



Evaluation of the Certification and Market Access Program for Seals





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Program Profile

Certification and Market Access Program for Seals responded to European ban on seal products

In 2010, the European Union (EU) implemented a ban on seal products that eliminated 36% of the Canadian export market value. While Canada appealed to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the ban remained in place. In its ruling however, the WTO agreed that the ban discriminated against Indigenous populations outside the EU and required the EU to extend its existing exemption to include seal products derived from non-EU Indigenous harvests.

To leverage this new exemption, the Government of Canada announced the Certification and Market Access Program for Seals (CMAPS). The CMAPS was designed to assist Indigenous communities in their efforts to access the EU market under the Indigenous exemption, and to support the broader seal industry to renew market access domestically and internationally through grants and contributions.

CMAPS is organized by pillars that reflect three program objectives



Program activities:

- Soliciting and assessing proposals;
- Negotiating contribution agreements;
- Engaging stakeholders; and
- Facilitating information exchange between stakeholders and other government departments, e.g., Canada Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor), Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada (AAFC) and Crown and Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

Pillars target specific points on the seal products value chain



Contributions supported eligible activities under each pillar.



Eligible activities included business training and mentoring; acquisition and maintenance of equipment; feasibility studies; and marketing and business development activities.

Market access related initiatives such as feasibility studies directly related to market access, and promotional activities for seal products.

Activities such as software development, maintenance and upgrade; and training to operate software to certify and track Indigenous origin in order to enter the EU market.



Program Profile

Budget 2015 allocated \$5.7 million over five years to CMAPS

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received approximately \$5 million to deliver the CMAPS program. The remaining \$700,000 was split evenly between ACOA and CanNor to supplement their grants and contributions for regional initiatives related to seal products. CMAPS is scheduled to sunset in March 2020.

CMAPS Re-profiled Budget 2015-16 to 2019-20 (\$ millions)

		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
Vote 1	Personnel	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1.07
	Operating	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.23	0.23	1.46
Vote 10	Contributions	0.19	0.79	0.59	0.45	0.45	2.47
	Total	0.74	1.34	1.14	0.89	0.89	4.99

The evaluation period (2015-16 to 2018-19) covered planned spending of \$3.7 million. Initially the program was late to start resulting in contribution funds from 2015-16 being re-profiled to later years.

With slight fluctuations annually, two full-time equivalents supported the program, supplemented by existing resources as appropriate.

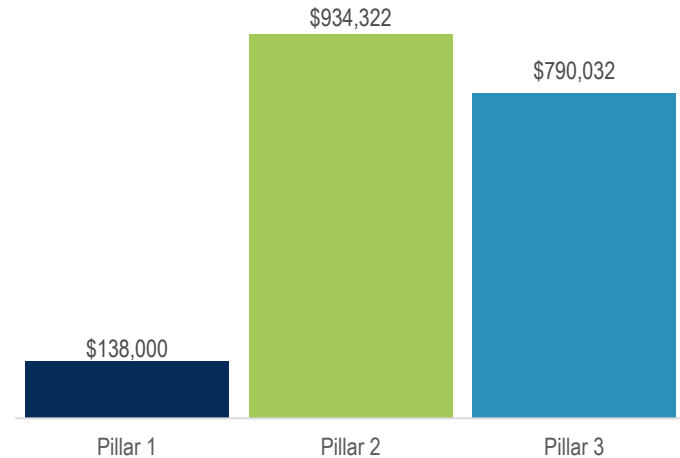
Resources are discussed throughout the report. Where actual spending is being considered, the reference timeframe is the four-year evaluation period, 2015-16 to 2018-19.

Contributions are made using two transfer payment authorities

Financial assistance to external stakeholders was provided through contributions. Contributions to support **Pillar 1** and **Pillar 2** objectives were provided through the Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management (AAROM) authority. The Director General of the Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation Division is consulted to approve funding.

Contributions under **Pillar 3** were provided using the Class Grants and Contributions program authority. A steering committee composed of CanNor, ACOA, AAFC, and GAC was consulted on proposals under Pillar 3. The Deputy Minister of DFO approved these projects.

Total Contributions by Pillar, Actual \$
2015-16 to 2018-19



During the evaluation period (2015-16 to 2018-19), \$1.87 M in contributions was disbursed through 28 agreements with 13 unique recipients.

