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Status of the Harp and Hood Seal
Fisheries and Research Carried Out

by

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Reports on research and catch and effort statistics have been received from Canada, Denmark and Norway

The following documents are pertinent:

<u>Comm. Doc. No.</u>	<u>Res. Doc. No.</u>
6	50, 59, 85, 127

1. Status of the fisheries

a) Harp seal. In 1972 the harp seal fishery operated under an ICNAF quota for the second year. This quota, following recommendations made by Panel A at its Mid-Term Meeting in Copenhagen in October 1971 (Comm.Doc. 72/6), was set at 150,000 divided as follows:

Canadian landsmen and small vessels	30,000
Canadian vessels	60,000
Norwegian vessels	60,000

The actual take in 1972 is believed to be less than the quota. Provisional figures are as follows (Res.Doc. 72/127):

Gulf (Canadian landsmen and small vessels)	5,000*
Gulf Total	5,000
Front (Canadian vessels)	55,000*
Front (Canadian landsmen)	10,000*
Front (Norwegian vessels)	53,515
Front Total	118,515
Total harp seals	<u>123,515</u>

b) Hood seal. There is no quota at present for this species. Catches in 1972 are as follows (Res.Doc. 72/127):

Gulf (Canadian landsmen and small vessels)	
Gulf Total	
Front (Canadian vessels)	
Front (Canadian landsmen)	
Front (Norwegian vessels)	12,181
Front Total	
Total hood seals	

* Approximate catch figures supplied by K. Handriksen.

The only Canadian figures available at the time of compilation of this report are for the 1971 season (Res.Doc. 72/50).

2. Research carried out

Further research on the assessment of harp seal stocks has been carried out by Canada (Res.Doc. 72/59), Denmark and Norway. Data for the 1972 season have not yet been fully processed and there is little new information beyond that contained in the report of the Mid-Term Meeting of Panel A in Copenhagen, October 1971 (Comm.Doc. 72/6).

Research work on hood seals has been continued by Canada, Denmark (Res. Doc. 72/85) and Norway.