

AT A GLANCE

**LESS
THAN
2%**

The percentage of the Pacific walrus population represented by the annual walrus harvest in Alaska Native communities.*

283,000

The current Pacific walrus population.*

**MARINE
MAMMAL
PROTECTION
ACT OF 1972**

The federal law that explicitly allows the sale and ownership of walrus ivory products when legally produced by Alaska Native people.

SIX

The number of states with overbroad ivory bans (California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington)** causing severe unintended consequences for Alaska Native communities and violating the federal Marine Mammals Protection Act.

AT A GLANCE

42%

The percent of Alaska Native artists whose ivory art sales account for at least half their annual incomes.***

YOU CAN BUY WALRUS IVORY

Federal law allows the sale and ownership of walrus ivory products when legally produced by Alaska Native people. Walrus ivory offered for sale may only be carved by Alaska Native people. Once carved and sold, anyone may resell Alaska Native art and craftwork made of walrus ivory.

TIME IMMEMORIAL

The length of time walrus has been an important and highly valued resource for Alaska Native people who rely heavily on subsistence lifestyles. In a subsistence harvest, the entire animal is used – meat, hide, blubber and ivory. It is used in traditional ways for food and nutrition, tools, clothing and more, which brings great value to remote Native communities. As part of the waste-not spirit of Alaska Native cultures, the ivory also is put to use by carvers who make beautiful art to share their stories and provide income for their families.

SUPPORTING ALASKA NATIVE ARTISTS

Travelers are encouraged to visit Alaska and celebrate these living traditions of Alaska Native people. Support Alaska Native artists, their communities and their cultures by purchasing ivory artwork.

* Data provided by the Eskimo Walrus Commission

** State laws as of 2021

*** Based on a survey of 172 artists reported in the Arts of the Bering Strait Region: The Economic, Social, and Cultural Role of Traditional Art and Crafts, prepared by McDowell Group and published by Kawerak, Inc. in 2020.