

A Life Is Worth \$16.45

WHAT?

Each year, the Canadian government pays sealers \$0.20 for each baby seal they kill. Hundreds of thousands are officially killed, and many thousands more are maimed and left to die on the ice. In addition to the \$0.20, the killers can sell parts of their victims. Typical prices for 2000:

Pelt: \$13 Carcass: \$3 Flipper: \$0.25

HOW?

The most common weapon used is a hakapik, which resembles an ice pick - a crude tool that can take several blows to finish the job. Some seals are shot with rifles. Sharpened steel hooks are used to drag the bodies onto ships. This is illegal, but saves time for busy seal murderers. Observers film the hunt every year and have proof that many seals are skinned alive.

WHAT ABOUT THE LAW?

According to Dr. Mary Richardson, a prominent Canadian veterinarian who has been Chair of the Animal Care Review Board for the Solicitor-General of Ontario, Director of Animal Welfare for the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association and Animal Welfare Committee Member for the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association,

"... it is clear that the DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans), which is responsible for monitoring this hunt, and the Canadian Sealers' Association, which promotes this hunt as well-regulated, have done nothing to ensure that seals are not suffering and that the relevant provisions of the Marine Mammal Regulations and the Criminal Code of Canada are upheld." (Source: Canada's Commercial Seal Hunt, 1998 Investigation, IFAW).

What can I do?

You can make your voice heard. Write to these addresses and tell them that you find this waste of life appalling and that you will not visit Canada until the seal hunt stops.

The Honourable John Manley
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Harp seals can be legally killed starting at 2 weeks of age. About 80% of the seals killed are less than a year old.

HOW MANY?

A recent estimate of the actual number of seals killed, including ones that are wounded but escape and those caught in fishing nets, not just the official statistic which only counts those that end up at seal processing plants, puts the number at between 400,000 and 548,000. That's over half a million animals clubbed to death in cold blood every year.

WHY

Seals have a negative effect on the fish killing industry.

In other words, seals are killed so as to better kill fish. However, there is overwhelming evidence that the decline of fish populations such as cod is a direct result of over-fishing and modern technology such as offshore gill nets. There is also evidence to suggest that killing seals may actually hamper fish recovery, as seals eat larger fish that prey on fishing species such as cod.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

According to the Canadian government, the 1998 seal hunt made \$7.5 million in revenue - but at a cost: in 1996, Canadian taxpayers spent about \$3.4 million to fund the Canadian Sealers Association and finance other industry support and inspection services. The direct subsidies go down each year, but the value of indirect subsidies such as government-funded icebreaking services is unknown.

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