



Sustainable eNews

IWMC World Conservation Trust

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Promoting Sustainable Use

November/December 2007



God Jul * Gledileg Jol * Joyeux Noël * Glaedelig Jul * Hyvaa Joulua *
Linksmu Kaledu * Merry Keshmish * Merry Christmas * Shinnen omedeto *
Sung Tan Chuk Ha * Kala Christouyenna * Buone Feste Natalizie *
Een Plesierige Kerfees * Froehliche Weihnachten * Mitho Makosi Kesikansi *
Kellemes Karacsonyi unnepeket * Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia *
Felices Pasquas Y felices ano Nuevo * Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan *
Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar * Vesele Vianoce * Feliz Navidad *
Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok * Tchestita Koleda *
Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom *

Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year



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Canada Tackles Europeans over Fur Restrictions

Editorial by Eugene Lapointe



Canada is trying to overturn European bans on imports of seal products by taking its case to the World Trade Organization (WTO). While the European Union has so far resisted lobbying from animal rights groups to impose a total ban, individual nations have begun introducing their own measures. Belgium has a ban in place and the Netherlands is expected to adopt one shortly. Canada is arguing that these violate WTO rules.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC, said: “By attacking Canadian sealing the Europeans are simply exporting their environmentalism. Their politicians are failing to live up to promises in other areas, such as greenhouse gas emission targets, and so they are trying to gain environmental credentials by collaborating with animal rights groups on seal import bans. It is a political calculation and it is completely unjustified.”

In 2006, Canada exported \$18 million of seal products, of which \$5.4 million went to the EU. Its largest overseas market is Norway, which is not an EU country. The EU bans imports of fur taken from harp seal pups that are less than 12 days old and hooded seals less than one year old.

David Emerson, Canada's Minister of International Trade, said: “We believe that the seal hunt is humane. We believe it's sustainable. We believe, based on good science, that what we are doing is actually a very positive approach to this particular sector and we want to protect as much as we can the people that are in remote communities, Inuit, some First nations, and many along the Labrador and St. Lawrence coast who are dependent on this industry. And while it's small in the bigger global scheme of things, for people in those communities it's pretty tough to find different work.”

Canadian fur industry officials hope that the action will stall proposed bans in other EU countries, such as the UK, France, Germany and Austria. ■

Canadian Opposition Leader Appeals to President Sarkozy on Seals and Science

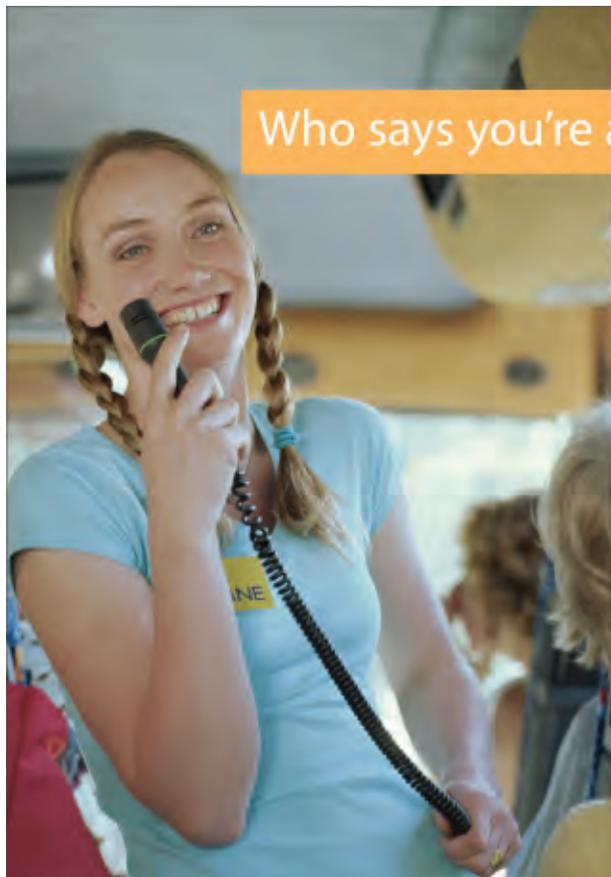
Céline Hervieux-Payette, Leader of the Opposition in Canada's Senate, has made a strong appeal to President Sarkozy of France to allow science to dictate his nation's policy towards the import of seal products.

Referring to an earlier letter sent by Sarkozy to animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot in April, Hervieux-Payette wrote, "I know you are sensitive to the rational, science-based approach." Sarkozy had told Bardot that species management should be conducted on a scientific basis and that "the status of the conservation of species is all that counts."

The most extensively hunted seal in Canada, the Harp, has tripled in number over the last thirty years to around 5.5 million animals. Hervieux-Payette said that to state this species is in danger would be an "intellectual shortcut" that no scientist is taking.