Pillar	Number of Agreements	Number of Recipients
1	2	2
2	7	4
3	19	9



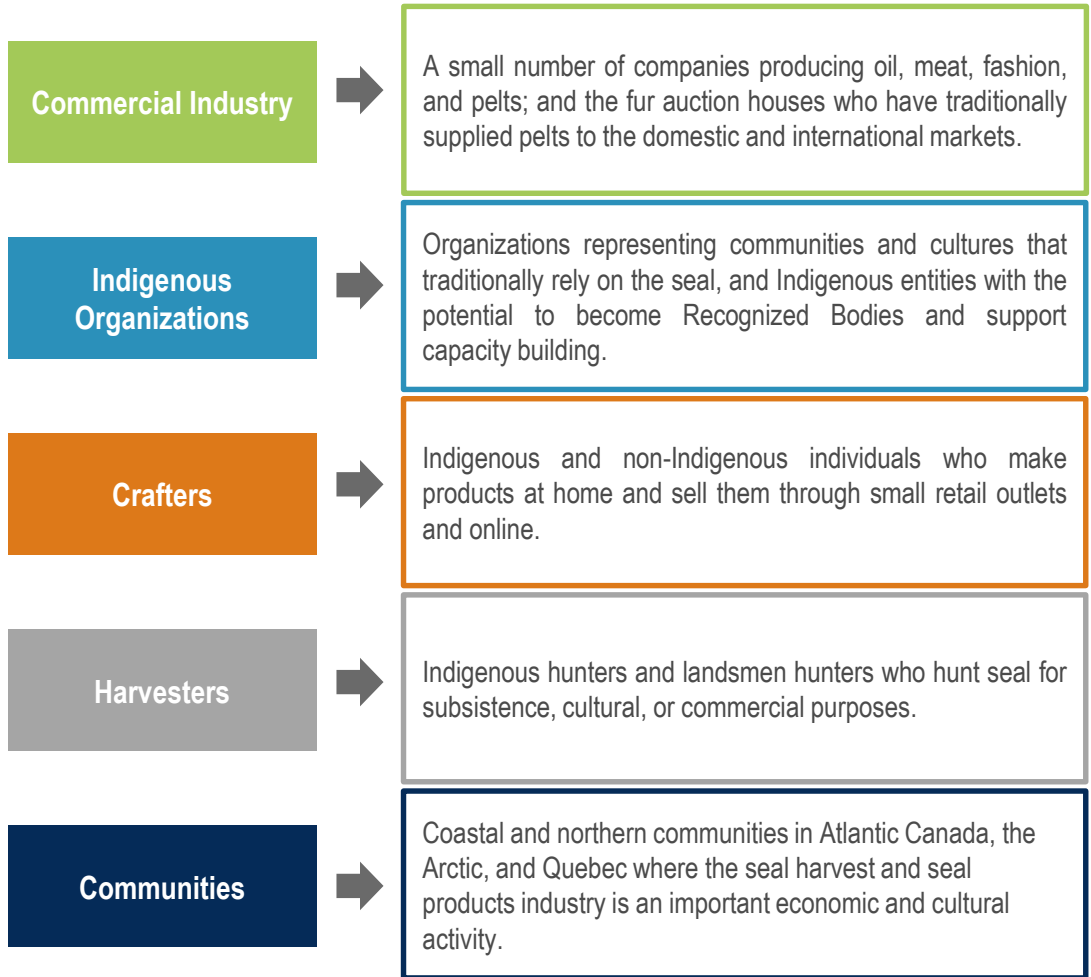
Stakeholders

Whether directly or not, the entire sealing industry is implicated in the CMAPS. The seal products industry is composed of a few small companies producing oil, meat, fashion, and pelts; and the fur auction houses who supply pelts to the domestic and international markets. The commercial seal industry is mostly located in Eastern Canada, with auction houses and tanning facilities located in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous crafters and designers, who are mostly women, operate at a cottage industry level. They sell their products through local stores and online through social media outlets. Some designers produce fashion products that are sold in retail outlets outside their local area.

The market makes no distinction between an Inuit and commercial seal hunt.

-Selheim, 2016





Program Operating Context

Seals are an important resource in coastal and northern communities

At its peak in 2006, the global export value of seals reached \$17.8M, with the largest markets in the EU (Denmark, Finland and Germany). While low relative to other sectors of the Canadian economy, these revenues were, and continue to be, primarily concentrated in low income and remote coastal communities where sources of revenue are limited.

In eastern Canada, the seal harvest provided income at the transitional time between winter work ending and spring work beginning; it also provided skins for weatherproof clothing and meat for consumption. In the Arctic, seal hunting is carried out year-round. The skills gained from hunting, and the observations made from being on the ice, transfer to other activities that assist residents in those communities.

Anti-sealing hit communities hard, especially in the Arctic

All communities involved in the seal harvest felt the economic blow of anti-sealing activism. It was particularly acute among Inuit communities where the impact extended to the cultural core of the community. For them, there were few alternatives for food and income. The loss of income from sealing accelerated the loss of skills and ability to access the marine resources on which northern and coastal communities rely. Numerous sources note the link between food insecurity in Inuit communities and the decline in seal hunting. Without the income from sealing, the ability to hunt is severely diminished because costs to outfit a hunter are higher in the north.

Two exceptions to the European Union ban directly impact Canadian seal products

1) The Indigenous exemption

The Indigenous exemption is a focus of CMAPS.

The Indigenous exemption permits seal products derived from an Indigenous hunt to be placed for sale in the European Union market provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) the hunt has traditionally been conducted by the community;
- (b) the hunt is conducted for and contributes to the subsistence of the community, and is not conducted primarily for commercial reasons;
- (c) the hunt is conducted in a manner which has due regard to animal welfare, taking into consideration the way of life of the community and the subsistence purpose of the hunt.

