

Northwest Atlantic



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Joint Canada-EEC Request for Advice on Harp and Hooded Seals

by

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The Government of Canada and the European Economic Community request advice, before February 15, 1985, of the NAFO Scientific Council on the scientific basis for management in 1985 of harp seals and hooded seals within national fishery limits in NAFO Subarea 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4. Specifically the Scientific Council is requested to review the results of recently completed programs and advise on the following:

A) Northwest Atlantic Harp Seals

- i) Current stock size and pup population and recent trends in these parameters.
- ii) Current replacement yield and sustainable yield at present stock size and in long term and under varying options of age compositions in the catch, including that recently occurring, specifically, how has the replacement yield changed with the changes in the age composition of the catch recently observed?
- iii) Trends in population size based upon differing levels of catch assuming quota regulations of all removals except that by traditional hunting in the Canadian Arctic and at Greenland.
- iv) Trends in catches in Canada, North of 60°N latitude and at Greenland.
- v) Future research requirements and need for coordination with ICES.

B) Northwest Atlantic Hooded Seals

- i) Interrelationships between Davis Strait and Front herds.
- ii) Current stock size and pup population.
- iii) Current replacement yield and sustainable yield at present stock size and in long term.

- iv) Trends in population size over the next five years, assuming a continuation of the current harvesting regime at Greenland and differing levels of catches in Canadian waters, including those occurring in the recent past.
- v) Future research requirements.