

Video accounts have shown sealers failing to ensure that the seal pup is dead before moving on to strike other seals in the vicinity, before hauling them onto the boat with a hook in the mouth, or even before skinning them. To see these videos, please visit ifaw.org.

Canada's commercial seal hunt can never be made acceptably humane. Here's why:

Competitive, commercial pressures make speed more important than humane killing.

The seal hunt is effectively a race between sealers to collect as many skins as possible before the quota is reached. Sometimes as many as 150,000 seals have been killed in two days. Under such conditions, humane killing isn't a priority and is rarely achieved.

Seal hunting involves unacceptably high wounding rates.

When rifles are shot from moving boats at escaping seals or when the animals are chased across the ice pans with hunters swinging their haka-piks, it is unlikely a seal will be stunned effectively with a single blow or shot. Instead, animals are left wounded and terrified, lingering on the ice in pain, suffering and distress. Some seals are struck and lost.

The current Marine Mammal Regulations do not set out requirements for humane killing of seals.

Sanctioned hunting practices permit the most inhumane activities: live and conscious animals are impaled on steel hooks; seals can be shot at from moving boats and in open water; multiple animals can be shot before testing for unconsciousness, wounded seals may be left to suffer; and bleeding out is not required immediately after checking for unconsciousness. The requirements for humane slaughter are neither legislated nor practiced.

Effective monitoring and enforcement is impossible.

Our over 40 years of seal hunt observation indicate that any regulations are impossible to enforce. Boats are widely dispersed over hundreds of thousands of square kilometers, and hundreds, sometimes thousands, of boats take part. With only a few vessels available to enforce the hunt, officials face an impossible task.

Endemic disregard for the Regulations indicates the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is unwilling - and unable - to enforce any rules that might be in place.

There is a clear conflict of interest in having the Department of Fisheries and Oceans responsible for enforcing the Regulations and at the same time defending the "humaneness" of the seal hunt.

It is important to note that each killing method is demonstrably cruel. The main sealskin processing plant in Canada deducts \$2 from the price they pay for the skins for each bullet hole they find; therefore, sealers are loath to shoot seals more than once. As a result, wounded seals are often left to suffer in agony.

What can you do?

Send Letters of Protest By E-Mail, Fax or Mail to: Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2, Canada, Fax: 613-941-6900
Contact form: <http://pm.gc.ca/contactpm>

Please watch the movie **Huntwatch: A Seal hunt** documentary. www.huntwatchthefilm.com

Flyer content: IFAW.org & HSI.org

Flyer Created and Distributed by:

AnimalActionNetwork.org

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The CANADIAN SEAL HUNT

It is hard to portray just how cruel the business of commercial sealing is. The need to prioritize speed and profit, combined with an unpredictable environment makes it virtually impossible to ensure humane killing.

Harp seal pups are famous for their big black eyes and fluffy white fur. These are their trademarks in their first two weeks of life. But these beautiful and gentle creatures have the unfortunate status of annually suffering the largest slaughter of any marine mammal species on the planet. (exception is the few years in which the Namibian Cape fur seal massacre took more lives) Every spring, great numbers of pregnant harp seals gather together on the stark ice floes off the Canadian Atlantic coastline of Newfoundland and Labrador and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the east of Quebec to give birth to their babies. Commonly referred to as whitecoats, these famous babies are astounding in their innocence, individuality, and beauty. Their images have been captured in a thousand ways and distributed around the world, making them the most recognizable and well known of nature's innocent and precious creatures. It is ironic and sad that all this recognition does nothing to help their plight as these seal pups are the victims of a brutal annual massacre in a politically-driven, propaganda-supported slaughter. Every year, when the time is "right" (as soon as the ice conditions permit and



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