

## Seal population has grown too large

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Sept. 28 — To the Editor:

Canadian fishermen kept the seal population under control for many years by annually killing a percentage of the seal pups. An American TV newscast showed fishermen clubbing seal pups to death along the St. Lawrence River. It raised an uproar in this country, leading to the government passing a "sea mammal protection act" in the early 1970s that prohibited the killing, cutting or even touching sea mammals washed ashore.

The Canadians reluctantly complied with the law but predicted that the seals would become a problem in the United States in a few years. It took longer than they predicted, but here they are. Surfboarding in waters close to the seals is extremely foolhardy. (Surfboards) look like or have the appearance of a seal when viewed from below the surface. The seals have reached a point where massive inbreeding is taking place and will soon lead to a (multitude) of diseases. Prompt action is required by the government, else the beaches will be awash with dead seals.

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