

# Sustainable eNews

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Promoting Sustainable Use

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**IWMC**  
**World Conservation Trust**



## **Science and economics support us A precautionary tale, March 10, 2005 The Seal Hunt**

**W**e are anxious about how the eastern Canada harp seal hunt is being repackaged for the public by the fundraising appetite of the animal-rights industry. Never has there been a cash cow like the seal for shameless fundraisers tainting the good name of real environmentalism.

[\(continued on page 2\)](#)

## **"Nous serons les prochains..." La chasse au phoque**

**N**ous sommes inquiets de la relance de la campagne contre la chasse au phoque remise sur le "marché" dans le public par les collecteurs de fonds professionnels et l'industrie des droits des animaux.

[\(suite à la page 3\)](#)

## **A pesar de ello, somos los siguientes ... La Caza de Focas**

**E**stamos ansiosos de saber de qué manera la caza de focas en el oriente canadiense será reformulada por la industria de los derechos del animal para ser nuevamente presentada al gran público. Nunca ha existido una fuente de dinero tan apetitosa como la caza de focas para los desvergonzados buscadores de fondos, quienes buscan distorsionar el buen nombre del verdadero ambientalismo.

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## Science and economics support us A precautionary tale - March 10, 2005 The Seal Hunt

(continued)

Nunavummiut are not Newfoundlanders, and Inuit hunt ringed seals, not harp seals.

Groups such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare and a colonizing Humane Society of the United States say they are not against aboriginal "subsistence harvesting," but are targeting the large-scale commercial harp seal hunt supported by what they call "bad science and bogus economics." In fact, the science is good and the economics are good, but it hardly matters because the war is being waged on the basis of false images and mistruths.

It may be a surprise to some who no longer question the ongoing barrage of misinformation about sealing, but younger whitecoat seals have not been harvested for decades, and seal harvesting methods have consistently been found to be relatively humane.

So, we know that if Newfoundland falls, we are next. Our hunt for ringed seals may be sustainable in biological and economic terms, but still not make the grade in terms of fundamentalist animal-rights morality.

We like to think there is more tolerance for the Nunavut hunt because it is aboriginal, it is rooted in the culture, the seal skin is a by-

product of the food hunt, because we have fewer economic alternatives, we have a good environmental record, and so on. But we are still next, because we are humans and we kill animals and use them as a resource, even if it is a bountiful renewable resource.



The Nunavut hunt is family-organized, driven by the need for food on the table. However, in keeping with our whole-utilization principle, we also sell commercial seal products ranging from surplus skins to fashion garments (seal skins are functional and very beautiful). This cash income helps Inuit hunters finance the subsistence hunt, and keeps people close to the land.

But we are still next ...

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(Source: The Ottawa Citizen, 2005.03.15, page A11, Letter to Editor)



## "Nous serons les prochains..." La chasse au phoque

(Suite)

Jamais vache à lait n'aura été plus productive que le phoque pour ces collecteurs de fonds sans vergogne qui se font en plus passer pour des environnementalistes.

Les associations comme IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) et le colonisateur Humane Society (USA) disent qu'ils ne sont pas contre la chasse traditionnelle, mais ils visent la chasse commerciale à grande échelle prétextant que la science est erronée et que les revenus économiques n'en valent pas la peine.

En réalité, la science est juste et le commerce légitime, mais peu importe puisque le combat est de toute façon basé sur de fausses images et des mensonges.

C'est peut-être une surprise pour les militants qui reçoivent - sans la discuter, sans la vérifier - une information sur la chasse au phoque, mais les bébés phoques (les blanchons) ne sont plus chassés depuis des dizaines d'années, et les méthodes de récolte du phoque sont considérées par de nombreux témoins autorisés être aussi respectueuses que possible de la nature et de l'animal.

Alors, si Terre-Neuve tombe, nous serons les prochains. Notre chasse des phoques annelés respecte l'environnement, entre dans des critères commerciaux raisonnables, mais ne correspond toujours pas au niveau de moralité des fondamentalistes défenseurs des droits des animaux.

Nous sommes heureux de savoir que la chasse du Nunavut est plus tolérée parce qu'elle est considérée comme traditionnelle, parce qu'elle est ancrée dans la culture, que les peaux de phoques sont des produits dérivés de la chasse de subsistance, que nous avons peu d'alternatives commerciales, et que nous sommes connus pour respecter notre environnement, etc. Mais, nous serons quand même les prochains. Nous serons les prochains parce que nous sommes des hommes, que nous tuons des animaux et que nous les exploitons même si c'est une ressource très abondante et constamment renouvelée.

