

Global Symposium Animalists: A Predictable Disaster

A little research would quickly show how Canada played an important role in the rise of animal activism. Greenpeace, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and later on, Sea Shepherd (Paul Watson separating himself from Greenpeace) were, unfortunately, started in Canada.

Seal was, if not the first, certainly one of the first emblematic animal that allowed these groups to raise heaps of money on the count of “saving animals from evil humans”. The anthropomorphic features of their pup made it easy to turn it into a “poster baby” and reach the wallet of urban people, disconnected from nature’s realities, through their hearts and emotion.

Therefore, sealers have been observing closely animal activists’ methods for more than half a century and quickly realized rational arguments are useless against emotional responses.

Way back then, sealers put two warnings out 1) if you let them freely spread their lies around, they will just grow stronger 2) inadequate management of that large predator (seal) will lead to ecological disaster. They were right in both cases.

Right from the start, all sustainable users should have read again the famous quote from Martin Niemöller, but instead they forgot the lesson they should have learned from the rise of the Nazi regime and thought: “Why should I care? I’m no sealer.”

Sustainable users are now waking up, but animal activists are now at their strongest and it will be a hard battle to fight in order for sustainable use of natural resources to become the norm again.

For anyone who observes closely animal activists’ methods, especially in the case of seal, it’s plain to see they now concentrate their effort more in lobbying politicians and law makers than manifesting on the streets. They might feel, after forcing a European ban of seal products, that they’ve already won that war. We think the strategy is more subtle than that. After all, IFAW even recently changed its logo, originally portraying the famous “baby seal”.

That leads us the sealers’ second prediction. Not to even talking about the harm done to Inuit culture and economy (for that, watch *Angry Inuk*), science now confirms overprotection of seal lead to an ecological disaster with fish stocks depleting even after decades of bans on certain fishing (cod and hake, for example).

The truth is, animal activists really want the public to forget about their role in both of these disasters. We shouldn’t let them.

The European ban on seal products was a major blow to the seal industry and now, they even put more pressure on the remains of the industry using the USA Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972) and the fishing industry as hostage through the right whale protection (both of them being marine mammals). But the fishing industry now start to understand a second interesting quote: “United we stand. Divided we fall.”

May it not be too late for us all.

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