be called ivory (warthog teeth or tusks, hippo teeth), and there are synthetic (i.e. plastic) and natural substitutes (tegu nut). The ivory found in Alaska Native handicrafts is generally of two types: mammoth and mastodon tusks, and walrus tusks and teeth.

Photo Credit: Alaska Division of Tourism



Mammoth and Mastodon Ivory

Mammoth and mastodon ivory are legal to export. Since these species are extinct, they are not protected by U.S. wildlife law. **No paperwork is required to export mammoth or mastodon ivory to any country.** However, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) prohibits their collection on public land. Before buying, ask how the ivory was acquired to determine if the ivory may have come from an illegal dig or excavation.

Walrus Ivory

Antique or fossilized walrus ivory can be worked by non-Natives. However, raw walrus ivory harvested after the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act on December 21, 1972, can only be sold by an Alaska Native to an Alaska Native within Alaska, or to a registered agent for resale or transfer to an Alaska Native within Alaska. This ivory can only be sold or transferred to non-Natives as authentic Native articles of handicraft or clothing. Polishing, carving initials, or adding a signature on ivory does not qualify it as a Native handicraft. See the Fact Sheet on Page 3 for what constitutes an authentic Alaska Native handicraft made from Walrus Ivory.

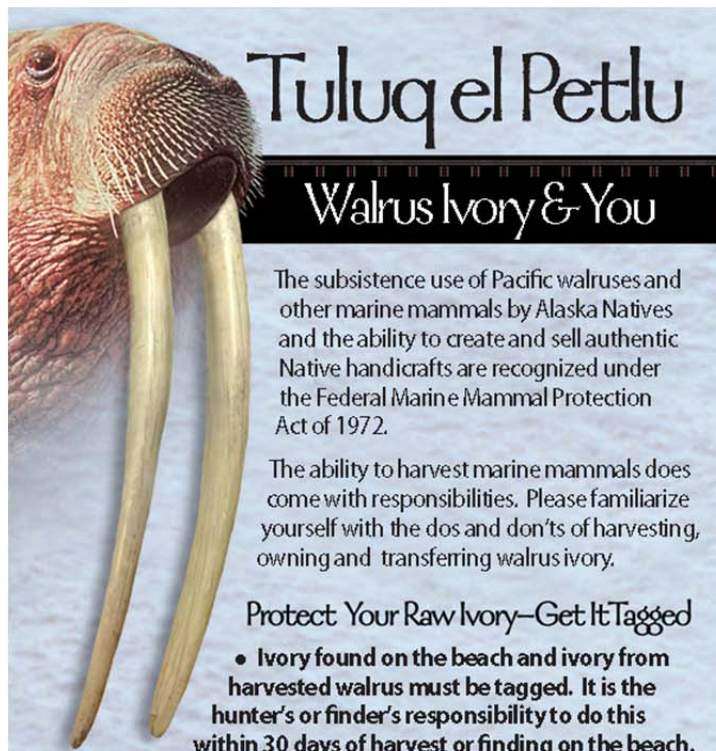
Walrus are protected under both the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Appendix III of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). The Marine Mammal Protection Act was passed in 1972 and walrus were added to CITES as Appendix III on November 16, 1975 by Canada.

For export purposes, if the ivory in the authentic Native handicraft predates December 21, 1972, the item requires a pre-convention CITES certificate, which costs \$75. If the ivory postdates December 21, 1972, a CITES/MMPA export permit, which costs \$100, is required.

If you need to obtain a pre-convention CITES certificate or a Marine Mammal/CITES export permit, be advised this process can take 60-90 days and costs \$75 - \$100 for the certificate/permit. Only the USFWS office in Virginia may issue these documents. Please contact: USFWS, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203 or by phone at 800 358-2104.

A number of souvenir shops in Alaska have forms available that are entitled "CITES Personal Property Exemption," certifying that an item is an authentic Alaska Native handicraft purchased in Alaska. These forms should only be used for U.S. citizens transiting through Canada to the lower 48 and only serves as a proof of purchase. Take note that walrus ivory purchased in Canada cannot be imported into the U.S.

Any U.S. citizen transiting Canada with their authentic Native Alaskan walrus ivory handicrafts need to make sure they have a proof of purchase from Alaska.