Au Nunavut, la chasse est une activité familiale, mue par le besoin de subsistance et la nécessité de mettre de la nourriture sur la table.

Toutefois, nous devons aussi vendre des produits du phoque, des peaux pour faire des vêtements (les peaux de phoque sont pratiques et très belles). Ce revenu nous aide, aide les chasseurs Inuit à survivre et à rester près de leur terre avec leur famille.

Mais nous serons quand même les prochains...



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Traduction du texte anglais

## Noteworthy

The current edition of Shared Spaces, the online English-language quarterly from the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, explores the challenges of developing effective climate change policy and abatement measures. Shared Spaces is available online at [www.sharedspaces.nl](http://www.sharedspaces.nl) from Friday, 1 April.

## A pesar de ello, somos los siguientes.. La Caza de Focas

(continuado)

Estamos ansiosos de saber de qué manera la caza de focas en el oriente canadiense será reformulada por la industria de los derechos del animal para ser nuevamente presentada al gran público. Nunca ha existido una fuente de dinero tan apetitosa como la caza de focas para los desvergonzados buscadores de fondos, quienes buscan distorsionar el buen nombre del verdadero ambientalismo.

Los Nunavummiut no son ciudadanos de Newfoundland, y los Inuit cazan focas de anillo, no focas arpa.

Grupos tales como el de la *International Fund for Animal Welfare* y el de la colonizadora *Humane Society of the United States* dicen que no están en contra de la “caza de subsistencia” que llevan a cabo las poblaciones indígenas, aunque tienen en la mira la caza a gran escala de focas arpa con fines comerciales, la que denominan “mala ciencia y economía fraudulenta”. De hecho, la ciencia es la mejor aplicable y la economía es Buena, pero esto no parece interesar ya que la guerra desatada por estos grupos se basa en imágenes y datos falseados.

Quizás resulte sorprendente para quienes no cuestionan los planteos sobre la caza de focas, pero las crías de foca ( del inglés *whitecoat seals* , crías de hasta doce días de edad) no han sido objeto de captura por décadas, y los métodos actuales de caza son relativamente humanitarios.

Por lo tanto, sabemos que si Newfoundland cae, nosotros seremos los próximos. La caza de focas anillo que llevamos a cabo será

sustentable en términos biológicos y económicos, pero esto parece no estar a la altura de la moral impuesta por los grupos fundamentalistas protectores de los derechos del animal.

Nos agradecería pensar que habrá más tolerancia para la caza realizada por los Nunavut, ya que hace al sustento de una comunidad indígena, tiene arraigos culturales, las pieles son subproductos de la caza para consumo humano, y que constituye una de las pocas alternativas económicas disponibles, agregando que esta comunidad tiene buenos antecedentes ambientales, entre otros motivos. Pero no cabe duda que seremos los siguientes, ya que somos seres humanos que matamos animales y los utilizamos como un recurso, aun si se trata de un recurso renovable.

La caza realizada por los Nunavut está ligada a la organización familiar, motivada por la necesidad de proveer comida. No obstante, manteniendo nuestros principios de maximizar la utilización del recurso, también comercializamos las pieles excedentes transformadas en vestimenta (las pieles son fáciles de manufacturar y son realmente elegantes). Los beneficios obtenidos ayudan a financiar la caza de subsistencia de los Inuit y mantiene a la gente en contacto con su medio ambiente y naturaleza.

A pesar de ello, somos los siguientes...

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Consejero en Pesquerías  
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Traducción del texto inglés

## Editorial

by Jorgen Jensen

**R**ecreational hunters should realize that there is much more to the issue of the Canadian Seal Hunt than what they want to believe.

You are a recreational hunter and so am I. We are both part of the worldwide wildlife management team. The commercial fisherman, the commercial seal hunter and whale hunter are also part of the team. There would not be enough recreational seal or whale hunters to have any impact to ensure sustainability. When recreational hunting is not sufficient, other hunting methods have to be implemented, as they do in Alaska at the moment. Because of the explosion in the wolf population, they use helicopters and automatic rifles. Of course, the antis are screaming.

The IWMC is asking you to show your support in opposing any sanctions against the Canadian seal hunting. They do not ask for money. By ignoring what is going on in the World as to wildlife management, you are just sticking your head into the sand. However, this is exactly what the antis want you to do, but you can be sure that they will come back to haunt you later.



Most alarming, I get the impression that many individuals/organizations are doing the same. Stick their heads into the sand and be politically correct, completely ignoring what is going on in the World and especially the forces that are destroying our wild resources.

