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Report on Harp Seal Recoveries in Greenland, 1979-80

by

Finn Larsen and Finn O. Kapel
Grønlands Fiskeriundersøgelser
Charlottenlund, Denmark

Within the last year a total of 115 harp seals tagged and/or branded at Newfoundland were recovered in Greenland. Two seals were recaptured in East Greenland (Angmagssalik), and 113 along the west coast of Greenland. Altogether six harp seals tagged at Newfoundland have been recovered in East Greenland since 1977.

Tables 1-3 show the number by month and district of harp seals recaptured within 12 months from tagging (Table 1), between 12 and 24 months after tagging (Table 2), and more than 24 months after tagging (Table 3). Furthermore, the recoveries are separated into seals tagged in the period 1949-1977 and in 1978-1980. The total number of tagged and/or branded harp seals recovered in Greenland now amounts to 378.

It appears, that the information obtained during the last year does not alter the general pattern of seasonal and regional distribution of recoveries described in a previous paper (Larsen and Kapel, 1979), but the 115 new recaptures constitute a significant addition to the material, and they support the evidence of minor changes in the distribution since earlier tagging experiments.

Most of the new recoveries come from the large scale tagging experiment in 1978, relatively fewer from the 1979 and 1980 tagging, and few from earlier years.

Reference

Larsen, F. and Kapel, F.O. 1979. Seasonal and regional distribution of tagged harp seals recaptured in Greenland. NAFO/SCR Doc. 79/XI/13.