Tuluq el Petlu

Walrus Ivory & You

The subsistence use of Pacific walrus and other marine mammals by Alaska Natives and the ability to create and sell authentic Native handicrafts are recognized under the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

The ability to harvest marine mammals does come with responsibilities. Please familiarize yourself with the dos and don'ts of harvesting, owning and transferring walrus ivory.

Protect Your Raw Ivory—Get It Tagged

• **Ivory found on the beach and ivory from harvested walrus must be tagged. It is the hunter's or finder's responsibility to do this within 30 days of harvest or finding on the beach.**

- Raw ivory is "tagged" when a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) representative inserts a numbered wire tag into the tusk and records date, location and sex of kill or find.
- Coastal Alaska Native subsistence hunters can usually find at least one USFWS tagging representative in their walrus hunting village.
- Non-Natives who find walrus ivory or other hard parts from dead walruses on the beach must get them tagged within 30 days at a USFWS Office in towns like Bethel, Nome, or Anchorage. Call 800-362-5148 to locate the USFWS tagger nearest you.

A Tradition of Subsistence

The walrus is Alaska's treasure. It is important to our livelihood and tradition. For thousands of years, the people depend on the walrus for what it provides—the meat, the oil, the skin, the intestines and the ivory. The walrus is all used and not wasted. Our ancestors, elders and we consider the land and the sea very important to give and keep alive our traditional way of life. Through our traditional way of life others will recognize and understand us.

Piciyaraq Yungnaqutemtenun

Asveret Alaska-amitut tuquutekai. Arcakertut yungnaqutemtenun piciyarmtenun-llu. Akwarpak tayima yum cacetequtekai asverem paivutai; kemga, uqaq, amia, qilu, cali tulu. Asveq tamalkuan caunguarutkevkenagu aturluku. Ciuliamta, teganemta wanguta-llu arcaqautekarput nuna cali imarpik ungavatemtenun cali yuyaramtenun-llu. Allat yut litaqciqaakut cali taringumaciqaaqut maaggun piciyarmteggun.

-Paul Joe, Sr. Renowned Ivory Carver, Hooper Bay, Alaska

Walrus Ivory Dos & Don'ts

Raw ivory found on the beach by non-Natives can only be possessed if tagged at a USFWS Office within 30 days of finding. This tagged ivory cannot be transferred to another owner without written USFWS permission.

Who can...	Alaska Natives*	Non-Natives
Possess "raw" ivory? "Raw" ivory is ivory from a Pacific walrus that has not been significantly altered from its natural form into an authentic Native article of handicraft or clothing.	YES , but must be tagged by USFWS within 30 days	YES , but only beach-found ivory tagged by USFWS within 30 days of finding
Sell, barter or transfer tagged (raw) ivory?	YES , but only to other Alaska Natives	NO
Possess authentic Native handicrafts made from walrus ivory?	YES , (Natives may also make and sell authentic walrus ivory handicrafts)	YES
Take raw ivory out of the U.S.?	NO , (but limited exceptions)	NO
Own, buy or sell fossilized ivory from walruses that died before 1972?	YES	YES
Hunt Pacific walruses for subsistence in a non-wasteful manner?	YES , but only those who dwell on the coast	NO , (harassment of Pacific walruses is also prohibited)
Own, buy or sell mammoth or mastodon ivory that was lawfully collected with the landowner's permission?	YES	YES

* As defined by the Marine Mammals Protection Act of 1972

For More Information:

- "Walrus Ivory Dos and Don'ts"; USFWS Office of Law Enforcement, Anchorage: **800-858-7621**
- Tagging Walrus Ivory in Bethel or nearby Villages; Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge: **907-543-3151 or 800-621-5804**
- Harvest and Conservation Information about Walrus; USFWS Office of Marine Mammals Management, Anchorage: **800-362-5148** or <http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/mmm/mtrp>



CITES LISTINGS

Common CITES listed species used in Alaskan Native Arts include:

- Bears (Polar, Brown, and Black)
- Lynx
- Wolf
- River Otter
- Sea Otter
- Whale
- Walrus

The Bears, Lynx, Wolf, Whales (species specific), and River and Sea Otter are listed as CITES Appendix II. Some whale species, including all Whales that produce Baleen, are listed as CITES Appendix I. Walrus is listed as CITES Appendix III.