At the time of its being placed on the market, a seal product shall be accompanied by a document attesting compliance with the conditions. An attesting document shall, upon request, be issued by a body recognized for that purpose by the Commission.

2) Exemption for personal use

Personal Use exemption permits sales to EU customers in Canada.

The EU exemption for Personal Use allows seal products purchased for personal use to enter the EU, either with the person, or by shipping. Proof of purchase in a non-EU country is required in the case of products shipped. EU residents can buy seal products in Canada, and carry them into the EU.



Evaluation Context

This report presents the results of the Evaluation of CMAPS. The evaluation was requested by program management in winter 2019 during consultations for the 2019-2020 Departmental Evaluation Plan. The evaluation was undertaken by DFO's Evaluation Division between March and November 2019.

Evaluation Questions

1. To what extent does the program meet ongoing needs?
2. To what extent has the program achieved its expected outcomes?
3. Were there any unintended outcomes?
4. To what extent does CMAPS design and delivery support the achievement of results?
5. What factors impact program performance (effectiveness over time)?
6. What lessons can be learned for application to future programming?

Evaluation Purpose and Scope


The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Treasury Board's Policy on Results (2016), which requires departments to measure and evaluate performance and use the resulting information to manage and improve programs, policies and services. Data was collected using multiple lines of evidence and findings were triangulated to draw conclusions. The methodology can be found in Appendix 1.

The scope and objectives for the evaluation were identified through consultations with program management and a review of key documents. The evaluation examined activities undertaken by the program during the period 2015-16 to 2018-19. The evaluation was calibrated to provide senior management with information necessary to support decision-making about the program within the required timeframes.

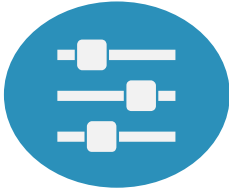
Evaluation Objectives:



1. Examine Stakeholder Needs



2. Assess Program Effectiveness



3. Identify Factors Impacting Performance



4. Document Lessons Learned



As per the Treasury Board Directive on Results (2016), the evaluation included a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+). GBA+ is an analytical tool to assess the potential impacts of policies, programs, services, and other initiatives on diverse groups of women and men, taking into account gender and other identity factors.



CMAPS is the only program to focus solely on market access for seal products



CMAPS is the only federal program solely focused on market access for seal products, and is seen as a demonstration of support at a critical point for the Canadian seal products industry. CMAPS is designed to address two broad sets of needs: 1) market access and 2) capacity building within Indigenous communities. These require long term attention. However, in order to address these needs successfully, there is a fundamental need to address misconceptions about seal products and market access. CMAPS provides an opportunity for governments, industry, and communities to work in tandem to address these needs.

CMAPS objectives require long-term attention

Building capacity and improving market access require a long-term commitment. External interviewees expressed the need in the following ways:

“[Regaining market access] is a monumental task that can not be done on a shoestring budget.”

“You can’t undo 20 years of market damage in 5 years.”

Need to raise awareness about the seal harvest, seal products, and the EU exemptions is fundamental to market access

There is an ongoing need for awareness raising and education about seal products, the EU exemptions, and the importance of the harvest to communities. For example:

- People perceive seals as an endangered species. However, seals are not listed as a species of concern.
- Buyers in the EU stopped purchasing seal products because they did not understand or were unaware of the Indigenous exemption.

CMAPS reflects need for collaboration

Factors impacting market access fall outside any single department or program. To address the fundamental challenges impacting the seal products industry, collaboration across government jurisdictions and departmental mandates is needed.

- CMAPS incorporated collaboration opportunities into its program design through its steering committee to review project proposals so that proposals were complementary and did not overlap.
- The collaborative approach was reflected in the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers collaborative approach to seals action plan developed in 2017.

Visible Government of Canada support is needed to secure market access

A critical component of securing market access is defence by the Government of Canada. Foundational documents describe CMAPS as a means of demonstrating that support. In the 2013 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada committed to “continue to defend the seal hunt, an important source of food and income for coastal and Inuit communities”.

Stakeholders believed that Canada’s visible and ongoing support was needed if their marketing efforts were to yield results. The declaration of a National Seal Products Day was a prime example of visible support from the Government of Canada.

All lines of evidence indicated that engagement at the local level is needed - in all parts of the country.



Pillar 1: Enable the Indigenous Exemption

Planned approach

Administrative mechanisms to certify the Indigenous origin of seal products were required to enable the Indigenous exemption. Under Pillar 1, the first step was to identify entities with potential to meet the EU criteria for a **Recognized Body***, and leverage the expertise within DFO regarding the ban to assist in the application process. Direct financial support to develop certification and tracking systems to document origin of the seal product was planned. Recognized Bodies would issue certificates to exporters and importers wishing to place seal products in the EU market.

* **Recognized Bodies** are entities with a national or regional scope that can certify the Indigenous origin of a seal product. Such status is awarded by the EU on application.

Goals

1. Support Canadian applications for **Recognized Body*** status.
2. Establish tracking / certification systems to document the origin of seal product.

Targeted stakeholders

Governments and national and regional Indigenous organizations with potential to meet EU criteria to be a **Recognized Body***.

