

Sustainable eNews

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Promoting Sustainable Use

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IWMC

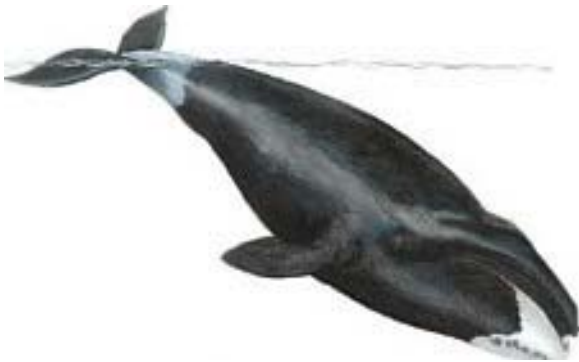
World Conservation Trust

Welcome to the 169th Party to CITES

The Republic of Cape Verde has deposited its instrument of accession to CITES on 10 August 2005 and will so become the 169th Party to CITES on 8 November 2005.

Nunavut Traditional Hunt: Victory at Last

It has been a long time coming, but the people of Repulse Bay in Nunavut have finally received a license to hunt a single bowhead whale from a population shown by research to be increasing. The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans issued this license, and a spokesperson added that the eastern Arctic population of bowheads might soon be downlisted from endangered to threatened. This is all good news.



The August 15 National Post made the hunting license announcement. This must have been known earlier to the Federal Environment Minister, Stéphane Dion, who was quoted in the August 12 Nunatsiaq News when he made a short but disturbing announcement; “Ottawa will eventually create a long-sought-after bowhead sanctuary at Iqaliquuuq, near Clyde River.” The Minister had “nothing to say” further on the sanctuary subject. He must have known that this hunt license for the Repulse Bay people was about to be issued.

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The proposed sanctuary is apparently up in the Davis Strait area, since this is “near Clyde River”, and is not connected to the Hudson Bay, where the Repulse Bay people shall have their long-awaited hunt.

There are two warring factions in the Canadian government; one that defends Native rights to sustainably use their resources, and one that supports the ever-

present green voices that attempt to influence national environmental policies. We congratulate the Government of Canada for making this significant decision on behalf of the Inuit people of Repulse Bay, Nunavut. Their sustainable use of the traditional resource is a right that deserves both national and international respect and recognition.

Congratulations, Canada! IWMC wishes the people of Repulse Bay the best of luck with the hunt.

It must have been a very slow News Day

Editorial by Eugène Lapointe
IWMC President

On August 11 the New York Times (p. G1 cover of the Thursday STYLE section) ran what appears to be a deliberately inflammatory and unnecessarily provocative piece about the fashion industry’s renewed use of karakul or Persian lamb skins in the new fall clothing lines.

Highpoints of the piece include the extremely high prices for items made of this material, which range from designer handbags around \$1200, to high end dresses and outer wear that range from \$7,000 and up through \$25,000+. These are hand made, new fashions that include beads, special dyes and quilted effects which are said to be very popular among those women who can afford them or who perhaps feel that they must be adorned in the latest and most exotic that the fashion world has to offer. And we applaud those ladies who can choose to acquire these items, because

they will be noticed and admired for their taste and their obvious ability to buy the best. Such ladies plan to be “on stage” in society when they dress in these beautiful products.



The New York Times writer, however, was obviously trying to put a damper on the fashion industry’s latest creative efforts and on their bottom line by noting that the origin of these items may often be days-old or even fetal lambs, as if this should be a factor to consider when purchasing and wearing a fashion item. This is a very big “so what” to those who know and appreciate fine furs and high quality skin items for their clothing and accessories. All

domestic sheep are bred and raised for one purpose; they are destined to become food and clothing items. Why should any rational person care *how many days old* these creatures are when their owners slaughter them for use?

The writer (Eric Wilson) shamelessly attempts to stir up a controversy with his claims that while many of the new fashion items are actually lambskin, perhaps (gasp) even from unborn lambs, many ladies who shop at high end retail outlets may be unaware of the origin of the items they are



considering, and perhaps they would reconsider and not buy them if they only knew what they *really* are. It appears that Wilson is attempting to call in the PETAs for a Fall Fashion Bashfest.

We realize that the New York Times staff is itching for controversy, and if it does not occur without their help, they

are not adverse to stirring up the pot so that they will have something to photograph and write about later on, when autumn buying and winter wearing is getting a good pre-Christmas start. Given that PETA has taken a severe blow to their credibility lately due to the kitty and puppy killing scandal, perhaps Wilson and his editors felt that this *Lamb on the Runway* piece would get some action going again, and give the Times some sensational material down the road.

