



Tail of a whale

One of the six killer whales released yesterday after being trapped four days lifted its tail near a net buoy in Henderson Bay, near Purdy, Pierce County. Seven were captured, but only one was within the size limit required by state law. They were captured Thursday by Ted Griffin and Don Goldsberry.—Staff photo by Ron DeRosa. (Details, D 6.)

Six at Purdy

Trapped killer whales freed

Special to The Times

PURDY, Pierce County — Six killer whales were released yesterday after being trapped Thursday by Ted Griffin and Don Goldsberry of Namu, Inc.

Of a pod of seven, only one was within the legal size for capture—between 8 and 16 feet—and it was removed Sunday.

Goldsberry, owner of the Seattle Marine Aquarium, brought the whale to the aquarium. He said it has not been decided if the whale will be sold or kept.

The others were kept in the net corral to lure other whales into the area. The lure worked, but the others proved too elusive for the chase boats that attempted to trap them.

Department of Game offi-

cialists were with Griffin and Goldsberry around-the-clock to be sure the whales were not abused and that none became entangled in the nets and drowned.

The 1971 Legislature empowered the Game Department to oversee marine mammals in state waters.

The Namu, Inc., permit to trap up to six killer whales issued by the Game Commission expires March 31, at which time a new permit can be requested.

Namu, Inc., the center of a controversy over man's right to capture the whales, is the prime supplier for killer whales to aquariums throughout the world. Griffin, founder of the firm, has run the gamut of public opinion since he captured Namu in 1965. (Photo, A 3.)