Eligible Activities

Activities to certify and track Indigenous seal products in order to enter the EU. For example:

- Software development, purchase or lease, and maintenance and upgrade
- Training to operate software

To obtain status, the applicant must meet specific criteria, including evidence of a certification process with sufficient tracking (document and record-keeping) capacity to prove product origin.

Resource allocation

To implement the planned approach, \$2.7 million was originally allocated to Pillar 1. The bulk of the funding was allocated to Vote 1. Funding allocations reflected the high involvement of CMAPS staff in identifying and supporting potential applicants to become Recognized Bodies. Costs were expected to be upfront rather than ongoing.

Pillar 1 Planned Funding, 2015-16 to 2019-20

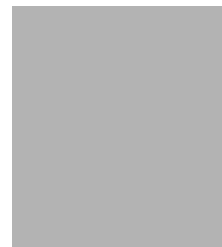
Vote	Amount
Vote 1: Personnel and Operating	\$1, 973,525
Vote 2: Contributions	\$ 676,475
Total	\$2, 650,000

Contributions under Pillar 1

Contributions supported activities in three projects (one joint with Pillar 2) with two recipients.

Pillar 1 Contributions, Planned and Actual
2015-16 to 2018-19

\$601,180



\$138,000



During the four-year evaluation period, **23%** of the planned contributions spending under Pillar 1 was allocated to projects.



Basic capacity to enable the Indigenous exemption was established



Basic capacity to export seal products to the European Union was developed to enable the Indigenous exemption under Pillar 1. CMAPS supported the successful applications of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to become Recognized Bodies. However, there was little evidence that tracking systems to support certification evolved beyond those existing in 2015. Recognized Bodies expressed reluctance to spend resources on an electronic certification system without certainty that it would comply with the regulation. Looking forward, there is a need to support other entities interested in becoming Recognized Bodies and to obtain EU guidance to ensure certification processes will comply with the regulations.

The Governments of Nunavut and Northwest Territories obtained Recognized Body status in 2015 and 2017 respectively

Applications for Recognized Body status was a first step in enabling the Indigenous exemption.

- Evidence indicated that the CMAPS staff worked closely with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Nunavut to aid them in completing and submitting their applications.
- The CMAPS staff expertise on the Indigenous exemption, knowledge of certification processes, and knowledge of Government of Canada resources supplemented the capacity of the applicants.

Certification processes are in place but have limited application

There is little evidence that tracking processes evolved beyond those existing prior to 2015.

Challenges arose when certifying origin of secondary seal products such as meat, oil and fashion because the processing is further removed from point of origin (e.g., oil is rendered from multiple sources), or species other than ringed seals. As a result, tracking systems supporting certification reflect those of existing fur purchasing programs, which are based on the pelt market.

- Both Recognized Bodies raised concerns about spending resources to implement an electronic certification system without certainty that it would comply with the regulation.
- They have raised these points for discussion with the European Commission in order to facilitate certification and ease the administrative burden as currently set out in the EU Regulation.

Interest in Recognized Body status continues

Additional entities that meet the EU eligibility criteria expressed interest in becoming Recognized Bodies. They indicated they would need support to complete applications and develop processes.

Certification is poorly understood by stakeholders

Evidence showed that a high level of confusion exists among stakeholders about certification due to a lack of transparency in the requirements. The certification process was unpublished and information was hard to find.



CMAPS funded a project to ease seal products crossing borders by using Quick Response codes

Quick Response (QR) codes provide information to buyers and customs officers easily and complements certification

With CMAPS funding, representatives from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut attended meetings in Brussels to discuss implementing a QR initiative led by Greenland. The proposal would involve attaching a tag with a QR code to seal products entering the EU. When scanned, the tag would refer to an accessible European Commission website indicating if the product is of Inuit or other Indigenous communities' origin. The EU implemented these changes to their website.



Pillar 2: Build Indigenous Capacity to Leverage the Indigenous Exemption

Planned approach

Capacity building to leverage the Indigenous exemption was the focus of Pillar 2. The approach recognized that Indigenous communities had varying levels of capacity, which permitted a wide range of activities to be eligible for contributions. Further engagement would be required in order to develop strategies and plans to assess needs and interest, as well as to develop and implement projects to build capacity that aligned to the needs of the various communities. Activities took the form of workshops, trade missions, circumpolar networking, and awareness raising campaigns and materials.

Goal

Provide capacity building assistance so Indigenous communities can take advantage of renewed market access.

Targeted stakeholders

Indigenous organizations, partnerships or aggregations of Aboriginal groups; stakeholders in fisheries or fishing industries working with Aboriginal people.

Eligible Activities

Activities directly related to seal harvesting, processing, marketing and retail, such as:

- Business training and mentoring;
- Acquisition and maintenance of appropriate equipment;
- Feasibility studies; and
- Marketing and business development

Pillar 2 Resources

To implement the planned approach, \$981,000 was allocated to Pillar 2. The bulk of the funding was provided to contributions reflecting the expectation that goals under Pillar 2 would largely be achieved through activities by external stakeholders.

