

January 13, 1972

Gene Kruse

Burnie Bohn

Seal Hunting Questionnaire

Attached is a summary of the results of the 1971 seal hunting questionnaire prepared by our new staff technician, Don Bennett.

Only 36% of the questionnaires sent out were returned, compared to a 41% response in 1970. Sixty-five per cent indicated that seal damage increased during the one-year moratorium and 72% thought the Fish Commission should continue to hire a seal hunter. I am not certain how the fishermen measured whether there was an increase or decrease in seal damage. I doubt if they were keeping logbooks to compare with the previous year. The fiscal section indicated a total of 13 seal bounties were paid out in 1970 compared to 14 in 1971. This could indicate that the seal population in the Columbia was about the same size in both years.

I doubt that the 36% that responded really speak accurately for the other 74%. I believe the results of the questionnaire are biased towards the fishermen with strong feelings about seal control. I believe that fishermen who do not care one way or another did not bother to return the questionnaire.

The results of the questionnaire were weighted to responses from the Astoria area. A total of 344 (53%) of all questionnaires sent out were to fishermen in the Astoria area. They sent back 138 (40%). Eighty per cent indicated an increase in damage and 81% thought we should continue to hire a hunter.

On the other hand, 309 questionnaires (47%) were sent to fishermen outside of the Astoria area. They sent back only 96 (31%). Only 44% indicated an increase in damage and 59% thought we should continue to hire a hunter.

I am prepared to give a brief summary of the results of this questionnaire at the January 31 hearing.

Attachment

cc: Hublou
Gunsolus
Bohn

BOHN:jj

Summary of Seal Questionnaires Returned
December 1971

Number sent: 653 (includes six to canners)

Returned - 234

Per cent returned - 36%

Questions on questionnaire: (Underline your choice)

1. I think that discontinuing the seal hunting program in 1971 caused (an increase, a decrease, no change) in the amount of seal activity or damage in the Columbia River.
2. I think the Fish Commission (should, should not, no comment) hire a seal hunter in 1972.

Comments: _____

Number of questionnaires returned with comments: 45%

Results: Summarized by postmark

Astoria area	Questionnaires	Question	Answer			
			Increase	Decrease	No change	Did Not Answer
	138 59% of returns	1	109 (80%)	1 (1%)	14 (10%)	14 (9%)
			<u>Should</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>No Comment</u>	<u>Did Not Answer</u>
		2	112 (81%)	16 (12%)	3 (2%)	7 (5%)
Other areas	Questionnaires	Question	Answer			
			Increase	Decrease	No change	Did Not Answer
	96 41% of returns	1	42 (44%)	-	18 (19%)	36 (38%)
			<u>Should</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>No Comment</u>	<u>Did Not Answer</u>
		2	57 (59%)	17 (18%)	10 (10%)	12 (13%)
Total	Questionnaires	Question	Answer			
			Increase	Decrease	No change	Did Not Answer
	234	1	151 (65%)	1 (0.4%)	32 (14%)	50 (21%)
			<u>Should</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>No Comment</u>	<u>Did Not Answer</u>
		2	169 (72%)	33 (14%)	13 (6%)	19 (8%)

Note: Of the total number of questionnaires sent, 344 or 53% were sent to the Astoria area. From this 344, 138 or 40%, were returned.

Seal Hunting Questionnaire

Summary of Comments

The number of responses in parentheses

Bounty system

1. Increase bounty to \$25 (7)
2. Pay bounty for seals (5) and sea lions (1)
3. If had substantial bounty would not need a seal hunter (5)
4. Increase bounty to \$50 (1)
5. Increase bounty during off season to interest private seal hunters (1)
6. Allow all fishermen to shoot seals inside the mouth of the Columbia (1)

Seal hunter

1. Hire two hunters (1) or more than one (1)
2. Hire full-time hunter (1)
3. Install every fisherman as a seal hunter (1)
4. Need a more efficient seal hunter (1)
5. Hunter should keep the seals from herding up on certain sand bars (1)
6. Have not been helped by the seal hunter for several years (1)
7. Puustinen did an honest job and should be rehired (3)
8. Hunter should haze and not kill the seals (1)

Other methods of control

1. Use seal bombs (1)
2. Use hooks, dynamite (2)
3. Furnish shotguns and ammunition to (50-100) selected fishermen (1)

Seal hunting program

1. Raise seal certificate to \$5 (2)
2. Seal hunting is a must (2)

3. Seal herd should be cut down (1)
4. Eliminate as many seals as possible (1)
5. Are too many seals in the river at present time (3)
6. Immediate seal hunt (1)

Miscellaneous

1. Seal activity the worst ever (1), in many years (8), in 40 years (1)
2. Have lost many fish to seals (14)
3. Seals have taken fish and torn holes in net (13)
4. Lost a lot of money due to seals (2)
5. Seals took several tons of fish from net (2)
6. Seal activity has increased by three times (1)
7. Was a 75% increase in the seal population (1)
8. At times 90% of fish caught were seal bitten (1)
9. Should do something about seals in Tillamook Bay (1)
10. Seal activity so bad it was useless to fish the lower river during the fall season (3)
11. Seal damage was major reason for small catches (2)
12. Hire an extra state policeman to stop some of the illegal fishing on the river and leave seals alone (1)
13. Lost fish to seals 36 and 45 miles upstream from Astoria (2)
14. Try this program one more year before deciding (1)
15. Will take several years to make a valid assessment (1)