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Status of the harp and hood seal fisheries and
research carried out in 1974

by

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The following reports on research and catch statistics have been received from Canada, Denmark and Norway: Summ.Doc. 75/6, 15, 27, 31, 33, 34 and Res.Doc. 75/1, 120, 121, 122, 123.

1. Status of the Fisheries

a) Harp seal

In 1974 the total harvest in the 'Gulf' and on the 'Front' was 147,635 compared to the ICNAF quota of 150,100 (Summ.Doc. 75/33).

In 1975 the harp seal fishery operated under an ICNAF quota for the fifth year. Following recommendations made by Panel A at Halifax in June 1974, the total allowable catch (TAC) remained unchanged at 150,100 harp seals, mostly pups; this included a quota of 60,000 for Canadian vessels on the 'Front' or in the 'Gulf', 60,000 for Norwegian vessels on the 'Front', an allowance of 30,000 for the estimated take of seals by Canadian landmen and small vessels, and an unallocated quota of 100.

Provisional figures for the 1975 catch are as follows:

	<u>Pups and beaters</u>	<u>Immature and Adults</u>	<u>Total</u>
Canadian landmen & small vessels	-	-	*
Canadian vessels	55,000	5,000	60,000
Norwegian vessels	51,618	8,543	60,161
Total kill			-

* Final figures are not yet available.

(over)

see ICNAF Annu. Rept. Vol. 25, p. 105

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b) Hood seal

In 1974 there was a TAC of 15,000 on the 'Front', of which 9,999 were taken (Summ.Doc. 75/33).

In 1975 there was a TAC of 15,100, allocated as follows: 10,000 to Norwegian vessels and 5,000 to Canadian vessels on the 'Front', and 100 for new entries and non-members.

Provisional figures for the 1975 catch are as follows:

	<u>Pups</u>	<u>Immature and Adults</u>	<u>Total</u>
Canadian landmen & small vessels			
Canadian vessels			5,194
Norwegian vessels	5,072	5,154	<u>10,226</u>
Total kill			15,420

2. Research Carried Out

a) Harp seal

In 1974 Canada carried out aerial surveys in the 'Gulf' and on the 'Front' using both conventional photography and ultra-violet photography. Samples of jaws were taken for analysis of the age structure of the population (Summ.Doc. 75/15, Res.Doc. 75/1).

Norway carried out studies on the distribution of seals on the 'Front' and collected further samples for age analysis (Summ.Doc. 75/27, Res.Doc. 75/120, 121). Denmark collected further samples of jaws from Northwest Greenland for age analysis (Summ.Doc. 75/31).

b) Hood seal

In 1974 Canada rediscovered a population of hood seals in Davis Strait by aerial reconnaissance (Summ.Doc. 75/6).

Norway obtained a large sample of breeding seals on the 'Front' for analysis of age and reproductive condition. A long-term study of pup growth was continued (Summ.Doc. 75/27, Res.Doc. 75/120, 122).

Denmark completed a catch analysis of hood seals taken in Northwest Greenland in 1973 and 1974 (Res.Doc. 75/123) and collected samples of jaws from South Greenland for age analysis.