Pillar 2 Planned Funding, 2015-16 to 2019-20

Vote	Amount
Vote 1: Personnel and Operating	\$ 150,000
Vote 2: Contributions	\$ 831,000
Total	\$981,000

Pillar 2 Contributions during the evaluation period

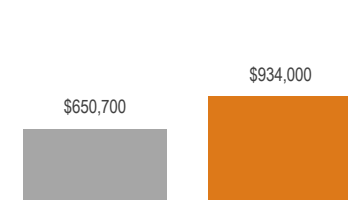
Contributions under Pillar 2 during the evaluation period totalled \$934,000. They supported activities in seven projects (one joint with Pillar 1) with 4 recipients. One recipient received 75% of the funding.

Pillar 2 Distribution of Contributions, 2015-16 to 2018-19

Recipient	Number of Projects	Value of Projects
1	1	\$ 14,000
2	1	\$ 158,000
3	1	\$ 20,000
4	4	\$ 700,000

Actual contributions under Pillar 2 exceeded planned contributions by **30%**. The gap was bridged by unused contribution funding from Pillar 1.

Pillar 2 Contributions Planned and Actual 2015-16 to 2018-19





Capacity building results are limited and challenging to identify



Overall, there is limited capacity within Indigenous communities to leverage the Indigenous exemption. Exports to the European Union under the Indigenous exemption were largely dependent on CMAPS projects. The contribution of individual projects to overall capacity building is challenging to describe in the absence of clear overall goals for capacity building. Project results were often limited by challenges in the supply of raw material and availability of products for export.

Projects to build capacity - results

To build capacity within Indigenous communities to export seal products, CMAPS supported skills development workshops, craft sales, awareness and publicity materials and events, networking opportunities, and trade missions.

- Networking opportunities resulted in a Circumpolar Crafters' Network whose goal is to support trade and product development among crafters.
- Craft sales and workshops involving Inuit seamstresses provided exposure to international marketplaces for a small number of individuals. Some of them learned about international currency exchange, and what is involved in attending international markets.
- Market intelligence specific to opportunities for leveraging the EU exemption was obtained through trade missions in the EU and meetings with potential buyers.
- Successful product development and skill-building workshops were held, but were not widespread. The involvement of local organizations was a notable factor in their success.

Few products available for export

Projects that focused on the later stages of the value chain (page 3) experienced challenges with the availability of products for export. In one case, an order was filled almost a year after being placed. In another case, a call for samples to bring to the EU yielded few products.

Low supply of raw material

Fewer hunters are hunting seals. As a result, there is a low supply of raw material.

Long-term objectives are unclear

Capacity building requires a long term commitment. However, there is a lack of clear long-term objectives for capacity building activities to leverage the EU exemption.

- Project activities were considered positively, but interviewees noted that the long-term impact on leveraging the Indigenous exemption was not evident.
- Evidence indicated a lack of consensus among stakeholders as to the most effective way to build capacity to leverage the Indigenous exemption.

Certificates issued were dependent on CMAPS projects

A key indicator of capacity to leverage the Indigenous exemption is the number of certificates issued to export seal products to the EU.

Since 2015, 176 certificates were issued. Most of these were issued due to CMAPS projects that involved transporting products to Europe.



GBA+: Demographic factors impact approaches to building capacity



Based on the GBA+ analysis, demographic factors were evident in the implementation of Pillar 2. Aspects of gender, location and climate, and language and communication create conditions that require accommodation in terms of program design and delivery.

Gender

The supply of products available for export is impacted by gender. In Inuit culture, men hunt to provide raw material, which is then processed further by the women.

- For men, time and costs are barriers to hunting. As communities move to wage-based earning, time to access the land becomes limited to weekends and vacations. For men without wage employment, the higher costs associated with hunting in the north limits their access to the land.
- An assessment of the needs of women seamstresses noted the following challenges to producing products: "Many of them are not always able to sew. Some might just need materials, some: a place to work, others might need training and others counselling - plus a combination of the above."

Transfer of skills and knowledge also followed gender-based patterns. For example, participants in craft-making workshops were women, while the primary processing project was targeted to men.

Location and climate

Remote northern locations had an impact on project delivery. In some cases, project implementation had to be adjusted because of location and climate.

- Because of the location, air lift was used to acquire materials to complete a project, which increased costs.
- Delays in booking travel or shipping can result in significant increases in costs. In one case, travel estimates used in the proposal were no longer valid by the time project approval was provided, resulting in significant increases to travel and shipping costs, and an adjustment to project scope.
- Poor ice conditions reduced the availability of raw material to develop processing skills in one project. As a result, the project was not fully implemented.

Language and communication practices

How targeted stakeholders receive and share information is an important consideration in engagement, particularly in remote Inuit communities. In this respect, direct engagement at the local level is the most effective way to generate awareness and interest. Other communication factors were also identified as follows:

- Language can impact uptake of a program. One recipient noted that she had positive results with providing introductory information in Inuktitut so that information could easily be shared within communities and suggested that CMAPS try a similar approach.
- In small coastal and remote communities, there is a low level of experience with government processes (e.g., writing proposals, completing applications, making reports). There was a high level of agreement among interviewees that a need to shepherd stakeholders through application and project development processes, which requires direct contact, was required.
- In remote communities, access to internet is often limited, given high costs and low bandwidth. Email is therefore a less effective means of communication than other methods.



