

Article by JIM WINTER
Published on 28 May 2015
barentsobserver.com

© 2004-2015 BarentsObserver. Editor Thomas Nilsen. Publisher: Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

If you don't think the seal population will explode check the reality in Canada where in a short time the Harp seal population has tripled to a present population of about 7.5 million animals. And, as the late Captain Morrissey Johnson said in an interview - they don't eat turnips (rutabaga)- but they do eat fish and crustaceans.

American multimillion dollar animal rights groups have destroyed sealing which provides family income and natural, sustainable food, leather, fur and medicinal products. These groups "own" EU, USA politicians who in turn at their masters bequest have legislated sealers markets out of existence: an antidemocratic process that removes their citizens of the "right of choice" to use or not use seal products. ANIMAL RIGHTS IS NOT ANIMAL CONSERVATION OR ANIMAL WELFARE. For info on the animal rights attacks on sealing see the article below.

ANTI SEALING PROPAGANDA AND DEMOCRACY

Canadian sealing is a sustainable use of a natural resource carried out by licensed, well trained sealers under the rules and regulations of the government of Canada, which have been developed based upon both population science and humane killing techniques.

The worldwide markets for seal products (food, Omega3, oil, fur, leather) continue to exist. But the decades old animal rights propaganda campaigns have co-opted politicians in the EU, USA, and other countries to deny their citizens their democratic right to choose to buy seal products: or not as the case may be. Animal rights is a philosophy held by less than 3 percent of people so the animal right groups can only further their goal by using their multimillion dollar war chests to lobby politicians to pass laws denying citizens their right of choice: antidemocratic to say the least. They cannot risk individual citizens not doing as they demand so owning politicians ensures citizens are denied their democratic right of choice.

Our government has provided repayable loans to the industry (as it and other Canadian governments have done and continue to do for many industries throughout the country) and these loans have been repaid by the industry.

The World Trade Organisation enquiry found that the "seal ban" was against its rules but in the interest of protecting the "morals" of EU citizens the ban would stand: thus buying into the animal rights propaganda that killing seals is immoral. An interesting decision given that many countries within the EU legally kill seals in the Baltic and North seas. The USA has had a seal hunt for many, many decades yet bans the importation of Canadian seal products under the Marine Mammal Protection Act despite the fact that the Harp seals we kill have never, ever, been on any reputable list (CITIES for example) of endangered or threatened species. Hypocrisy reigns supreme.

Animal rights groups constantly make pious, politically correct, statements that they are not against Inuit sealing. For decades Inuit organisations (including the Inuit Circumpolar Conference which represents Northern Aboriginal communities around the world) have rejected this "exemption" as being meaningless, a colonialist mentality, and little short of racism.

Many thousands of rural Canadian (AND NORWEGIAN) citizens are directly and indirectly employed in the sealing industry earning a living for their families. Sealing is part of an annual mosaic of income for rural Canadians whose money is derived from a number of individual activities that in total provide a livelihood that enables them to live in their communities. The same thing applies to Canadian farmers, ranchers, trappers, hunters, and so on: the only difference is the species killed. Few rural Canadians have the luxury of a guaranteed annual salary.

Animal rights groups keep on about a “buyout” for those in the sealing industry. A one year buyout? a Two year buyout or an annual buyout till all those involved have died? For whom? For sealers, plant workers, truckers, diesel suppliers, insurance agents, garment manufacturers, artists, artisans, grocery suppliers, gun and ammunition stores, vehicle sales people? For all or none of them? Will they pay the many Millions involved? I think not. These American headquartered multimillion dollar groups want the Canadian tax payer to subsidize their ridiculous views

The use of the word baby is simply anthropomorphism, the Bambi syndrome, designed to influence and upset urban people who have a total disconnect with the sources of their food, clothing, medicines and other objects of daily use. The seals killed are fully weaned and are on their own to survive or not: this is nature not Bambi in Disneyland.

Death by gunshot or hakapik is instantaneous as found by innumerable studies by independent vets from Canada, the USA and the EU. The only negative studies have been bought and paid for by animal rights groups. The reality is that no animal killing is pretty: it is by nature ugly. But pretty and ugly are not synonyms for right and wrong or good and bad. Sealing is simply an outdoor abattoir without the offal problems of land based abattoirs (dumping it in landfills) because what we cannot use we leave on the ice to return to the eco-system as food for birds, marine mammals, fish and crustaceans: ecologically correct and green.

The reality of the 45 years of animal rights propaganda has been the diminution of the incomes of thousands of Canadian citizens while these American headquartered groups have reaped hundreds of millions of dollars: HSUS (the parent of HSI) has assets of over one hundred million dollars and continues to raise millions annually. They pay hundreds of thousands of dollars annually towards pension programs for their few employees and one senior manager’s annual total compensation package came to about \$400,000.00.

Animal rights is not animal conservation or animal welfare The goal of animal rights groups like HSUS/HSI and PETA, to name but two, is not to end sealing but rather to end man’s use - not just killing but any use - of all animals for any reason (read their mission statements). Seals are the tactic not the goal.

Why seals? Because seals are cute and cuddly making them one of the best fund raisers known; because the media loves cute cuddly animal stories and uses them uncritically (knee jerk journalism), which gives the animal rights groups loads of free publicity; because sealing takes place in a beautiful rural environment unfamiliar to most urbanites and is not pretty, and that makes it an easy target.

Animal rights anti sealing is the second greatest propaganda campaign of the last 85 years.