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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1969

CANADIAN PROPOSAL

CONCERNING CONSERVATION OF HARP SEALS

IN THE CONVENTION AREA

The Canadian delegation has, for some years, been concerned about the number of harp seals taken in the seal fishery off Labrador and Newfoundland in March and April of each year. Evidence has been mounting that the annual catch has been considerably above numbers which may be expected to provide a sustainable yield, except in certain years of lowered catch, such as 1968 when the season, by agreement, opened much later than usual.

A new document on harp seal populations with appropriate background papers has been submitted for consideration by the Assessments Subcommittee. With the reports of this subcommittee and the meeting of scientific advisors to Panel A and their recommendations available for consideration, Canada proposes that an annual quota be considered and recommended.

Since no open or closed season for sealing in the FRONT area is specified under a Commission recommendation at the present time, Canada also proposes that the dates for open and closed seasons should be suggested for Commission recommendation.

O t t a w a -
April 16, 1969.