Capacity building to leverage the exemption requires clearer definition



Consultations with Indigenous stakeholders identified capacity building to leverage the Indigenous exemption as the main need for CMAPS. However, the needs of the stakeholders were not clearly defined and it is unclear whether the projects implemented met capacity building needs of local communities.

Engagement to refine needs was identified during early consultations on the program design

The foundation documents acknowledged that **capacity needs required refinement** in order to be addressed. The original expectation was that engagement with regional organizations and communities would be a first step in building capacity, and plans and strategies would be developed through CMAPS. The evaluation found **little evidence that this activity occurred** between DFO and targeted communities. Clear goals for capacity building to leverage the Indigenous exemption remained undefined.

Clarification of needs was limited by lower than planned engagement at the local level

Initially, the program envisioned engaging local communities through the territorial governments and other regional players in order to facilitate program uptake. The intent was to work with stakeholders to refine identified needs and **develop projects that reflected those assessments**. However, the level of engagement that occurred was less than intended.

- The evidence indicated that a **higher level of engagement with local communities was required** to develop sound projects. However, there was no explicit articulation of what those projects should be, and evaluation evidence suggested that a needs assessment with respect to producers and other stakeholders be undertaken.
- Program reach became concentrated in a small number of recipients. Instead of working with regional partners to develop local uptake and projects, the program focused on supporting the territorial governments. Without an expanded level of engagement, project development and implementation became reliant on the capacity of a limited number of proponents to deliver. For example, some projects were delayed or not implemented because of low capacity within recipients.
 - Stakeholders identified the **risk arising from the concentration of recipients**. They noted that key community stakeholders were unaware of CMAPS. They suggested that CMAPS look beyond DFO's regular partner organizations to expand capacity building opportunities. For example, industry interviewees pointed out that they had knowledge and expertise that could be integrated into project delivery. Others noted that community organizations with a health or justice focus delivered workshops to re-establish traditional skills and could co-deliver projects.
- In the last quarter of 2018-19, the program increased its engagement with stakeholders. As a result, a broader range of applicants under Pillar 2 in 2019-2020 was anticipated. [The program confirmed this was the case during validation of the report.]

A needs assessment would help to define the capacity building needs of Indigenous communities.



Pillar 3: Support marketing activities of the broader sealing industry

Planned approach

To support market access for the broader seal products industry, CMAPS provided funding to support promotional and branding activities as well as marketing activities and strategies.

Goals

1. Increase domestic and international market access
2. Develop an industry-wide marketing strategy

Targeted stakeholders

Canadian organizations directly involved in the sealing industry, post-secondary institutions working with seal industry representatives, and governments.

Eligible Activities

Activities that support market access related initiatives for seal products can include:

- feasibility studies directly related to accessing markets for seal products
- promotional activities for seal products

Resource allocation

To implement the planned approach, \$1.36 million was allocated to Pillar 3. The bulk of the funding was allocated to contributions, reflecting the expectation that goals under Pillar 3 would largely be achieved through activities by external stakeholders.

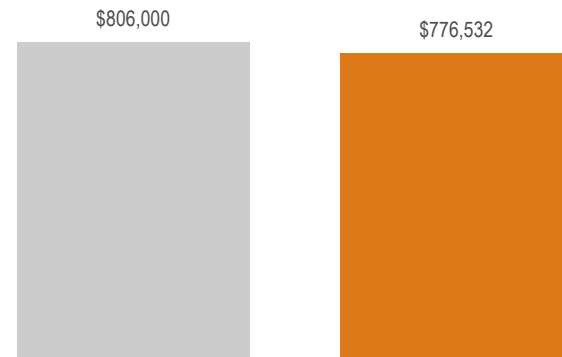
Pillar 3 Planned Funding, 2015-16 to 2019-20

Vote	Amount
Vote 1: Personnel and Operating	\$400,000
Vote 10: Contributions	\$959,000
Total	\$1,359,000

Contributions under Pillar 3

Contributions made to 9 recipients for 19 projects under Pillar 3, resulted in a **96%** utilization rate of planned spending during the evaluation period.

Pillar 3 Contributions, Planned and Actual
2015-16 to 2018-19





Achievement – Marketing strategy for seal products was developed



Objectives related to the broader seal products industry were well advanced. Pillar 3 contributions supported promotional events; participation in trade shows; and market research. For the first time, industry players achieved consensus on an industry-wide marketing strategy, and a funding application to the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund received a high level of support from stakeholders. However, this does not replace the need for funding to support individual marketing activities.

Increased market intelligence available to the Canadian seal products industry

Evaluation evidence showed that business intelligence gathered by the industry was reported to be a key factor in helping the Seals and Sealing Network (SSN) access other sources of funding for the deployment of the strategies in the coming years.

Crystallization of industry players around a clear strategy for marketing and advocacy

Evaluation evidence showed that CMAPS was a catalyst for the seal industry and contributed to the emergence of new industry leaders. The SSN was able to bring together a majority of industry players to develop a proposal for the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund (CFSOF).