IWMC says, "Get a Grip". There is nothing controversial about the use of lambskins in ladies' clothing and accessories. There is nothing shocking about the fact that some of the new clothing items are so fashioned that they do not appear to be skin or fur goods.

It is perhaps the height of nonsense to suggest that the new astrakhan, (formerly karakul, formerly Persian lamb) now popular again, would not be desired if its origins were advertised. We suggest that the Times editors wake up and assign their writers to some

serious pieces on the ways that the fur industry both reflects and enhances the economy of several countries.

On a similar note, perhaps it also time for New York fur industry spokespersons to wise up and quit talking about using materials because they "more closely resemble fabric than natural skins. Get with it...the anti-fur craze days are running behind and are perceived as pretty lame anymore. Both wild furs and farmed furs are wonderful products, and both categories are produced in ways that can be defended on humane, environmentally friendly and conservation-supporting grounds. Both are stable parts of the fashion industry and both contribute to the culture and the economy of producers and consumers alike. All furs and skins are better products from an environmental perspective than are plastics and other synthetics, as the manufacture of the latter produce toxins that never go away. Fur is an earth-friendly product, and synthetics will always be perceived as cheap imitations.

The New York Times needs more to do than to start another lame attack on the use of natural products as women's retail purchases. IWMC challenges its editors to encourage their people to write about the real world of fashion and with a serious concern for truth and respect for diversity of choices in clothing, food, and other consumer goods. Why should women of any age in today's world be held in low regard in the manner advocated by Edward Wilson, who seems to propose that many are not knowledgeable and need him to educate them on choosing moral choices off the rack? This tradition of false, misleading and inflammatory "expose" needs to be replaced with some common sense reporting on consumer trends and perspectives about using clean natural products.

Hunters in British Columbia, An Endangered Species.

by Jorgen V. Jensen, P.Eng.
North Vancouver, B.C., Canada

I read the article in the July 2005 IWMC Newsletter. Yes, the number of hunters in BC has declined substantially over the last few decades. However, the article did not mention the real cause to this decline. The gun registry, the cost of guns, the public fear of guns, the increase in the small human population in this huge area etc. have had little or no impact on the decline.

Hunters are common sense people. When the hunting opportunities decline, the hunters do not go hunting. During the last three to five decades, our wildlife managers have done little or nothing to ensure sustainability in our wild resources. Predator control has been completely neglected, causing the ungulate populations to be decimated in several areas of BC.

The BC hunting statistics clearly show this trend together with the decline in the number of hunters. The harvest of ungulates has declined while the hunters are still putting the same effort into taking a deer, indicating that the number of hunters decline with the decline in numbers of ungulates.

We are told that wildlife management in BC is based on science. The question is, "what kind of science?" The anti-hunting and animals right organizations seem to be in full control of our politicians and many of the bureaucrats and biologists responsible for wildlife management.

Our Grizzly Bear team has been counting bears for the last decade. We now have

17,000 bears compared to 13,000 a few years ago. The previous NDP government closed the hunting due to pressure from the antis. The following Liberal government opened the hunting again and introduced Limit Entry Hunting (LEH) in a few areas. All politic. With an increasing bear population, LEH is not necessary. Another important question is: Do we have habitat enough for a Grizzly Bear population that big when we at the same time have an estimated 160,000 Black Bears and several thousand Wolves and cougars? I do not think so. BC is swamped by predators. The survival rate for young ungulates in the spring is very low, in some areas possibly below 20%, the main cause of herd decimation in a few decades.

It is interesting to note that when a group of biologists is studying a predator, the animal becomes their pet. If it is increasing in number, they are very proud, if it is declining, it is bad. To look at the overall picture is not possible. Therefore, we hear the statement: "It is not acceptable to kill an animal of one species to the benefit of an animal of another species, and it is completely unacceptable to kill just one predator so that the hunter should get more ungulates to kill". It appears to me that our wildlife management is in fact based on "politicized junk science". This is what we BC hunters are contributing \$8.5 million per year!



On Vancouver Island, because of no predator control for the last three to four decades, the mule deer population has been reduced from about 250,000 down to about 50,000. The hunting statistics show a similar decline in the harvest. Mr. MacDonald did not mention this, although he would know. No, as a previous president of BCWF, he has to be politically correct.

In another area in BC, in the mountains east of Williams Lake, a mountain caribou herd has been decimated to a few hundred due to wolf predation. We are now told by the experts that the wolf has come to the area because of the moose in the area. So, in order to reduce the number of wolves, we should now kill all moose, and the wolf will go somewhere else. This is Scientific Wildlife Management in BC.

It is interesting to note that on some of the Gulf Islands where there are no predators, the deer population is escalating and increased hunting pressure has to be implemented in order to avoid too much damage to farmers crop and residential gardens. No predators equals lots of deer. A sustainable number of predators would be an advantage for everybody.