When the "save the seal" campaign was started in Europe a few decades ago, the

European Parliament imposed the sanction on sealskin from Canada. This had a tremendous negative impact not only on the Canadian seal hunting but also on the Canadian fur industry in general. The seal population exploded which has had negative impact on the fishing industry in Canada and possibly also on the fishing in the North Atlantic as well as in the North Sea. Many of my family members are fishermen, fishing in the North Sea as well as in the North Atlantic. They claim that fishing is very poor compared to what it was 50 years ago. The seals and the whales are over fishing.

Because the Canadian recreational hunter as well as the trapper could not sell the pelts of the predators, nobody wanted to hunt for the bear, wolf or cougar. When the "save the wolf" campaign followed shortly after the "save the seal", the wildlife populations in many parts of Canada got completely out of balance. Your Association may or may not have supported the sanctions. However, if you stayed neutral, you in fact supported the sanctions.

Let me give you an example of what the impact of these European sanctions has been. On Vancouver Island, the deer population was about 250,000 four decades ago. When the fur industry collapsed, the hunters stopped to go for the predators and their numbers increased quickly to about 10,000 black bears and a few thousand wolves and cougars. A few years ago the deer population had declined to about 50,000. None of the young deer born in the spring will survive. Now, with a declining deer population, the predators are in trouble and are starting to starve to death. Is this wildlife management?

The situation is similar in several other areas in British Columbia (Canada).

In addition to this instability in our wild resources, the antis are in good control of our politicians. The antis have developed the public perception and it is quite clear: Wildlife management is very controversial when it comes to predator control. "It is not acceptable to kill an animal of one species to the benefit of other species", and "it is completely unacceptable to kill just one wolf so that the hunters can get more deer to kill".

In fact, young hunters have told me that when they were given some environmental education in school, the teacher told them "the wolf is a very important animal, it takes only the old and sick deer, while the hunter is killing all the young".

I can give you several other examples. However, this gives you an idea about what the Canadian hunter can thank his Danish or European hunter for. It also gives you an idea of what the antis have in the pot for you.

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## Keeping Tabs on the Antis

By Janice Henke, Anthropologist

There isn't any significant news about the fur market or about anti campaigns attacking either the wild fur or the farmed fur industries lately. However, this does not mean they like us any better. PETA recently got into the seal hunt issue and their campaign is aimed at all fur wearers: It says that if anyone wears fur, that person is responsible for (what PETA claims is) the pain and suffering of the seal hunt because it is the desire for fur – any fur – that keeps the hunt going. PETA goes on and on with this line of propaganda, so for fur wearers, it's "Pack your bags, you're going on a guilt trip".



the Boston Globe. The Globe is owned by the New York Times, notorious for its far left view on everything. Seems that Ms. Stewart wrote a piece that appeared in the Globe. It described the seal hunt that takes place off the eastern coast of Newfoundland, in an area called "the Front". The hunt was scheduled to start April 12, Tuesday. Ms. Stewart's piece, sent to the Globe from Halifax, described the hunt in bloody detail, blood on the ice, blood in the water, etc. Hundreds of boats full of Newfi thugs, thousands of seals dying horribly, ...you know the song. She described the scene as if she

witnessed it herself. It was very creative and full of color. Problem was, she wasn't there, because if she had been, she would have had nothing to describe. The area was hit by high winds and an ice storm, and all boats made for whatever port they could find. The Canadian government postponed the opening of the hunt until Friday, and even then, a second storm was giving concern.

The PETA folks have recently caught on to the fact that HSUS, Greenpeace, Sea Shepherds and other such leaches have been making media hay this spring with their renewed anti-seal-hunt media blitzes.

Now for the really good news: You may have heard about the stupendous blunder made by Barbara Stewart, (former) free lance writer for

When Ms. Stewart's lies were printed in the Boston Globe, the Canadian government Department of Fisheries and Oceans spokesperson called the paper and informed the staff that the hunt had not opened due to the storm, and that of course, the entire piece was a lie. They complained about the breach of journalistic ethics and about the paper's failure to check up on its freelancers. The Globe and its parent corporation were embarrassed.

Those of us who care about wildlife management and all the important

connections of the fur industry to health of the environment, to say nothing about the health of the economy, can only smile when one of these blunders happens. Life is good when the antis are finally caught in a bald faced lie and there is great publicity about it. We hope that all PETA people got out of going naked and lying around painted red on the sidewalk in front of the Canadian embassy, were cold posteriors for their effort. Maybe a cold posterior and a red face are a good combination for their public image.

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## Subscriptions / Submissions

**Editor-in-Chief, Mrs. Janice Henke**  
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