Summarizing the situation, she wrote: "Mr. President, as you can see, defending the seal hunt is not simply a matter of defending a hunt, a culture, a way and place of life or a means of subsistence for modest populations. It also means defending the truth against manipulation and disinformation, defending the spirit of democracy and freedom from the imposition of a moral order, and defending the language of science against extremism and anthropomorphism."

Sarkozy's predecessor, Jacques Chirac, had stated in May that France would ban seal products from Canada to "preserve the species in a context in which there have been changes in habitat as a result of climate warming." There is no evidence, however, that global warming will significantly impact Harp seals and Hervieux-Payette referred to a scientific assessment that stated climate change will have numerous positive and negative effects on the ecology of seals, with the net impact being the result of a complex weighting of various effects. ■



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Motives of Animal Rightists Comes Under Spotlight

British columnist Brendan O'Neill wrote a hard-hitting article in the Guardian newspaper on 29 November, accusing critics of Japan's research whaling program of taking a racist position. "Under the cover of concern for marine life, Australia and New Zealand are throwing their white weight around in the Pacific, to demonstrate their cultural superiority over the 'yellow' nations," he wrote. "The attempts to stop Japan from whaling are underpinned by the idea that the 'international community' has a right to tell nations in the east and south how to conduct their affairs."

ign integrity of African countries, Mr. O'Neill added that, "international protection for elephants means trampling over a people's national rights." He wrote that the bigger problem is "the depiction of foreign people as uncivilized, and the curtailment of their sovereign rights by white nations and green campaigners who think they know better than the Japs and blacks." ■

The full column can be read at <http://www.brendanoneill.net/CommentWhaling.htm>

Describing ivory trade bans as a direct attack on the sover-

South Africa's Tiger Success

A South China Tiger cub was born in Laohu Valley Reserve, Free State, South Africa on 23 November and became the first ever to be born outside China. Around 60 South China Tigers exist in captivity and less than 30 survive in the wild. The cub, a male, weighed in at 1.2 kg ■

For more information, visit <http://english.savechinas-tigers.org/>



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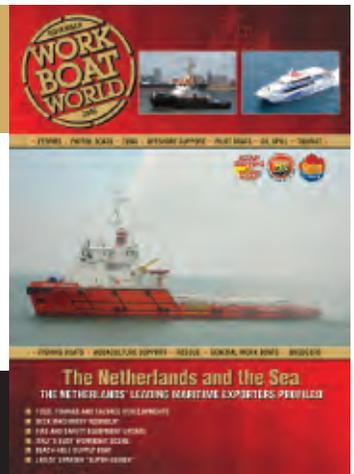
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Conservation or Extinction

Special Commentary by KIVIAQ, LLB (retired) on the Canadian Inuit situation

Many articles have been written and many actions have been taken by modern man to save various species of plants and animals from extinction. Modern man's scientists have documented plants and animals into various species and documented them under law so that there will be no confusion when relating to each species, allowing for better recording of numbers and habitats to save them from extinction. Once I owned a horse (recently passed away) whose ancestry could be traced back to the first Arabian horses that were brought to England – not North America – England! Modern man should be congratulated for that.

However, what has Modern Man (in Canada) done regarding the recording and heritage of Aboriginal Canadians? Surely, they must be as important to the government as are Canada's animals.

Canadian Indians have an act (The Indian Act) that defines them and the rights allocated to them by the Government of Canada in exchange for the land Modern Man assumed ownership of.

Canadian Inuit/Eskimo? Apparently, we don't exist under Canadian law. We don't have an Inuit/Eskimo Act to define us as do the Canadian Indians.

A great issue was made over an alleged land claims agreement in Northern Canada that defined an area of the Canadian Arctic called "Nunavut". The Canadian Government's public relations people made a major issue out of this, heralding an alleged agreement between the Government of Canada and the Canadian Inuit. However, if one reads the aforementioned agreement carefully, they will find that said agreement was NOT signed between the Government of Canada and the Inuit/Eskimo, but was signed between the Government of Canada and the "residents" of that area, whether they be Inuit, English, French, etc.

Why would the Canadian Government so specifically define the status and non-status of Indians under the Indian Act and NOT do so with the other Aboriginal race in Canada, the INUIT/Eskimo, especially when it has the Canadian Charter

of Rights and Freedoms that, allegedly, guarantees that Canada's Aboriginal Peoples be treated equally? It couldn't be because of the oil and diamonds and other minerals in the Arctic could it? Or, the control over the northern shores of the Arctic to stop other nations from doing what Canada is doing?

No! Canada has a Charter of Rights and Freedoms that guarantees equality among Canada's Aboriginal peoples! It has fought in two world wars and is in the midst of another war that, allegedly, will not only insure all Canadians get justice, but other countries as well.