CITES Appendix I species are prohibited for import or export, with limited exemptions. Since most whales are listed as CITES Appendix I, baleen and bone from these whales cannot be exported from the U.S., even when made into an authentic Alaska Native handicraft.

CITES Appendix II and III species are allowed in the trade, but require permits. Exceptions: Canada (with exception – see country chart on page 6), Hong Kong, and the United States allow species listed as CITES Appendix II or III to be imported or exported as personal accompanied baggage without a CITES permit for non-commercial purposes. Even is exempted from CITES, the filing of a USFWS Declaration, Form 3-177 is still required.

Note: Polar Bear, Sea Otter, Whales, Seals, and Walrus (inclusive of their products) are also protected in the U.S. by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Permit applications are available at <http://permits.fws.gov>

WARNING: Be aware that international laws and regulations change over time. The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (Commerce) provides this guide as a service to Alaska visitors, artists, and shopkeepers. While intended to be accurate, **it does not in any way supersede** any national laws or international agreements.

It should also be noted that the regulations and paperwork cited in this guide apply only to materials when they are used in traditional Alaska Native Arts. The U.S. export regulations described apply only to materials leaving the country. Keep in mind that the import requirements for other countries may be different than U.S. export requirements.

MARINE MAMMAL Q & As

How do we define "Alaskan Native" for these Q&As?

A complete definition of "Alaskan Native" for the purposes of the Marine Mammal Protection Act is found in the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) (50 CFR 18.3). In general, when we use the term "Alaskan Native" in these Q&As, we mean Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos who reside in Alaska and who dwell on the coast of the north Pacific Ocean or Arctic Ocean. The definition includes those who are one-fourth degree or more Alaskan Indian, Aleut or Eskimo, or who are enrolled under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

How do we define "authentic native handicraft" for these Q&As?

The term "authentic native handicraft" means an item composed of a significantly altered pelt or an item that is wholly or in some significant respect made of natural materials and which is produced, decorated or fashioned in the exercise of traditional handicrafts without the use of pantographs, multiple carvers or other mass copying devices. Authentic native handicrafts include, but are not limited to weaving, carving, stitching, sewing, lacing, beading, drawing and painting. Polar bear rugs are not considered an authentic native handicraft. For a complete legal definition of "authentic native handicraft" for the purposes of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, see the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) (50 CFR 18.3). Also see the fact sheet on page 3, MARINE MAMMAL HANDICRAFTS - Significantly Altered.

Who may hunt sea otters, polar bears or walrus?

Alaskan Natives, as defined above, may harvest sea otters, polar bears or walrus for subsistence purposes or the creation and sale of authentic native handicrafts or clothing if the harvest is not wasteful. It is illegal for a person who is not an Alaskan Native to actively participate in any manner in hunting sea otters, polar bears or walrus.

Is there a harvest limit for sea otters, polar bears or walrus?

No. Alaskan Natives, as defined above, are not limited by Federal law in the number that can be harvested, providing the harvest is not wasteful and the population does not become depleted. Numbers killed should be limited to what can reasonably be utilized. Sea otters, polar bears and walrus may be harvested any time during the year. Check with local tribal entities or the [Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission](#) for guidelines on sea otter hunting. Harvest guidelines exist in an agreement between the hunters of the North Slope Borough and the Inuvialuit of Canada for polar bear harvesting. Contact the [Alaska Nanuq Commission](#) or the [North Slope Borough Fish and Wildlife Department](#) for more information. For guidelines on walrus hunting, contact the [Eskimo Walrus Commission](#).

May walrus be hunted only for their ivory?

No. Killing walrus and then harvesting only the head or ivory is considered wasteful and therefore illegal. In cooperation with the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a policy explaining wasteful take. The policy requires that, at a minimum, the heart, liver, flippers, coak, some red meat, and the ivory be brought back from each walrus harvested. In addition to the required parts listed above, hunters are encouraged to salvage all edible portions of the harvested walrus. See the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) (50 CFR 18.3) for a complete definition of the term "wasteful manner" as applied to taking marine mammals.

Are there reporting requirements for sea otter, polar bear or walrus hunters?

