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# Status of the harp and hood seal fisheries and research carried out in 1972

by

#### A.W. Mansfield

Arctic Biological Station, Fisheries and Marine Service Department of the Environment, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, Canada

Reports on research and catch and effort statistics have been received from Canada, Denmark and Norway. The following documents are pertinent:

Summ.Doc.No.	Res.Doc.No.	٠
4, 12, 14, 18, 19	20, 54, 120, 121, 122,	123

#### 1. Status of the Fisheries

### (a) Harp seal

In 1973 the harp seal fishery operated under an ICNAF quota for the third year. This quota, following recommendations made by Panel A at its Mid-Term Meeting in Charlottenlund, Denmark in November 1972, (Summ. Doc. 73/4), was set at 120,000 to be divided equally between Canadian and Norwegian sealing vessels. In addition, an allowance of 30,000 seals was made for the estimated catch by Canadian landsmen.

The actual take in 1973 is believed to be less than the quota plus allowance for landsmen.

Provisional figures are as follows (Res.Doc. 73/122, 123):

	Pups and beaters	Immatures and adults
'Gulf' (Canadian landsmen and		
small vessels)	7,879	100
'Front' (Canadian vessels)	29,082	4,962
(Canadian landsmen)	22,026	6,301
(Norwegian vessels)	44,678	13,612
	103,665	24,975
Total harp seals		<b>-</b> - <u>128,640</u>

## (b) Hood seal

There is no quota at present for this species but a later opening date of 20 March provides some protection for adult females. No catching is allowed in the 'Gulf'. Catches in 1973 are as follows (Res.Doc. 73/122, 123):

	<u>Pups</u>	Immatures and adults
Front (Canadian vessels)	76	268
(Canadian landsmen)	47	17
(Norwegian vessels)	4,405	1,850
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	4,528	2,135
Total hood seals		6 <u>,663</u>

## 2. Research Carried Out

Further research on the assessment of harp seal stocks has been carried out by Canada (Res.Doc. 73/123), Denmark (Res.Doc. 73/54), and Norway (Res.Doc. 73/122). Data from the 1973 season have not been fully processed and there is no new information that would suggest changes in the recommendations contained in the report of the Mid-Term Meeting of Panel A in Charlottenlund, Denmark, November 1972 (Summ. Doc. 73/4).

Further research on hood seals has been carried out by Canada (Res.Doc. 73/123), Denmark and Norway (Res.Doc. 73/120, 121), but there are still insufficient data to allow estimation of the sustainable yield.