



A Travesty of Fiction Over Fact: Hypocrisy Reigns Supreme

Editorial by Jim Winter

International multi million dollar Animal Rights groups, mostly headquartered in the USA, have for over 40 years carried out a nefarious propaganda campaign aimed at ensuring that Animal Rights-orientated legislation is enacted in Europe, the UK, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

The tactics focus on the photogenic appeal of cute, little white Harp seals and the ugliness of all animal killing. However, ugly does not mean wrong and cute does not justify the sanctification of a species.

The reality is that since the inception of this propaganda campaign the Harp seal herd in Canada has tripled in size to about 5.5 million animals because of sound, scientific management principles backed by stringent rules and regulations and strict enforcement by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Animal Rights campaigns target well-meaning urbanites whose total disconnect with the realities of the animal killing that provides their food, clothing, furniture and even



Just a Handful of anti-sealing Protesters in U.K.

their car seats makes them susceptible to emotional appeals backed up by pretty pictures, bloody pictures, celebrity spokes-people, distorted facts, non-peer-reviewed science and vile language that, if directed at any other minority, would be considered as “inciting hatred”.

These tactics raise hundreds of millions of dollars annually. When combined with “mail-outs” encouraging urbanites to contact their politicians to condemn sealing, there is a situation wherein a group holding Animal Rights views (not animal conservation or animal welfare) can manipulate politicians to act in their interest. In reality, the activists and the citizens

In This Issue

A Travesty of Fiction over fact: Hypocrisy reigns Supreme Editorial by Jim Winter	Page 1
Seal Time 2008	Page 4
It's human against human	Page 6
Les dangers de l'environnementalisme parrainé par l'Etat	Page 7

Continued on page 2

they motivate are actually a tiny segment of the population. Seals are merely the tactic not the goal. The goal is an agenda based upon the concept of “Animal Rights”. Using seals as the tactic ensures that the money flows in and that politicians insert the Animal Rights agenda into legislation based upon concepts of “immorality” rather than on conservation or animal welfare. Once these concepts are in place it becomes simple to expand them because they have been legislated. From then on it is a question of modifying or adding to existing laws; a much easier sell. Also, this approach, using “immorality” and such, allows politicians to get around the fact that in most cases their governments have signed a number of international treaties, conventions and agreements expressly forbidding such “ban” actions on their part.

The existing “bans” in the EU and the USA are the result of these political tactics married to Animal Rights groups' ability to “stage” media photo-ops and create media-cool situations. When they mix their scenes with pseudo-facts and use naive celebrities, the result is positive coverage. Basic journalistic principles are abandoned and the press then becomes the defacto PR arm of the Animal Rights movement.

To paraphrase Churchill: never have so many been conned by so few for such a malicious goal detrimental to huge, mostly rural, segments of our societies.

Dutch and Belgian politicians pass “immorality-based” laws against sealing, an activity that utilizes the carcass for clothing/ food / medicine, while stating that they will continue to kill hundreds of thousands muskrats annually and burn the carcasses merely to keep their canals clean.

Spanish and Italian politicians condemn sealing while being leading manufacturers of leather goods, not to mention sport killers of bulls and pigeons. We have to wonder about their duplicity.

British politicians bleat on about the plight of the Harp seal while permitting the killing of Harbor and Grey seals and

the slaughter of one type of squirrel (an immigrant to Britain) to protect the indigenous British member of the same species. We have to wince at the double standard.

When EU member states hunt seals and receive funding from the EU for projects related to that hunt we have to shudder at the hypocrisy of the entire EU.

It is sad that German politicians are still susceptible to “loaded language” and “scapegoat” propaganda while glorifying their own hunting practices and marketing game food throughout their country: “lederhosen and deer meat for us but no sealskin clothing or seal meat for Canadians.”

It is ironic that while pandering to these Animal Rights groups all the politicians are careful to stay “politically correct” by assuring the Inuit that their legislation would specifically exempt seals killed by Inuit. They state and restate this despite the fact that every major Inuit organization, including the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, has rejected the concept of an exemption. The Inuit reject it because they know, based on past experience, that it is meaningless and won't work. As well, many reject it as racist, condescending colonialism, while the racism implicit in such legislation angers non-Inuit sealers in many countries.

Seals are merely the tactic, not the goal, and in reality the Animal Rights movement is a serious threat to farmers, fishers, ranchers, hunters, abattoir workers, clothiers, shoemakers and anyone else who has to deal with the deaths of animals for any reason. The Animal Rights movement is NOT about conservation or humane killing. It is about the abolition of all animal killing. These tactics are rooted in the concept of the “big lie” as developed by the master propagandist Josef Geobbels, who said, “A lie, if repeated often enough, will be believed.”

Most of these groups will deny they are Animal Rightists because of the negative connotations, have multi-million dollar coffers, and more acronyms than post offices have stamps. They are not about to fade away if they succeed in

Continued on page 3

Published by IWMC World Conservation Trust, 3 Passage Montriond, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland. Distributed free every month to supporters of IWMC and the World Conservation Trust Foundation. Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Janice Henke. Advertising enquiries, subscription requests, article submissions, letters and comments should be sent to iwmc@iwmc.org. Please include name, email address and organization in all correspondence. Copyright © 2008 IWMC World Conservation Trust.

banning sealing. They will simply move to other targets: kangaroos, dingoes and rabbits in Australia? Muskrats in Holland and Belgium? Horses in France? Squirrels in the UK? Moose and elk in Scandinavia? Chicken and cattle in the USA? Boar in Germany? Bulls in Spain? Pigeons in Italy? Lambs in New Zealand? All of the above?

Most likely the next poster species will be polar bears: photogenic, white, uncertain science regarding the populations, and far away from the urban population who will be targeted for fund raising. Tactically ideal from both media and

political perspectives, polar bears offer the same exploitive opportunities as seals.

Where oh where is the little boy who cried The emperor has no clothes.... He must be either a politician or a journalist, and mute to boot. ■

Jim Winter is a Newfoundlander, an ACTRA (Association of Canadian Radio and Television Artists) award winning writer, a former CBC journalist, and founding President of the Canadian Sealers Association. This is his heartfelt perspective on the perennial seal hunt protests and the various reactions to them.



Who says you're a fisherman, not a tour guide?

We do.

While you're busy earning your livelihood, the future of fisheries is being decided in international meetings.

Guess what some environmentalists say you could be doing instead of fishing?

We promote the sustainable use of wildlife worldwide.



World Conservation Trust Foundation

Sensible Conservation
www.conservingwildlife.org