British Columbia has some of the most fantastic wilderness areas on the North American Continent. BC covers an area equal to Washington, Oregon and California states together, and our human population is less than 5 million. We have all of the wildlife species from the Grizzly bear and down. So why are we working so hard on destroying the whole thing? Unfortunately, we do not yet have a strong BC Hunters association to demand proper wildlife management procedures. The hunters always believed that the BCWF was looking after their interests. However, lately, the president of the Federation stated in a newsletter “the Federation is doing absolutely nothing to the benefit of the hunters”. A very true statement. I guess that the federation wants to be politically correct and, therefore, wants to avoid the discussion of proper wildlife management.

I believe that if the BC Resident Hunters do not organize very soon, wildlife and hunting in BC will be destroyed within a few decades. If we leave our wildlife to itself, it will self destruct. In order to avoid this, we will have to implement proper wildlife management, which will restore sustainability in our wild resources.

Gray Seals Out of Control – Double Jeopardy for Canada’s Fish Stocks by Denny Morrow Executive Director, NSFPA - Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association

I hope that my comments will stir up some inquiries about the gray seal impact on fish stocks. To date the focus of impact has been too narrow (how much cod is being directly eaten). The impact of the seal worm infestation and impact on fish behavior as a result of heavy predation pressure in critical habitat has been largely ignored. No one in the Atlantic Canadian industry wants to wipe out seal populations, but man's predation can be a good thing for seal-predated if it is well managed.



The boycott seemed to allow a few USA buyers to reduce price offered on snow crab from Atlantic Canada. The biggest impacts on snow crab, however, seem to have been buyer knowledge that inventories were high, the reduction in Japanese demand and the US/Canadian exchange rate. The biggest problem facing Nova Scotia seafood exporters is that we can't get enough raw material (fish) to meet the world demand for our products. The Chinese are buying significant amounts of species like cod on the world market and making big inroads in our groundfish markets.

The expansion of the gray seal herd on Sable Island between 1980 and 2005 from about 30,000 animals to about 400,000 has resulted in a large increase in the natural mortality rate in cod in moratorium areas that have been closed to fishing since 1993.

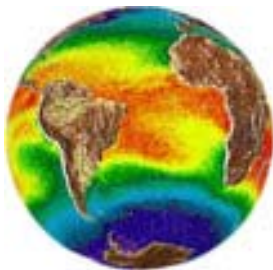
The gray seal is the main carrier of a parasite that has infested groundfish in this area to the

point where a scientist at DFO Moncton has concluded that the most heavily infested fish are not surviving. Also the number of gray seals fishing on important Scotian Shelf spawning grounds in the Spring probably is resulting in behavior changes in cod as they follow their instinct to flee a predator instead of aggregating for spawning.

The shallowness of media knowledge about these issues makes them susceptible to manipulation by protest groups that have chosen the annual seal harvest as their major fund raising and organizational profile-raising event. And by the way, our gray seal herd is spreading southward into the Gulf of Maine. These are large seals (500 - 1200 lbs as adults) that are aggressive and tend to drive smaller harbour seals away from prime habitat. New England fishermen will get to know these animals as they spread from their Canadian territory.

Climate Change - It's on-going and it might not be all bad

We have heard all the dire predictions that global warming will ruin earth's environment and spell doom for all living things. For a number of years, many people have denied that changes now noticeable are indeed, global. Further information on retreating land glaciers and marine polar ice caps, however, is diminishing the number of skeptics who insist that changes in climate are



only local cyclic activity. Some Pacific island peoples are already facing rising seas that inundate their villages, gardens and former safe habitat. They know they are

going to have to move to save their lives. Something real is happening, and as usual, human beings around the world are divided as to the cause(s) and the effects of this change.

Some green activists insist that human industrial emissions are solely to blame for these changes. Others, noting scientific data, which indicate that the changes do coincide with the industrial revolution, concede that humans are probably partially responsible for climatic warming. Others who have studied the same data have been known to assert that our industrial activity has perhaps staved off the onset of the next ice age, and note that the previous global glaciation period appeared to have begun very suddenly with little warning.

Many scientifically knowledgeable observers note that the tropics are areas of great biological diversity, and of course, they are keen to preserve these areas from the adverse impacts of forest clearing, mining, and industrialization. Others have predicted that if there is a period of global warming in our immediate future, say within the next century, we may expect both vegetation changes and changes in patterns of human disease, coastal inundation, and perhaps crowding of people into areas previously less densely inhabited.

