

EVERY SEAL NEEDS A **SUPERHERO**



THAT SUPERHERO IS YOU!

BOYCOTT CANADIAN SEAFOOD

1-866-4-HARPSEALS

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SEAL 'HUNT' FACTS

It's a cruel slaughter.

- Fully 95% of the harp seals killed over the past five years have been under three months of age. At the time of slaughter, many of these defenseless pups have not yet eaten their first solid food or taken their first swim-they literally have no escape from the "hunters."
- Video evidence clearly shows sealers routinely dragging conscious pups across the ice with boathooks, shooting seals and leaving them to suffer in agony, and even skinning seals alive. In 2001, an independent team of veterinary experts studied Canada's commercial seal hunt. They concluded that in 42% of the cases they examined, the seal did not show enough evidence of cranial injury to even guarantee unconsciousness at the time of skinning.
- The seals are killed for their fur. Their carcasses are left to rot.

It's a reckless cull.

- From 2003-2005, over 1.3 million seal pups were slaughtered. The last time sealers killed this many seals-in the 1950s and '60s-close to two-thirds of the harp seal population was wiped out. These high kill rates meant that the vast majority of seal pups born were slaughtered-in just a few weeks.
- Conservationists and seal scientists had sounded the alarm for years, when, in 1971, the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) finally established a quota on killing seals. In 1972, they deemed that quota, 245,000 seals, far too high and reduced it to 150,000.
- Scientists around the world have condemned the Canadian government's management plan for harp seals as reckless, unsustainable, and irresponsible.
- Harp seals are also threatened by global warming. Since the mother seals whelp on patches of ice and the pups do not learn how to swim for a few weeks, large, thick ice floes are essential to the survival of the harp seals. But in recent years, the ice floes have been thin; and untold numbers of seal pups have drowned. The trend is one of significant decline in the quality of this sea ice.
- Recent findings by scientists in the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans show that indeed, the seal population has suffered a significant decline already.

The seal hunt brings in very little money.

- Even in Newfoundland, where 90% of sealers live, income from sealing accounts for less than one-tenth of 1% of the province's economy.
- Sealers are fishermen who engage in several fisheries throughout the year, and sealing revenues account for only about one twentieth of their total incomes.

Killing seals may harm fish stocks.

- About 3% of a harp seal's diet consists of commercially fished cod. However, harp seals also consume many significant predators of cod, including squid. Removing harp seals may mean an increase in cod predators. It also disrupts the web of life of the oceans, an ecology not fully understood.
- The Canadian government clearly states there is no evidence that killing harp seals will help fish stocks recover, and scientists have expressed concerns that culling seals may in fact impede the recovery of ground fish stocks.

If you oppose the seal hunt, you're in good company.

- Polling shows 85% of Canadians believe seals under one year of age should be protected from hunting (Angus-Reid, 1997).
- In European Union countries where polling has been conducted-the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the Netherlands-close to 80% of people who are aware of the Canadian seal hunt oppose it (MORI, 2002). Polling shows 79% of American voters oppose the Canadian seal hunt (Penn, Schoen & Berland, 2002).