Funding was identified as key for the market access needs of the commercial industry

The SSN proposal to CFSOF would support advocacy and awareness needed to obtain social acceptance domestically, and continue to obtain the market intelligence needed to deploy the strategy at a national scale. In the absence of sufficient funding, there was a consensus among the industry players that it would be challenging for the industry to develop the Canadian market and to access foreign markets.

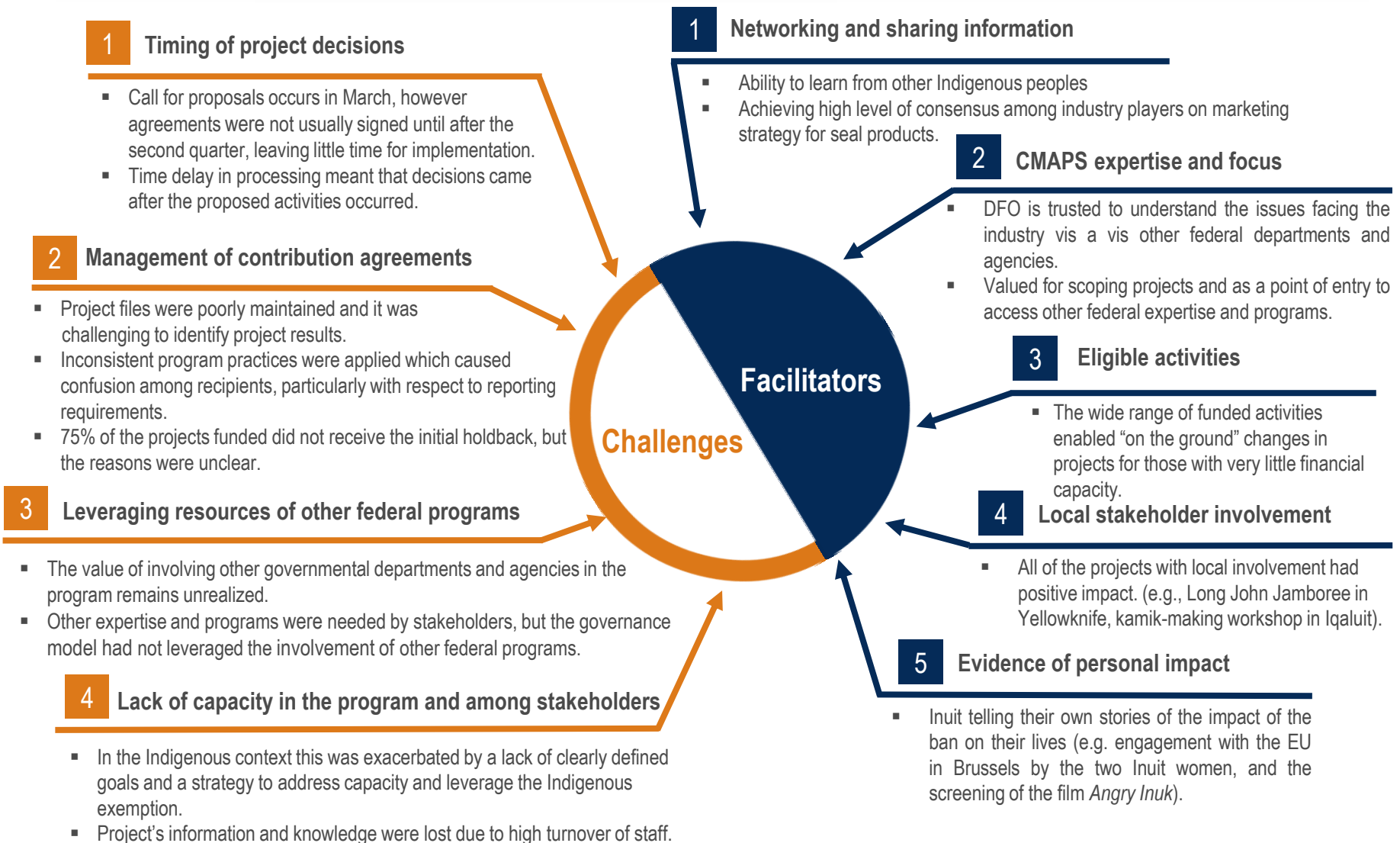
- However, successful project funding under CFSOF does not replace the support needed by individual companies. Continued support is necessary in order to align company marketing activities to the larger strategy.
- As reported by the stakeholders, the terms and conditions of CMAPS were best suited to meet their needs because they reflect the realities of the industry in terms of activities permitted and eligibility requirements. Stakeholders reported that accessing other programs was challenging because stakeholders either did not have the capacity required to participate, or did not meet program priorities for funding. In addition, industry interviewees pointed out the need for individual companies to educate program officers (outside DFO) about the seal industry as a whole in order to be considered for funding. This consumed resources that the individual companies did not have.

