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Report on Harp Seal Recoveries in Greenland, 1981-84

by

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During the period October 1981 - December 1984 a total of 197 harp seals tagged at Newfoundland or at Jan Mayen have been recorded as recaptured in Greenland. Ten seals were recaptured in East Greenland, and 187 along the west coast of Greenland. Of the 10 seals recaptured in East Greenland 2 were tagged at Jan Mayen and 8 at Newfoundland. Altogether 17 harp seals tagged at Newfoundland have now been recovered in East Greenland since 1977. The total number of harp seal recoveries from Greenland now amounts to 651.

Tables 1-6 show the number by month and district of harp seals tagged at Newfoundland and recaptured in Greenland within 12 months from tagging (Tables 1-2), between 12 and 24 months after tagging (Tables 3-4), and more than 24 months after tagging (Tables 5-6). The recoveries are separated into seals tagged in the period 1949-77 (Tables 1, 3 and 5) and seals tagged in 1978-83 (Tables 2, 4 and 6).

although the 197 new recaptures constitute a significant addition to the material, they do not alter the general pattern of seasonal and regional distribution of recoveries described in previous papers (e.g. Larsen and Kapel, 1979), but support the evidence of minor changes in the distribution since earlier tagging experiments. These minor changes are:

1. A relative increase in the number of young of the year recaptured in Southwest and South Greenland.
2. A relative increase in the number of recaptures of all age groups in the Egedesminde-Godhavn area (outer part of Disko Bay) and a relative decrease for the Jakobshavn-Christianshåb area (inner part of Disko Bay).
3. A relative increase in the number of recaptures of 2+ animals in Upernavik district.

Whether these changes reflect changing availability of different age groups in different areas or changes in hunting effort or a combination of both is not known.

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.

Table 3. Harp seals tagged at Newfoundland 1949-77, recaptured in Greenland between 12 and 24 months after tagging.

Month		V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	Total	Cumul. %
Thule	1949-77	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Upernavik	1949-77	-	-	1	3	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	29
Umanak	1949-77	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	46
Jakobshavn	1949-77	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	7	66
Egedesminde - Godhavn	1949-77	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	7	86
Holsteinsborg - Godthåb	1949-77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	89
Frederikshåb	1949-77	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	94
Julianehåb - Narssaq	1949-77	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	97
Nanortalik	1949-77	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100
Angmagssalik - Scoresbysund	1949-77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	100

Table 4. Harp seals tagged at Newfoundland 1978-83, recaptured in Greenland between 12 and 24 months after tagging.

Month		V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	Total	Cumul. %
Thule	1978-83	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Upernavik	1978-83	-	-	1	8	12	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	24	19
Umanak	1978-83	-	-	3	23	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	35	45
Jakobshavn	1978-83	-	1	2	3	1	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	14	55
Egedesminde - Godhavn	1978-83	-	-	3	3	5	10	3	4	5	4	-	-	37	83
Holsteinsborg - Godthåb	1978-83	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	7	88
Frederikshåb	1978-83	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	89
Julianehåb - Narssaq	1978-83	-	3	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	95
Nanortalik	1978-83	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	96
Angmagssalik - Scoresbysund	1978-83	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	100