But at least we humans are beginning to understand that scientific research is a vital part of our adaptation to changes in our environment, and it is becoming evident that not all changes associated with global warming are necessarily uniformly disastrous. Native people in northern Canada are aware that the summers are warmer than ever before noted, and while some outsiders predict dire consequences for the polar bear, locals note that the warmer weather may bring some advantages also. It may be possible to fish through open water for longer stretches of time than formerly. It may be that tourism could develop in northern areas for longer stretches of temperate weather, and therefore local people would benefit from tour activities, increased trade, and perhaps, longer periods of time when hoofed game could feed and sustain themselves without having to migrate as far.

David Ljunggren has written (Arctic ocean depths teeming with life, say explorers - a Reuters report) that current research on the

Canadian Arctic sea floor has indicated that the area is teeming with a diversity of life that has surprised scientists with its uniqueness and abundance. "High numbers of cod" as well as squid, octopus and other creatures were found by a team of international scientists who are engaged in a ten year "global census of marine life". The scientists are noting that far from deteriorating, the ocean floor in the northern Canadian environment is providing habitat for a surprising and unexpected number of species not previously noted "in an icy environment". So it is possible that through international cooperative research, we may all learn exactly what is going on, how species are adapting to change in various places, and that perhaps global warming is not the total disaster that some have claimed.



The only rational way to approach such a subject is through analysis of data from on-going serious scientific research, rather than through the politically correct rantings of those who claim that human industrial development must be drastically quelled. Of course, it is incumbent upon us all to control pollution from our activities, whether it is "bad for business" or not. We don't want to wantonly soil our world, because it is the only one we have. Yet, we humans will be expanding our living spaces, fishing our waters, and farming our lands as long as climate allows. Let us determine to do so within the bounds of rational scientific recommendations and keep our vision sharp with the best science available.

Humor Corner

Quotation from an unknown source:

"People are more violently opposed to fur than leather because it's safer to harass rich women than biker chicks."

Ingrid wins again...

The latest publicity flap about PETA had everyone in New Haven, Connecticut, talking and raging on August 8 and 9, when the radical animal rights organization compared Afro-Americans' suffering during the days of slavery and social segregation to the present day "suffering" of animals that are used by people for food, entertainment and medical research.

Of course, this was exactly what Ingrid Newkirk, founder and still head of PETA, had intended. We should all remember that Ingrid's intention is to call attention to her organization through any possible means. "We are press sluts" has always been her by-line and her motto, and her outrageous displays always work to get PETA the attention she plans and craves. Media people never seem to get it. They love to proclaim that another PETA event has "backfired". In this case, it was the ACLU and Black people in the community who felt they had to jump in and object to the morbid and inappropriate poster photographs of Black people being mistreated, juxtaposed with photographs of animals, allegedly being mistreated as well. Of course, they had every right to object to this horrendous display and to the implications that these people and the animals depicted are all equally deserving of protection from intentional harm and death.

The entire event, and the public and media reactions to it, all conveniently made Ingrid's favorite point – her mantra is that animals and people are all of the same "worth" and therefore, it should be obvious that it is as wrong to pursue, injure and kill animals as it is wrong to do those things to people. By

highlighting Jewish people and Black people in the infamous PETA campaigns, Ingrid the Press Slut and Media Wizard has called attention to her philosophy again. She cares not whom she hurts and outrages. She is the ultimate example of a socially dysfunctional leader. Yet, she attracts a certain element in our society that apparently agrees with her that people deserve no priority over other forms of life.



This clever event was planned to cause people to forget the recent disastrous publicity that PETA really does deserve – because it has recently been disclosed that PETA kills animals, and its employees are about to be tried for crimes in that regard. PETA wants us to forget its fraud and cruel disregard for both animals and the people who trusted the organization to find homes for unwanted pets. PETA employees were found to be routinely killing them and throwing their bodies into mall dumpsters.

We are all outraged, though not surprised, at this latest publicity stunt that sadly, worked its purpose once again. The only way this garbage will cease to exist is when so many people object to it that no one shall give this woman money to continue. There have been numerous attempts to remove PETA's charitable organization status but the IRS has so far disdained to listen to the thousands of demands that the government shall deny PETA tax exempt status, even when the organization has been implicated in giving assistance to those who attack and burn medical and pharmaceutical laboratories, and vandalize farms and other animal use facilities.

IWMC joins the millions of people who deplore the conditions under which any society allows tax exemption for an organization that defies the law and demeans humanity. We hope that Ingrid Newkirk and PETA shall someday get what they deserve – complete, desolate obscurity, and the disdain of all good people.

Subscriptions / Submissions

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IWMC publishes the Sustainable eNews newsletter on a monthly basis as a service to the sustainable use community. Please share it with others who may be interested in these issues. We welcome any short stories you might want to contribute and would like to remind you that archived copies of the Sustainable eNews are available online (in .DOC and .PDF formats) at:

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