Yes. Hunters must present the walrus tusks as well as hides and skulls of sea otters and polar bears to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives for tagging. Hides, skulls and tusks must be tagged within 30 days of the kill. The hide and skull should be thawed before being tagged to: 1) allow an unbroken pre-molar tooth to be extracted for aging; 2) allow accurate skull measurements to be made; and 3) allow the hide to be examined for determination of sex. The baculum should remain attached to the hides of male polar bears and sea otters. Flipper tags, ear tags, radio collars or radio transmitters found on the animal must be given to the tagger to be returned to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A list of tagging representatives is available from the [Marking, Tagging & Reporting Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#).

May authentic native handicrafts be sold?

Yes. Authentic native handicrafts, as defined in the answer to the second question above, may be sold by Alaskan Natives to anyone, and they may be resold and bought by anyone. However, for species listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act, no import or export can occur in connection with the sale. Currently, none of the three species managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (sea otters, walrus or polar bear) are listed as Endangered. For information on other marine mammals listed under the Endangered Species Act, contact the [National Marine Fisheries Service](#).

Who may collect beach found parts?

Depending on land ownership, Federal regulations allow anyone (Alaskan Natives and non-Natives) to collect parts from dead sea otters, polar bears and walrus found on the beach or land within 1/4 mile of the ocean (including bays and estuaries). See answers below for limitations and requirements for collecting beach found parts of these marine mammals.

Where can beach found parts be collected?

Regulations vary depending on land ownership. The collector has the responsibility to know whose lands they are visiting. Before removing any resource, collectors should check for regulations established by government land managers (Federal, State or local), or for limitations placed by private landowners. Collection of any animal parts is prohibited on National Park Service lands. For more information, contact the National Park Service, Alaska office at (907) 644-3510/3509.

What parts may be collected?

Non-Natives may collect ONLY the skulls, bones, teeth and ivory from beach found sea otter, polar bear and walrus carcasses. In addition to those parts, Alaskan Natives may also collect the skins, meat and organs from these animals. Animal parts (including marine mammals) of an archeological or paleontological origin may not be collected from Federal or State lands.

Are there reporting requirements for beach found parts?

Collected parts from sea otter, polar bear and walrus must be presented to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative for registration and/or tagging. Parts must be reported within 30 days of the find. Once these parts are registered, they become the property of the finder and cannot be sold, traded or given away without permission from the registering agency. However, ivory found on the beach by Alaskan Natives is treated in the same manner as ivory collected during a harvest: it must be tagged within 30 days and may then be made into authentic native handicrafts, which may be sold. Location of tagging representatives is available from the [Marking, Tagging & Reporting Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#).

Parts from marine mammal species other than sea otter, polar bear or walrus must be registered with the [National Marine Fisheries Service](#) (NMFS). For more information on these other marine mammal species, see the [NMFS web site](#).

What about collecting beach found parts from other marine mammals?

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has responsibility for managing whales, seals, sea lions, dolphins and porpoises. Detached hard parts (skulls and bones) from a non-endangered species may be collected. Most large whales (more than 25 feet in length) are endangered, so their parts may not be collected. For answers to questions on these species, contact [National Marine Fisheries Service](#).

What about fossil ivory?

Fossil ivory is ancient ivory whose composition has changed from ivory to mineral. Care should be taken to distinguish fossil ivory from recent ivory which has yellowed or discolored. Fossil ivory (including walrus, mammoth and mastodon) and other archeological and paleontological materials are regulated by an array of Federal and State laws. These items may not be collected on any Federal or State lands. Fossil ivory may be collected on private lands with the permission of the land owner, and is not regulated under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. Fossil ivory does not have to be tagged or registered. Anyone may sell fossil ivory without first handcrafting it.

Are there other legal uses of sea otters, polar bears or walrus?

Yes. The meat or other edible parts from sea otters, polar bears or walrus may be sold if it sold in an Alaskan Native village or town.

May raw (tanned or untanned) hides be sold or transferred?

Yes, but only between Alaskan Natives within Alaska or to a registered agent for resale or transfer to an Alaskan Native within Alaska. It is illegal to give as a gift, trade or sell either tanned or untanned hides to non-Natives.

How may an Alaskan Native have a hide tanned?

Alaskan Natives may have sea otter or polar bear hides tanned by taxidermists or tanneries which have a registered agent permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sea otter hides and polar bear hides must be tagged in order for the tannery to tan the hides. Tanneries have been instructed not to process untagged hides. Individuals sending hides for tanning may wish to include a signed and dated statement indicating they are Alaskan Native and may legally possess the hide. Tags must remain affixed to the hide during the tanning process and until the hide is cut in parts for creation of an authentic Native handicraft. Contact the [Marking, Tagging & Reporting Program](#) of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to get a list of permitted tanneries.

