



1950

# International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries



1970

RESTRICTED

Serial No. 2450  
(D.b)

ICNAF Res.Doc.70/97

## ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1970

### Status of the Harp Seal Fishery and Research carried out by G.F.M. Smith

Reports on Research have been submitted by Canada and Denmark.

The following papers are pertinent: Comm.Doc.70/24, Res. Docs. 70/10, 11, 61, 93, 96.

#### 1. Status of the Fishery

Documentary material has been received from Canada, Denmark and Norway. The 1970 catch of Harp Seals has not yet been tabulated but provisional estimates for the Gulf and Front are as follows:

#### Harp Seals 1970

Gulf	90,000	Canada only
Front	115,000	Norway
	50,000	Canada
<u>Total</u>	<u>255,000</u>	

Previous Gulf and Front Harp Seal catches have been:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1969	253,000
1968	193,000
1967	334,000
1966	324,000

The ICNAF Statistical Bulletin, Vol.18 contains the <sup>recent</sup> historical seal catch in the ICNAF Area. The catch of Harp Seals in the Gulf and the Front over the last 25 years (1946-1970) has been 7,118,000 or an average of 285,000 per year. This is almost the same as the 1961-1970 average of 289,000. In addition, smaller amounts averaging about 10,000 per year have been taken in Subarea 1 off Greenland. The observed sustained catch of 285,000 per year requires comparison with the "sustained yield" calculated from estimates of biological and population parameters of 150 to 175,000 per year and suggested by the scientific advisers and assessments subcommittee as suitable figures for a restrictive quota catch.

#### 2. Research Carried Out

##### Canada

The whelping during poor ice conditions in the Gulf in 1969 was observed. There was no evidence of drowning of pups and it is thought that many females moved to Labrador for whelping. Some fouling of seals by oil pollution in the Gulf was observed. Some tagging was carried out in the Gulf.

Over.....

Denmark

Denmark is just setting up her seal research programme.

Norway

Although Norway is carrying out seal research, no report has been received.