

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 5280

ICNAF Com.Doc. 78/VI/13

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1978

Canadian request for advice on the scientific basis for management
of seal fisheries within national fisheries limits

At the request of Canada STACRES at the 1977 meetings of ICNAF provided advice on the scientific basis for management in 1978 of certain fish stocks occurring within national fishery limits. It also provided, upon Canadian request, advice on the scientific basis for management in 1978 of stocks of harp seals and hooded seals within national fishery limits in ICNAF Subareas 1, 2, 3, and 4 and Statistical Area 0. The Canadian Government considers it desirable that STACRES similarly provide advice on the scientific basis for seal management in 1979.

For stocks of both species, it is requested that STACRES comment on the following aspects:

1. Current stock size and pup production and recent trends in these parameters.
2. Sustainable yield at present stock size and in the long term, under varying options of age compositions in the catch, including that recently occurring.
3. Trends in population size based upon differing levels of total allowable catch which incorporate quota regulation of all removals except that by traditional hunting in the Canadian Arctic and at Greenland.

It is suggested that STACRES meet and report during the autumn of 1977, with dates to be established through appropriate consultation.

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