

0958/B
FIS

C. S. O.

(Formerly)

SUBJECT :

0958/B

NAT/SEA/5 # 5	
0 9 5 8 / B	0
	9
	5
	8
	B

Seals.

Leopard Seals.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER AND YEAR.

0958

Seals.

0958/A

Fur Seal - rehabilitation of the.

A.O.

A

What is the present position
in regard to Leopard Seals? I
think they are protected but I
gather that they do a lot of
harm in the rookeries. It
appears to be a singularly
vicious and useless beast and
I don't know why it is
protected at all. (INTL) MC. 23

V.E.

Yes. Sea Leopards are protected along with all other
seals by the Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance No 8 of 1921
What I have seen of these animals in these waters
has led me to the conclusion that they are singularly
vicious, killing Penguins often apparently only for
killings sake, & also attacking other seal

These conclusions have been doubly reinforced
by almost every knowledgeable person I have talked
with about them. And I am told they will attack
men unprovoked even to the extent of attempting to
board rowing boats, on occasions.

They also were the cause of divers refusal to salvage
the many wool bales lost in Fox Bay Harbour some
years ago.

The retired Naturalist held other views about this
species of seal.

I think perhaps Mr. Tilbury might be interested in
their destruction to the benefit of the hair seals upon
which he hopes to establish his venture. And perhaps
the most practical course to adopt towards the
Sea Leopard would be to vary the terms of his
Sealing Licence, as you have power to do so, from year
to year. To allow him to take these Seal either on
the beach or in the water in any numbers over and above
his quota of Sea Lions & Elephants.

John P. Belvoir 31/XII/49
A.O.

4.1.50.

C.S.

C

This is what I had in mind; do
you see any objection? We must of course
except Sea Leopards in that case from protection.

MC 5/1.

at cover

Quide.

2

A.

A.C.S.

Reverse. Can you refer me to the law on this subject ?



9.1.50.

B.

H.C.S.
Ordinance No. 8 of 1921 (page 14 1922 Gazette)
includes "sea leopard" under the definition
"seal" which are protected except under
licence, pl.

W. J. G. S.
10/1/50

A.D.

We can either except Leopard Seals from protection
or we can add to Mr. Tilbury's licence a clause allowing
him to take them with or without limit. The former would
make them "free for all", the latter would result in some
diminution of their numbers. Have you any idea roughly what
their present numbers may be ? Have they, or their pelts, any
commercial value ?



10.1.50.

H.C.S.

yes their numbers are few compared with other seals in
these waters say less than 1%.

They are however on the increase, are not often seen on the
beaches, & until very recently were not thought to breed
in these waters.

At present being protected their pelts are not commercial
but have been used successfully for leather work
belts shoes & harness. for which it is thin & stretches.

The fat, blubber etc. on the carcass would make them just
as valuable for oil as the Sea Lion.

John P. Collins

D.O. 10/1/50

yes sir. but being large

they will yield more oil per seal than a Lion.

Spoke Mr. Tilbury. He would be prepared to take Leopard Seals,
& will send us a letter on the subject.

B.U. 24/2/50.

20/3/50

6 FEB 1950

Red 15/4/50
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(SOUTH ATLANTIC SEALING COMPANY LIMITED.).

~~33 DOVER STREET~~~~LONDON W.1~~

Albemarle,

29/3/50.

Sir,

I recall our recent conversation in which I was informed that H.E. the Governor had intimated that an application for permission to take sea-leopards would be considered.

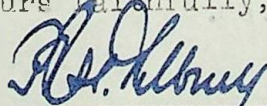
For many years these leopards have been allowed to carry out their depredations on the pup seals and the penguins unmolested, and in my opinion nothing would be lost by removing at least a proportion of their number.

Whilst in this colony I have heard the sea-leopard defended as a harmless and maligned creature, but I give my assurance that frequently in So. Georgia I have seen a sea-leopard shake a penguin cleanly out of its skin with one toss of its head.

To arrive at a number which would not involve the absolute disappearance of these leopards from around the islands and yet provide a worthwhile catch would be difficult - in any event the number would be empirical - and it is therefore requested that, for the first season at least, (the matter be left to the discretion of the Manager, in consultation with the Sealing Officer) In no case would the sea-leopards form the object of a separate search, as there are insufficient of them for this: they would simply be taken where they occur amongst the sea-lions. During the Elephant season the sea-leopards are not seen in this locality.

I accordingly apply for permission to take sea-leopards during the 1950 sealing season.

Yours faithfully,



P.R.H. Tilbury
Managing Director.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.
Stanley.

Reply at 5

4
A
A.O.

I should be grateful for your comments, and those of the Sealing Officer, on the letter at p.3.



17.4.50.

H. C. S.

yes. I think the application made at p.3. should be considered.

John P. Blair

17/12/50

H. C. S.

I am in agreement with X of 3.

J. B. B. 18/4/50.
Sealing Officer

Y.E.

Page 3, with comments thereon by A.O. and Sealing Officer above, w.r.t. minutes pp. 1-2.

2. Approve permission for Mr. Tilbury to take leopard seals this season up to a number to be agreed by him with the Sealing Officer?



18.4.50.

App'd.

me

19/4

H. C. S.

Seen, thank you.

J. B. B.

Sealing Officer
27/4/50.

5

25th April,

50.

Sir,

3

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 29th of March, 1950, regarding leopard-seal, and to inform you that permission is hereby given, for your first season, to take leopard-seal. The number to be taken will be left to your discretion, in consultation with the Sealing Officer.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) Michael R. Raymer
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Reply at 1

The Agent,
South Atlantic Sealing Company,
STANLEY.

Sealing Officer to see.



Please For 4

26 APR 1950

0958/B

6

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE MANAGER



ESTATE LOUIS WILLIAMS

SUCCESSORS TO CHAS. WILLIAMS

Estbl'd 1863.

GENERAL MERCHANTS Ref/450/576

RADIO ADDRESS
"WILLIAMS"

CODES USED:
BENTLEYS
A.B.C. 5TH ED.
A.I.

PORT STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Agency of SOUTH ATLANTIC SEALING Co., Ltd.

Stanley, 27th April, 1950.

Sir,

5 I have the honour to own receipt of your letter No.0958/B of 25th inst. to hand this morning, reading as follows:-

" I am directed to refer to your letter of the 29th of March, 1950, regarding leopard-seal, and to inform you that permission is hereby given, for your first season, to take leopard-seal.

The number to be taken will be left to your discretion, in consultation with the Sealing Officer. "

I thank you for this letter.

The original is being sent on to Mr. Tilbury.

A copy is being despatched to our HQ in London.

Yours faithfully,

for South Atlantic Sealing Co., Ltd.

[Signature]
Agent.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary
Stanley
Falkland Islands.

28 APR 1950

[Handwritten initials]
28/4/50

7

King Edward VII Memorial Hospital,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
29th April, 1950.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Sir,

I have the honour to request that I may be
granted a licence to kill two leopard seals.

The object of the killing is to obtain their
skulls for scientific study.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
your obedient servant,

J. G. Salgwick

ACS.
D. D. sails at 0700 hrs 1/5/50.
I have affixed above & so informed
him. Pl let Sealing Office see.

29/4

8

Sealing Officer

4. f. 3. 2 pl.

offices
3/5/50

H. B. S.

Noted, thank you.

J. B. B.
Sealing offices
4/5/50.

PA/BG
5/5/50

0958/B.

TELEPHONE: MAYFAIR 7494

TELEGRAMS: VELOP, PICCY, LONDON

CODE: BENTLEY'S SECOND

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(SOUTH ATLANTIC SEALING COMPANY LIMITED.)

33 DOVER STREET

LONDON, W.1

Albemarle,

22/5/50.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary.
Stanley.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter 0958/B dated 25th. April in which permission is given to take Leopard-seal during our first season's operations, in consultation with the Sealing Officer.

I wish to express my thanks for this permission, and to assure you that we will cooperate with the Sealing Officer as to the numbers to be taken, and in the compilation of records which will guide us in future seasons.

Yours faithfully

P.R.H. Tilbury

P.R.H. Tilbury.
Managing Director,
South Atlantic Sealing Co. Ltd.

12 JUN 1950

file.

Sealing Officer to see. Then P.A.

15/6/50.

Hon Col. Sec.

Seen, thank you.

J.B.B. sealing officer,
14/4/50.

14/4/50
17/6/50

ACS

We have ffs on this

22/11

CS

I would like to know
 as what grounds protection has
 been afforded to the harp seal
 which is a dangerous,
 vicious, useless beast preying
 on seals and penguins and
 not above taking a bite out
 of homo sapiens if given an
 opportunity. Unless there is
 some good reason we should
 amend the law? MC. 24/XI

90 1/21

ACS
 As pointed out by A.C. at page 18, sea
 leopards are included in the definition of
 seal in the Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance
 No. 8 of '21 (copy at cover) and appear to have
 been carried forward from the 1899 Ordinance,
 but I can trace no grounds for their protection.

W. J. G.
 28/11/55

JE:

minute or reverse. Pl see minutes pp 1-2
and subsequent correspondence.

U

10/12/50

Which does not however answer
my question: is there any reason
why we should not withdraw protection
from this vicious and unclean beast
and let anyone kill it who wishes.

It would become 'extinct' as they
bred in considerable numbers in the
Dependence.

MC. 11/xii

JE:

No, Sir. I do not think there is any
reason why we should not withdraw
protection. All that is necessary is a very
small amending bill to Ordinance 8/1921
deleting "the sea leopard" from the
definition of seal in Section 2 and
perhaps adding at the end of the definition
"except leopard seal."

U

11/12/50.

Yes Sir.

MC. 11/xii

ACB

Pl prepare draft bill accordingly.

U

12/12

Registrar

Will you please submit a
draft bill
ACB 5/1/51

Hon. Col. Sec.

12

Draft Bill submitted pl.

J.P.B.
Registrar
19.1.51.

J.P. Minute previous page. Draft Bill may be
submitted to Ex. Co. ? With "Objections & Reasons" based on my minute at 10.
Decy. Inc. 22/1

22 JAN 1951

A.C.S.

Draft Bill for circulation in Ex. Co., please. Written
opinions.

23.1.51.

Hon. C.M.O. Concur. R.H. 24/1/51.
Hon. A.O. Agree most heartily J.P.B. 26/1/51
Hon. Mr. H.K. Cameron Agree. R.H. 26/1/51
Hon. Mr. H.A. Clement

Bill at cover circulated for

your w/o pl

J.P.B.
23/1/51

A Bill

for

An Ordinance

13

To amend the Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1921.

Date of commencement.

(1951.)

Enacting clause.

BE IT ENACTED by the Governor of the Colony of the Falkland Islands with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:-

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Seal Fishery (Amendment) Ordinance, 1951, and shall be read and construed as one with the Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1921 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Ordinance).

Amendment to section 2 of the principal Ordinance.

2. The definition of "Seal" contained in section 2 of the principal Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:-

- (a) by the deletion from the second line thereof of the words and comma "the sea leopard,";
- (b) by the substitution of a comma for the full stop at the end of the definition; and
- (c) by the insertion of the words and full stop "except sea leopard." after the word "kind" in the third line thereof.

OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The Leopard Seal is a vicious animal which preys on other seals and on penguins, and no good reason is seen why it should continue to be protected. This Bill therefore seeks to exclude it from the list of protected animals under the Ordinance.

Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Executive Council held on the 14th February, 1951.

3. The Seal Fishery (Amendment) Bill. Council advised that the Bill should be proceeded with.

His Excellency concurred and ordered accordingly.

W. R. R. R.

Clerk of the Executive Council.

B.N. 9/4/51

1111 A
101

Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Legislative
Council held on the 24th of April, 1951.

"The Bill was then read a third time and passed".

[Signature]
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, *for*

STANLEY.

8th May, 1951.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 31 COLONY.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, two authenticated and ten printed copies of Ordinance No. 4 of 1951 entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1921".

2. A statement of Objects and Reasons is also enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Reply at 17.

(Sgd.) MILES CLIFFORD

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
JAMES CRISPIN, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

DEM.

15
ORDINANCE No. 4 of 1951.

Objects and Reasons.

The Leopard Seal is a vicious animal which preys on other seals and on penguins, and no good reason is seen why it should continue to be protected. This Ordinance excludes it from the list of protected animals under the Ordinance.

- 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 -

16
Assented to in His Majesty's name this 24th day of April, 1951.

MILES CLIFFORD.

Governor.

No. 4



1951.

Colony of the Falkland Islands.

IN THE FIFTEENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI.
SIR MILES CLIFFORD, K.B.E., C.M.G., E.D.,
Governor.

An Ordinance

To amend the Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1921. Title.

[24th April, 1951.]

Date of commencement.

ENACTED by the Governor of the Colony of the Falkland Islands, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows—

Enacting Clause.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Seal Fishery (Amendment) Ordinance, 1951, and shall be read and construed as one with the Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1921 (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Ordinance).

Short title.

2. The definition of "Seal" contained in section 2 of the Principal Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:—

Amendment to section 2 of the Principal Ordinance.

- (a) by the deletion from the second line thereof of the words and comma "the sea leopard,";
- (b) by the substitution of a comma for the full stop at the end of the definition; and
- (c) by the insertion of the words and full stop "except sea leopard." after the word "kind" in the third line thereof.

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed the Legislative Council, and is found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

L. W. Aldridge.

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

14/5/51

Saving.

88420/51

17

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS
(COLONY)

Date 28 SEP 1951 September, 1951 9 OCT 1951

No. 92 Saving.

0958/B

14 Your despatch No. 31 Colony of the 8th May, 1951.
Seal Fishery (Consolidation) Ordinance 1921.

The power of disallowance will not be exercised
in respect of the above Ordinance.

I am advised however that the present definition
of "seal" in the Ordinance is out of date. At a
suitable opportunity I would suggest an amending
Ordinance be passed incorporating the following
definition of seal:-

1.d.c 11 "Seal" means any Eared Seal or Hair (or True)
Seal other than a Leopard Seal, including a Fur Seal,
a Sea Lion, an Elephant Seal, or any other animal
of the seal kind that may visit the Colony or the
Dependencies, and shall be deemed to include a
Sea Otter".

SECEP.

Me.

ll

No. 64.

G A Z E T T E N O T I C E .

18

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
2nd November, 1951.

Intimation has been received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that His Majesty will not be advised to exercise his power of disallowance in respect of the following Ordinances of the Legislature of the Falkland Islands:-

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title.</u>	<u>Ref:</u>
4 of 1951	Seal Fishery (Amendment) Ordinance, 1951	0958/B

By Command,

Michael R. Kaye
Colonial Secretary.

19/

Registrar

Will you please note page 17
for a in due course

H.B.
3/11/51

Hon. Col. Sec.

Noted thank you.

H.B.
Registrar
3. xi. 51.

Registrar

In deference to convenience -
there is not likely to be a Leg. Sec. before
H.E. returns.

(17)
B.W.
30/10/52

H.B.
30/6.

Hon. Col. Sec.,

Draft amending Ordinance, submitted, pl.

H.B.
Registrar
29. viii. 52.

423.

J. M.

A

P. 17.

Draft Bill at. S.C. J.C. and approval
for gazetting.

1/9/52

app.
1/9

B

A.C.S.

In a pl.

1/9

Office

Pass Bill to S.C. office back to
me pl.

2/9.

D.

A.C.S.

as at C.

W.H. 2/9/52

12/1/52
15/1/52
b.v. 28/2/53

Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Council
held on the 12th of March, 1953.

"The Bill was read a third time and passed".

Ag. Clerk of the Legislative Council.

Office,

for S/S and file copies, pl.

23/3/53.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

21

26th March, 1955.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 42. COLONY.

Sir,

22

I have the honour to transmit, for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, two authenticated and ten printed copies of Ordinance No. 4/55 entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Seal Fisheries Ordinance".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

(Sgd.) COLIN CAMPBELL.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

OLIVER LYTTERTON, P.C., D.S.O., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

SEAL FISHERIES ORDINANCE.

Objects and Reasons.

The Ordinance amends the definition of the word "Seal" which the Secretary of State had advised was inaccurate in its present form. Saving Telegram No. 91 of 29th September, 1951, refers.

- - - - -

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

The Governor of the Falkland Islands presents his compliments to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and with reference to the under-mentioned despatches has the honour to forward 10 printed copies of Ordinances 1 - 8 of 1953.

Despatch No. 39	Ordinance No. 1/53
Despatch No. 40	" " 2/53
Despatch No. 41	" " 3/53
Despatch No. 42	" " 4/53
Despatch No. 43	" " 5/53
Despatch No. 46	" " 6/53
Despatch No. 47	" " 7/53
Despatch No. 48	" " 8/53

Government House,
Stanley
22nd May, 1953.

Assented to in Her Majesty's name this 19th day of
March, 1953.

Colin Campbell

Officer Administering the Government.



No. 4



1953.

Colony of the Falkland Islands.

IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

COLIN CAMPBELL, ESQUIRE,

Officer Administering the Government.

An Ordinance

To amend the Seal Fisheries Ordinance.

[1st April, 1953]

ENACTED by the Governor of the Colony of the Falkland Islands, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Seal Fishery (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953, and shall be read as one with the Seal Fishery Ordinance (hereinafter referred to as the principal Ordinance).

