

Le Sénateur
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Press Release – Grey Seals: The Liberals Call for the Development of a Sustainable Industry

From **Céline Hervieux-Payette** in **Economy, Environment, International**

The Liberal Senate members of the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans almost unanimously supports the recommendations of the Committee on the management of the grey seal population to assist in the recovery of groundfish stocks – Atlantic cod, American plaice, winter skate, white hake – provided, however, that the government supports the development of an industry of seal products such as omega 3, fur, meat, etc.

“As per witness testimonies, I am convinced that the abundance of grey seals poses a serious threat to some species of fish, including cod,” said Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette.

“However, unlike European countries, it is not in the habit of Canada to harvest seal without using up the resource,” she added. “We must not get caught up in this way which is contrary to our traditions, our way of life and the spirit of [the Universal Declaration on the Ethical Harvest of Seals](#).”

Senator Elizabeth Hubley, Deputy Chair of the Senate Fisheries and Oceans Committee, agrees that a sustainable harvest is essential to the success of long-term grey seal population management. She said, “The Committee is deeply concerned about the wellbeing of coastal communities and the marine resources they rely upon. We believe that a healthy cod fishery and grey seal harvest will ensure a strong future for these communities.”

The report recommends that “the Government of Canada and its agencies promote grey seal-derived products and develop domestic and international markets for them.”

“This recommendation is important to us, liberals”, insisted Senator Hervieux-Payette, who recognizes that the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and the Northwest Territories have already officially endorsed the principles of ethical and sustainable management of ecosystems, contained in the Universal Declaration.

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