This leads me to ask four questions:

1. Why doesn't the Canadian Inuit/Eskimo receive the same benefits as the Canadian Indian under Canadian law since Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that Aboriginals are to be treated equally?
2. Why aren't the Canadian Inuit/Eskimo defined by the Canadian Government as are the Arctic Fox, the Polar Bear, the Musk Oxen, or said government's animal pets, etc?
3. Why do Canadian Government officials say that Nunavut has solved the Inuit/Eskimo issue when there are Canadian Inuit all across the Arctic and some of us were brought south?
4. Why do employees of the Government of Canada continue to say that Nunavut (a territory) is solving these problems, when the issue is a federal matter, not a territorial one, and that the responsibility of Canada's Aboriginal peoples (which include the Inuit/Eskimo) are that of the Government of Canada?

Modern man is concerned with the possible extinction of certain animals in the Arctic and, at times, does a commendable job in caring for them. Especially, now, with the major concern over global warming, headlines hit the news over the possible extinction of various animals in the Arctic. Apparently, we (the Canadian Inuit/Eskimo) aren't as important to civilized man as are the plants and animals and minerals of the Arctic. ■

Greenpeace Climate Report Proposes Shift to Kangaroo Meat

A report commissioned by Greenpeace Australia as a means to lobby for measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has recommended greater consumption of kangaroo meat and a move away from traditional beef.

The report, "Paths to a Low-Carbon Future, Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 30 per cent by 2020" by Dr. Mark Diesendorf of the University of New South Wales states: "This report proposes to reduce beef consumption by 20 per cent, as the agricultural sector makes the biggest contribution to Australia's methane emissions. This could be accomplished by shifting to kangaroo meat and/ or lower-meat diets." Australia has 25 million kangaroos and culls millions of them each year.

The report also contains other controversial recommendations, such as removing aluminium smelting emissions and reducing business and professional immigration by 50 per cent on the grounds that "immigrants tend to adopt Australia's energy-intensive lifestyle on arrival." Australia has the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC, said: "It is no secret that the managed consumption of wild animals is better for the environment than farming. Greenpeace is getting caught up in its own contradictions and inconsistencies. What does it want more, lower greenhouse gas emissions or total protection for kangaroos?" ■

Decline in Hunting Threatens US Conservation

A fall in revenue collected by American states from hunting licenses, permits and taxes is threatening to undermine conservation programs, according to a report published in USA Today at the end of October.

In 1971 there were 19.1 million recreational hunters in the USA but by last year this figure had fallen to 12.5 million. Over the past five years, while the US economy has been growing quickly, revenues from hunting fell from \$730.9 million to \$723.7 million.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC, commented: "The states need to be encouraging hunting as part of their overall conservation programs. It is the hunters who underpin wildlife management in the USA." ■

New Zealand Gets New Conservation Minister

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark has shuffled her cabinet, moving Chris Carter from the Conservation portfolio to Education and replacing him with Steve Chadwick, a former nurse and health services official.

Carter was an aggressive opponent of Japanese whaling but his hardball tactics failed to have any impact. In May 2007, together with US, UK and Australian officials, he adamantly refused to discuss with Japan the possibility of a compromise over its coastal whaling and research program harvests. His offer of "goodwill" in return for harvest reductions was widely seen as naïve and was rejected. ■

IATA World Cargo Symposium
March 03 - March 06, 2008
Rome Marriott Park Hotel Centre
Rome, Italy

For its second edition, IATA is assembling over 20 cargo events in one single gathering. The IATA World Cargo Symposium concentrates on decision-makers, key stakeholders, cargo specialists and business owners, to share their latest knowledge, best practices and benchmarks around one theme: Focus on the Customer!

Actress Protests Hunt

Animal rights activists have once again tried to interfere with the annual dolphin and pilot whale fisheries in Taiji, Japan.

While their antics had no impact on the fisheries, they did succeed in gaining some media coverage by utilizing tearful 18-year old Hollywood actor Hayden Panettierre. She plays the part of an indestructible cheerleader in the NBC TV series "Heroes" in which characters use extraordinary powers to save the world.

NBC is owned by General Electric, the global company that provides services in the energy, aviation, appliance and other industrial sectors.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC, commented: "It is perverse that wealthy Hollywood stars feel that their fame gives them the right to deprive fishermen in other countries of their livelihoods. The fishermen are to be congratulated for showing great restraint in how they dealt with these troublemakers." ■

2008 Important Events

- 2 February** **World Wetlands Day 2008 Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People**
- 15-18 April** **17th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, Geneva, Switzerland**
- 19 April** **Joint meeting of the CITES Animals and Plants Committees, Geneva, Switzerland**
- 21-24 April** **23rd meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva, Switzerland**
- 23-27 June** **60th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission, Santiago, Chile**
- 14-18 July** **57th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland**