

Due to growing concern in the fishing industry regarding seal populations, Halifax East Fisheries Association has surveyed its 2000 plus members and affiliates. Of those surveyed we obtained 403 responses. 338 were fishers and 59 were not.

We asked 3 questions.

1. Do you support a formal stock assessment of seals?
2. Do you support a seal hunt/harvest if the stock assessment shows that seals are above a sustainable threshold?
3. Do you support a hunt for the whole animal for nutrients and nutraceuticals?

The results, attached, show over whelming support for a seal hunt/harvest if there is a formal stock assessment that indicates the seals are above a sustainable threshold. Those who have responded have commented that seals are becoming and increasing problem for fisheries every year. Those who do not support a formal stock assessment feel that there is no need because the problem is blatantly obvious.

Given the growth of the seal populations, Harp and Grey, we recommend that the Department of Fisheries act quickly to address the seal problem. While seals have enjoyed a strong recovery from the mid 20th century, their prey species have not. Many fisheries remain at critically low levels and a growing seal population significantly decreases their probability of recovery.

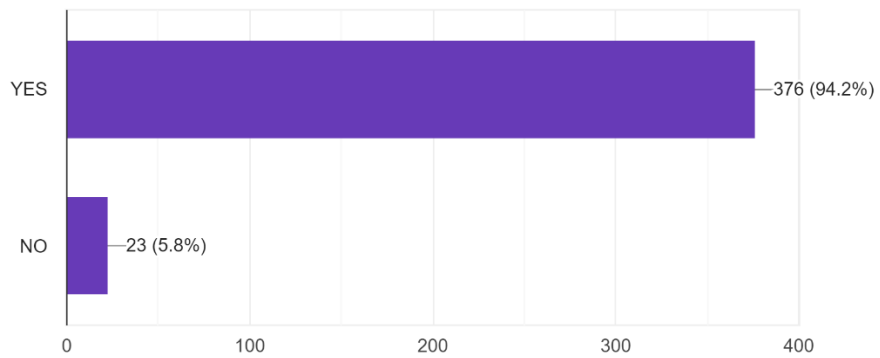
With Thanks,

Stephen Richardson

H.E.F.A.

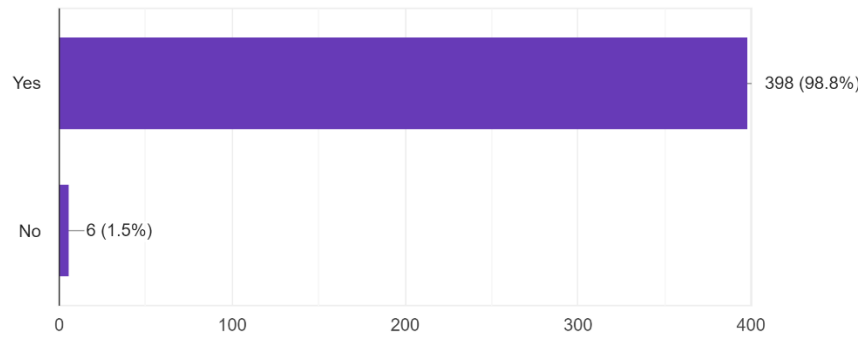
Do you support a formal stock assessment of seals?

399 responses



Do you support a seal hunt/harvest if the stock assessment shows that seals are above a sustainable threshold?

403 responses



Do you support a hunt for the whole animal for nutrients and nutraceuticals?

400 responses