2. In section 2 of the principal Ordinance the definition of the expression "Seal" shall be deleted and the following new definition shall be inserted:—

" "Seal" means any Eared Seal or Hair (or True) Seal other than a Leopard Seal, including a Fur Seal, a Sea Lion, an Elephant Seal, or any other animal of the seal kind that may visit the Colony or the Dependencies, and shall be deemed to include a Sea Otter."

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed the Legislative Council, and is found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

Acting Clerk of the Legislative Council.

Ref. 0958/B.

23
RCS
1172 att
25/5

G3

FALKLANDS

No.

72

MED. 143/149/01

24



09 58/8

6TH JUNE, 1953.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch
 No. of the and to
 inform you that the power of disallowance will not be exercised in respect of the
 undermentioned Ordinance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

The Officer Administering
 the Government.

No.	Year	Short Title
4	1953	Seal Fishery (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953.



Gazette

25

25

GAZETTE NOTICE.


No. 40.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
10th July, 1953.

Intimation has been received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise her power of disallowance in respect of the following Ordinances of the Legislature of the Falkland Islands:-

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title.</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
3/45	Merchandise Marks (Repeal) Ordinance, 1953	1098
4/53	Seal Fishery (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953	0958/B
5/53	British Nationality (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953	1022/II
8/53	The Supplementary Appropriation (1951/52) Ordinance, 1953	0284/V
9/53	The Appropriation (1953/54) Ordinance, 1953	0284/VI

By Command,


Colonial Secretary. *RAH*

EXTRACT FROM MINUTE FROM H.E. THE GOVERNOR OF 5.8.54
WHICH IS FILED IN 1099 "Wild Animals & Birds Protection
(Amendment) Ordinance 1949"

He (Dr. Hamilton) also wants to know why the leopard
seal is no longer protected.

(Intld) O.R.A.
5

B.U.F.
(Intld) C.C.
5/8

A.C.S.

Pl. see from 10 herein.
SM.
6/8.

YH

Above

The reasons are contained in (10) & (11).

Dr Hamilton's view I imagine is that they
are equally entitled to protection from extinction
as such various animals as Rhinos & tigers.

Against that I doubt whether the fact that
we don't protect them will have any
effect on the survival of the species & suggest
we maintain the status quo.

SR

10th August, 54.

The Governor has asked me to write to you on the question of whether or not the Leopard Seal should be protected in the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies.

You may know that these seals were protected until 1951 when the Ordinance was amended because the Leopard is considered "a vicious animal which preys on other seals and penguins, and no good reason is seen why it should continue to be protected". Representations were recently made to His Excellency asking him to re consider protecting the species and he would like the views of yourself and Laws (and any other biologists) before pursuing the matter further.

A few Leopards are killed annually for dog food by Base personnel but this total probably does not exceed thirty. Practically none are killed in the Colony now that the Sealing Venture has closed down. I seem to remember that one of the main breeding grounds for these seals is believed to be the South Sandwich Islands, where they would be completely unmolested as few landings have ever been made.

F.K.H.

Dr. V.E. Fuchs,
SCIENTIFIC BUREAU.

Reply at. 30.

H.E.S.

*Letter amended as
requested.*

10/8/54.

211 30/9

28

EXTRACT FROM MEMO. ON WILD LIFE PROTECTION - Mammals
by Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Cawkell.

(Original Filed in ~~1899~~ - ~~Wild Animals & Birds Protection Ord.~~)
..... 1958 Seals

See 16.

ii. There seems no reason for not protecting the Leopard Seal, as was the case until quite lately. Presumably the penguins etc. have always had to endure its depredations and there are those who believe that carnivores are frequently beneficial to the species on which they prey since sickly or otherwise inefficient individuals are removed. One might properly ask how the hare got his legs if not in endeavours to escape carnivores. This species is not a danger to man.

Not to protect them invites persecution and cruelty. Man has done far more damage to penguins than all natural enemies put together.

.....

1st October, 1954.

Dear Dr. Hamilton,

See 28
With reference to the discussion
on the protection of the leopard seal
at our recent meeting I had forgotten
that, arising out of your earlier repre-
sentations to His Excellency we have
asked for a second opinion in the United
See 27 Kingdom.

The matter is therefore still under
consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) C. Campbell

Reply at 34
Dr. J.E. Hamilton, I.S.O., J.P.,
STANLEY.

Sec/FIDS

You have a reply to 27 p1?

W.H.S.
15/12

BU 27
26/10
memo if
not BU 5/12 p1.

BU. 5/12
no memo
15/12



21st September, 1954.

