



1950

International Commission
for the
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries



1970

RESTRICTED

2753
Serial No. 2354
(A.a.4)

ICNAF Comm.Doc.70/24

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1970

CANADIAN PROPOSAL

CONCERNING CONSERVATION OF SEALS

IN THE CONVENTION AREA

The Canadian delegation continues to be concerned about the number of Harp Seals taken on the "Front" of Labrador and Newfoundland in March and April each year.

In 1967, the Assessments Sub-committee Working Group estimated that the maximum sustainable yield of Harp Seals for the Front was less than 100,000. The average take over the last three years has been about 200,000.

Currently Canada alone takes Harp Seals in the Gulf and this has been about 73,000 per year over the last three years.

The Assessment Working Group and Scientific Advisers to Panel A, in 1969, recommended a total Harp Seal catch (Gulf and Front) of 150,000 and perhaps as much as 175,000.

This same body of seals is further exploited by local non-mobile fisheries on the West Coast of Greenland to the amount of about 10,000 per year.

Similarly the local indigenous non-mobile Canadian fishery (landsmen and small boats) takes about 50,000 Harp Seals per year (ten year average) in the Gulf and on the Front.

Canada recommends:

- (A) That the Assessments Sub-committee Working Group and the Scientific Advisers to Panel A give an opinion regarding the total continuable exploitation of Harp Seals in the Convention area and that this amount be used as a basis for arriving at national catch quotas in conjunction with economic and practical considerations, that the amounts taken by the indigenous non-mobile fisheries on the West Coast of Greenland and Canadian shores should be reserved for this continuing purpose and that the quota for large mobile vessels be the remainder;
- (B) That this remainder be available to large sealing vessels on the Front by Norway and by Canada in the Gulf and on the Front and be divided equally between the two nations;
- (C) That the killing of adult Harp and Hood seals on the whalping patches be prohibited;
- (D) That the season for large vessels in the Gulf and Front be closed on April 23 to protect adults on the breeding patches;
- (E) That the opening date for the large vessel fishery on the Front and in the Gulf be subject to agreement between the participating nations;
- (F) That the Seal Regulations be reviewed frequently in the light of new information.