May authentic native handicrafts made from sea otter or polar bear be exported?

Authentic native handicrafts made from sea otter or polar bear parts may be exported to a foreign country. However, the exporter must first obtain a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) [permit](#) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A CITES permit may not be required for handicrafts that are personal items if they are worn or carried in accompanying baggage, or are part of a shipment of household effects of persons moving their residence from the United States, be careful as many foreign countries still may require a U.S. CITES export permit. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Declaration Form 3-177](#) should be completed prior to taking any personal marine mammal product out of the country, even it is intended that it will be brought back by the same person. Exporters should inquire about foreign import restrictions, since some countries may not allow the importation of handcrafted made with certain species, for example Canada prohibits sea otter products. For further information, contact one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices on the contact list below.

May walrus ivory be exported?

The answer is different for modern ivory versus fossil ivory. For modern ivory only ivory that has been made into an authentic native handicraft may be exported to a foreign country. However, the exporter must first obtain a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) [permit](#) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A CITES permit may not be required for authentic native handicrafts made from walrus ivory if they are personal items that are carried out, are contained in accompanying baggage, or are part of a shipment of household effects of persons moving their residence from the United States depending on the destination country. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Declaration Form 3-177](#) should be completed prior to taking any personal marine mammal product out of the country, even it is intended that it will be brought back by the same person. Exporters should inquire about foreign import restrictions as some countries may have stricter national legislation.

Fossil walrus ivory does not need to be made into an authentic native handicraft for sale, import or export. However, it may require a CITES permit for import or export.

May authentic native handicrafts made from sea otter, polar bear or walrus be imported?

Sea otter, polar bear and walrus (excluding fossil ivory) parts and products may not be imported, unless they are authentic Native handicrafts that were exported as personal items under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Declaration Form 3-177](#) or permit for transportation. However, Alaskan Natives may also import handicrafts that were acquired outside the United States if they are part of a cultural exchange. For specific information, contact one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices on the contact list below. Fossil walrus ivory may be imported with a CITES permit from the country from which the fossil ivory is being exported.

KEY LAWS

As discussed throughout this guide, a number of different national laws and international agreements regulate international trade in wildlife and products made from threatened species.

Below is a short summary of the more pertinent laws and treaties.

Photo Credit: Alaska Division of Tourism



United States Laws

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) (1973)

The purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to conserve "the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend" and to conserve and recover listed species. Under the law, species may be listed as either "endangered" or "threatened." Endangered means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the primary responsibility for administering the Act. For more information on the Endangered Species Act: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/laws-policies/index.html>

The Lacey Act (1900)

Passed in 1900, the Lacey Act was the first federal law protecting game. Congress expanded the Act in 1935 to ban the import of species that have been taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of foreign law. Amended again in 1981, the new version restored protection for migratory birds, which had been removed from the Act in 1969, and introduced protection for plants. For more information on the Lacey Act: <http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/LACEY.HTML>

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (1972)

In passing the MMPA in 1972, Congress addressed the concern that certain species and population stocks of marine mammals were, or may be, in danger of extinction or depletion as a result of man's activities. The MMPA established a moratorium, with certain exceptions, on the taking of marine mammals in U.S. waters and by U.S. citizens on the high seas, and on the importing of marine mammals and marine mammal products into the United States. The Act defines "take" to mean "to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill any marine mammal." Exceptions in the act permit Native Alaskans to harvest marine mammals and use marine mammal products in Native arts, provided the animals are taken for subsistence purposes. The National Marine Fisheries Service has primary responsibility for administering the Act. For more information on the Marine Mammal Protection Act: http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/marine_mammals.html or <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918)

Amended a number of times, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits taking, possessing, buying, selling, purchasing, or bartering any migratory bird. The Act's prohibitions apply to feathers, parts, nests, and eggs of these birds. <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/migratorybirds/permits.htm>

Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) (1979)