Dear *Frank*,

I have consulted Dr. Laws and Dr. Fraser (Natural History Museum) and Dr. Bertram on the subject of the Leopard Seal. I append copies of their replies.

You will observe that both Laws and Bertram (who are acquainted with conditions in the field) see no reason for protection of the Leopard Seal. I am in full agreement with this view. Dr. Fraser very properly indicates the biologists view that there should be no interference with the balance of nature, and for that reason would regret the purposeful killing off of a species. I do not think that we need take this view too seriously in the case of leopard seals because the number being killed is so small and because, as Bertram states, their distribution is so wide.

I hope these views will be sufficient for your purpose.

Yours sincerely,

Bunny Fuchs

*P.A.
Please B.C. on the
letter my original
letter*

F.K. Elliott, Esq.,
Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

15/12/54

Reply to 27

C O P Y

31

British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road,
London, S.W.7.

13th September, 1954.

Dear Fuchs,

The only possible reason I can see for the protection of the Leopard Seal is that it suffers, because it is a penguin eater, at the hands of those who have a sentimental regard for those rather stupid birds. I should like to know the regulations relating to the other seals, Crabeater, Weddell and Ross. If they are protected then the Leopard Seal ought to be also. I think there can be no doubt of the Leopard's useful function in the general ecological framework of animal life in the Antarctic. You know as well as I what harm has been done in this and other countries by killing off predators, and allowing their natural prey to multiply unrestrictedly. One would need to know a great deal more about animal populations in the Antarctic before one could say with assurance that there are too many Leopard Seals and that therefore they should be shot at sight. The sentimental (penguin eating) reason for killing leopards should just not be considered.

There is however the economic aspect. If a potentially exploitable herd of fur seals is being built up and it is seen that an undue number of pups are being eaten it might be justified to kill the leopards that frequent the neighbourhood of the rookery but I doubt the effectiveness of such a measure. In South Georgia the original seal herd seemed to have reached enormous proportions despite the leopards which must have been there as well.

Without knowing the reasons for the representations made to the Governor it is difficult to give an adequate reply.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD) F.C. FRASER.

C O P Y

32

SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE,

CAMBRIDGE.

15th September, 1954.

Dr. V.E. Fuchs

Dear

This is my reply to your letter about the Leopard Seals of the Dependencies. Briefly, I can see no reason why this species should receive special protection at this time.

To me the following considerations are particularly relevant.

- (a) Special protection should not be given without special reason which is capable of understanding by people who care to think.
- (b) Special protection in this instance would be little more than the printing of words and scarcely capable of enforcement, except perhaps at the official British bases: such unenforceable paper protection tends to bring protection as a whole into disrepute.
- (c) There is no evidence of present pressure on the total stock of Leopard Seals.
- (d) It would be difficult to think of any large mammal in the world less needing protection in that it is so wonderfully capable of looking after itself, has an immense range, in a little inhabited area, and provides no special product (skin or otherwise) which is sought by mankind.

I do not deny that there might be some good reason for special protection in some special area, but at the moment I am not aware of it.

/I

I hope all this will help.

Yours

G.C.L. Bertram.

C O P Y

33

National Institute of Oceanography,
Wormley,
Mr. Godalming,
Surrey.

10th September, 1954.

Dr. V.E. Fuchs

Dear

Thank you for your letter of the 9th September. Dr. Mackintosh is away on 'Discovery II' until the end of the month, so cannot give an opinion.

The Leopard Seal, although not very numerous, is an animal of such solitary habits in the Dependencies at any rate, that its numbers are unlikely to be much affected by the withdrawal of protection. There is no good reason for its recontinued protection, and in my opinion the amendment to the ordinance should stand.

Yours,

R.M. LAWS.

VE
Page (27) Please see pages 30 - 33. Views indicated that the leopard seal should not be protected.

NFA ORMA 16

HLG.
15/12. *HLG.*

34

F.I. Ref: 0958/B

20th December, 1954.

Dear Dr. Hamilton,

29 ~~III~~ Would you please refer to my letter of the 1st of October, 1954, on the subject of the leopard seal. After taking advice in the United Kingdom His Excellency has decided not to sponsor the reintroduction of the protection of the leopard seal.

There is of course nothing to prevent an unofficial member of the Legislature from introducing a private Bill on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) C. Campbell

Dr. J.E. Hamilton, D.Sc., I.S.O., J.P.,
STANLEY.

CC/VB

Re. S. 20/12.