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Status of the harp and hood seal fisheries and research carried out in 1973

by

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Reports on research and catch statistics have been received from Canada, Denmark and Norway. The following documents were reviewed:

<u>Summ.Doc. No.</u>	<u>Res.Doc. No.</u>
21, 23, 24, 30, 45	85, 116, 117

1. Status of the fisheries

(a) Harp seal

In 1973 the total harvest in the Front and Gulf was 123,832, compared to the ICNAF quota of 150,000 (Summ.Doc. 74/34).

In 1974 the harp seal fishery operated under an ICNAF quota for the fourth year. Following recommendations made by Panel A at Copenhagen in June 1973, the quota was continued at 120,000 seals, divided equally between Canadian and Norwegian sealing vessels, plus 30,000 for Canadian landmen. The recommended date for harvesting by vessels was 12 March. The actual take in 1974 is believed to be less than the quota. Provisional figures are as follows (Environment Canada data; Summ.Doc. 74/45):

	<u>Pups and beaters</u>	<u>Immatures and adults</u>	<u>Total</u>
Canadian landmen and small vessels	19,064	5,933	24,997
Canadian vessels	48,130	3,500	51,630
<u>Norwegian vessels</u>	<u>36,305</u>	<u>17,860</u>	<u>54,165</u>
Total Kill	103,499	27,293	130,792

(b) Hood seal

In 1973 there was no quota and the total catch was 6,567 hood seals (Summ.Doc. 74/23).

In 1974 there was a quota of 15,000 with an opening ~~hunting~~ date of 20 March. No catch was permitted in the 'Gulf'. Provisional figures in 1974 are as follows (Environment Canada data; Summ. Doc. 74/45):

	<u>Pups</u>	<u>Immatures and adults</u>	<u>Total</u>
Canadian vessels	108	70	178
Canadian landmen	0	0	0
<u>Norwegian vessels</u>	<u>5899</u>	<u>3936</u>	<u>9835</u>
Total kill	6007	4006	10013

2. Research carried out

(a) Harp seal

In 1973 Canada conducted aerial surveys, marking experiments and age sampling in the Gulf and on the Front (Summ.Doc. 74/21). Denmark investigated population dynamics in Northwest Greenland (Summ.Doc. 74/30) and Norway continued studies on population dynamics and reproduction off Newfoundland and Labrador (Summ.Doc. 74/24).

In 1974 Canada continued research on mixing of stocks between the Gulf and Front (Res.Doc. 74/117).

(b) Hood seal

In 1973 Canada conducted aerial reconnaissance surveys off Labrador (Summ.Doc. 74/21). Denmark studied hunting, catch and mortality in southern Greenland (Res.Doc. 74/85). Norway continued investigations on population dynamics and reproduction off Newfoundland and Labrador (Summ.Doc. 74/24).

In 1974 Canada located 3 new herds of whelping hood seals in Davis Strait (Res. Doc, 74/116).