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act makes it illegal to excavate, damage, remove, sell, or transport any archaeological resource more than 100 years old and located on federal public lands. Violations of ARPA may be punishable with fines of up to \$250 and five years in jail. Enforcement authorities may also seize all tools, equipment or vehicles used in the commission of the offense. Rewards of up to \$500 may be awarded for information leading to a civil or criminal ARPA conviction. For further information please refer to:

<http://www.nps.gov/archeology/tools/Laws/arpa.htm> State Laws

Alaska Historic Preservation Act (1970)

This act makes it illegal to appropriate, excavate, remove, injure or destroy any historic, prehistoric, or archaeological resources on state lands and provides both criminal and civil penalties. The act also covers mammoth and mastodon ivory and prehistoric animal bone. Each violation is punishable by up to \$100,000 in fines under civil provisions. This act applies to all land owned or controlled by the state, including tidal and submerged lands. For further information please refer to:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/index.htm>

International Treaties

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (1975)

Known as CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora is a comprehensive wildlife treaty that has more than 165 signatory countries, including the United States. It bans commercial international trade in an agreed-upon list of endangered species, and regulates and monitors trade in others that might become endangered if the trade in that species is not monitored. For further information please refer to:

<http://www.cites.org>

Digest of Federal Resource Laws - <http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/resourcelaws.htm>

COVER PAGE ART CREDITS

TOP IMAGE;

BONE AND BALEEN LETTER OPENER-John Upalook

BOTTOM IMAGES; (Left to Right)

SEALSKIN PURSE-Christina Alowa,

HAIDA EAGLE MASK-Michael Booth

NORWAL ON WHALEBONE-Walton Irrigoo

ULU -Yves Brower

IVORY BEAR CRIBBAGE BOARD-Joe Kunnuk

WHALEBONE VESSEL-Bernard Toolie

WHALEBONE MASK- Frank Kuzuguk

IVORY VESSEL-Peter (Pelo) Demientieff

CONTACT INFORMATION

U.S. citizens should be aware that some states have laws concerning the importation of threatened or endangered species. The following website has links to relevant state agencies: <http://offices.fws.gov/statelinks.html>

Contact the Alaska State Council on the Arts for more information about Alaska Native Arts and the Silver Hand Program. Telephone (907)269-6610 or toll-free in Alaska 1-888-278-7424.

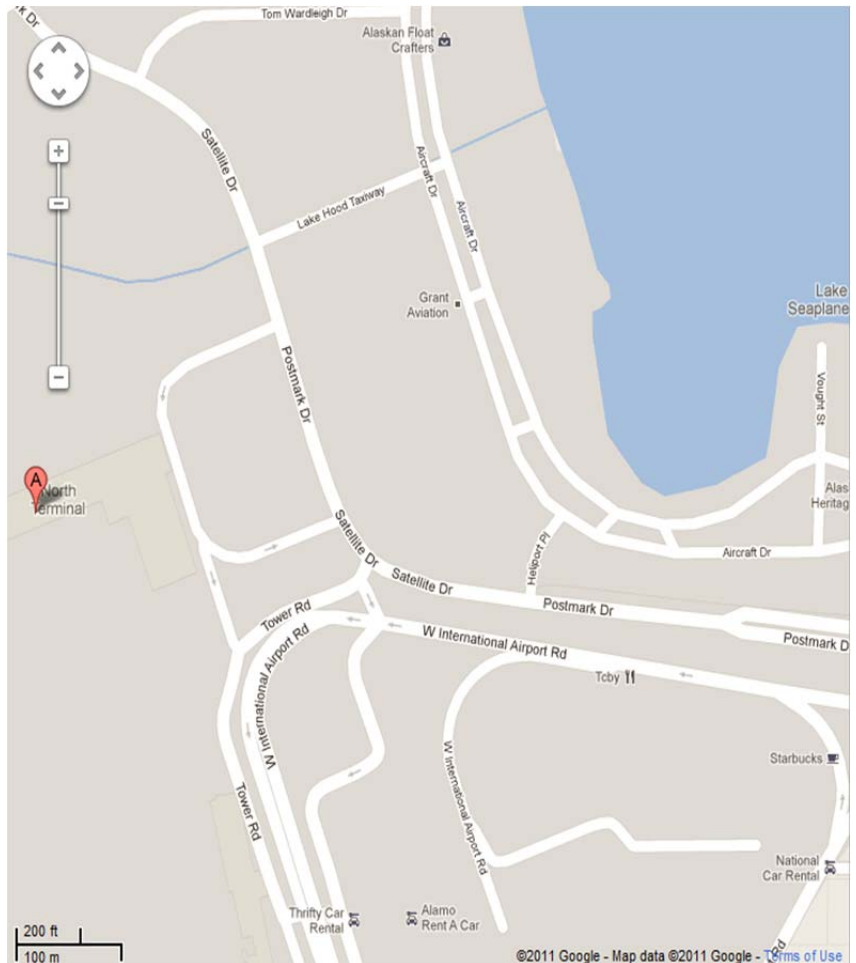
For export documentation or additional information, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Telephone (907) 271-6198

Mailing Address USFWS Import/Export Office
P.O. Box 190045
Anchorage, AK 99519

Courier USFWS Import/Export Office
4600 Postmark Dr., Suite
NB207
Anchorage, AK 99502

Location Anchorage International
Airport - North Terminal
Second floor, room NB207



COUNTRY CONTACTS

National Contacts & Information

Go to the following webpage: <http://www.cites.org/cms/index.php/lang-en/component/cp/>

Taiwan Contact only

Customs Representative in the U.S.
Resources Conservation Division

Telephone (213) 380-4855
Telephone 011 [886] (2) 2381-2991
Fax 011 [886] (2) 2312-0337

SCIENTIFIC NAMES

Customs Guide to Alaska Native Handicrafts scientific name and quick reference to legality.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
MAMMALS	
BEARS*	
BLACK*	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
BROWN*	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
POLAR*	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>
BEAVER	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
CARIBOU	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
COYOTE	<i>Canis latrans</i>
DALL SHEEP	<i>Ovis dalli</i>
DEER	
BLACKTAIL	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>
SITKA BLACK TAIL	<i>Odocoileus hemionus sitkensis</i>
WHITETAIL	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
FOX	
ARCTIC	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>
RED	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
LYNX*	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>
MAMMOTH (IVORY)	<i>Mammuthus spp.</i>
MASTODON (IVORY)	<i>Mastodontidae</i>
MINK	<i>Mustela vison</i>
MOOSE	<i>Alces alces</i>
MUSK OX	<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>
MUSKRAT	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>
OTTERS*	
LAND (RIVER)*	<i>Lutra Canadensis</i>
SEA*	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>
PORCUPINE	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
RABBIT	<i>Lepus spp.</i>
REINDEER	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
SABLE	<i>Martes zibellina</i>
SEAL	
BEARDED	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>
HARBOR	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>
NORTHERN FUR	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>
RIBBON	<i>Phoca fasciata</i>
RINGED	<i>Phoca hispida</i>
SPOTTED	<i>Phoca largha</i>

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
MAMMALS (CONT.)	
SEA LION	<i>Eumetopis jubatus</i>
SQUIRREL	<i>Sciurus spp.</i>
WALRUS*	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>
WEASEL (ERMINE)	<i>Mustela erminia</i>
WHALE (Order Cetacea)	
BOWHEAD	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>
BELUGA	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>
GREY	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>
HUMPBACK	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
KILLER	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
WOLF*	<i>Canis lupus</i>
WOLVERINE	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
BIRDS	
CORMORANT	<i>Phalacrocorax spp.</i>
DUCKS (WILD)	<i>Anatidae spp.</i>
EAGLES	
BALD	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
GOLDEN	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
LOON	<i>Gavia spp.</i>
OWLS	
BOREAL	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>
SNOWY	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>
PTARMIGAN	<i>Lagopus spp.</i>
PUFFIN	
HORNED	<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>
TUFTED	<i>Fratercula eirrhata</i>
RAVEN	<i>Corvus corax</i>
RUFFED GROUSE	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>
TURKEY	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
OTHER MIGRATORY	<i>Anatidae</i>
FISH/SHELLS	
ABALONE	<i>Haliotis spp.</i>
HALIBUT	<i>Hippoglossus spp.</i>
SALMON/TROUT	<i>Salmonid spp.</i>
SHEEFISH	<i>Stenodus leucichthys</i>
SHELLS	<i>Mollusca spp.</i>

* Protected Species, special permits may be required for export

⊗ Prohibited to export

⊗⊗ Prohibited to export and/or to sell

This guide is available at the following website: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca/pdf/customs_guide_to_ak_native_arts.pdf