Market access goals require the ability to meet market and regulatory requirements that fall outside the direct purview of CMAPS

- Ongoing needs of stakeholders for product development assistance to support full use of the seal and to address regulatory challenges for edible seal products (both domestically and internationally) requires collaboration among federal, provincial, and territorial entities and programs.
- The market demands proof of sustainability, and the industry is assessing standards programs as part of its branding strategy. Such industry-led programs require scientific evidence to support certification. In this regard, two needs were identified:
 1. Updated population surveys to ensure that catch levels are sustainable. In particular, stakeholders indicated a need for a population study of ringed seals. They suggested this should include traditional knowledge.
 2. Research to improve harvesting techniques. Sources indicate that research in the area of harvesting techniques had difficulty obtaining funding because “it doesn’t have a home [in the federal science community]” (e.g., research for humane harvesting practices in the Gulf Region).



Factors Impacting CMAPS Performance



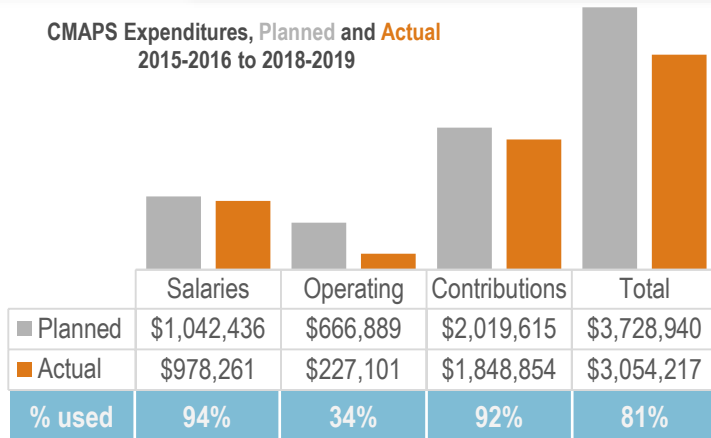


CMAPS Resources



During the evaluation period, approximately \$3.7 in spending was planned while actual expenditures was \$3.1 million. Resources for salaries were spent largely as intended, whereas only 34% of operating costs were spent. A marked drop in operating spending occurred in 2017-18 coinciding with a planned reduction in operating costs due to lower activity in supporting applications for Recognized Bodies. However, this is insufficient to explain the difference, and suggests that other planned activities did not occur. As operating costs were not tracked by pillar, it is challenging to isolate specific causes of the gap between planned and actual resources.

CMAPS Expenditures, Planned and Actual
2015-2016 to 2018-2019



Planned spending during the evaluation period was \$3.7 million of which 81% was spent. Funding for contributions and salaries was expended at 94% and 92% respectively.

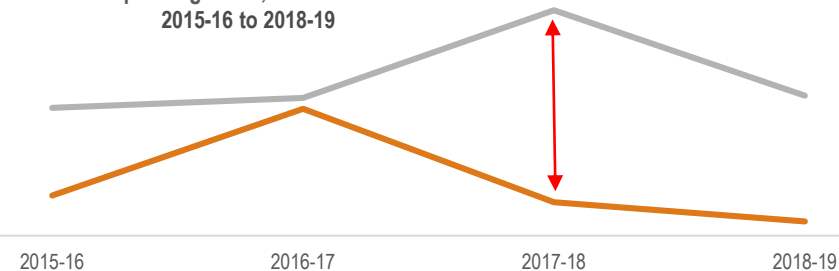
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), 2015-16 to 2018-19

FTEs	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Planned	2	2	2	2
Actual	1.52	3	2.98	1.85

A marked drop in operating expenditures occurred in 2017-2018

In 2017-18, the program spent 15% of its planned operating funds.
In 2018-19, the program spent 10% of its planned operating funds.

Annual Operating Costs, Planned and Actual
2015-16 to 2018-19



Foundational documents allocated operating funds by pillar. However, salary dollars were not broken out and the program did not track operating funds according to pillar. Therefore, it is challenging to explain the drop in operating costs. Two points are noteworthy however:

1. A reduction in operating spending was planned as the need to support Recognized Body applications under Pillar 1 ebbed.
2. Under Pillar 2, lower than planned engagement occurred which may have affected overall expenditures. External informants reported that program staff seemed unavailable to work with them on developing projects or to partake in engagement opportunities with local organizations.

Source: Chief Financial Officer, DFO



Lessons Learned

Consider multi-year contribution agreements

To utilize resources more efficiently

To enable cohesiveness of results in capacity building

To accommodate factors of geography, gender, and language

Consider simplifying the reporting requirements under contribution agreements

To reduce capacity required to administer projects

To better identify achievements of program objectives

To streamline the collection of performance data

Build capacity by engaging directly with stakeholders in local communities

Face to face interaction is the most effective method to communicate about the program

Shepherding proponents through government processes is necessary with CMAPS stakeholders

Develop a plan to build capacity that reflects updated needs assessment

Apply program management practices and resources consistently to the program

Improve training in managing contribution agreements

Provide a consistent approach to reporting requirements

Organize program files so that effective knowledge transfer can occur

Engage the knowledge and expertise of DFO regions and other government entities more fully

Facilitate access for stakeholders with low capacity and awareness of government programs

Address needs that are outside the scope of DFO with respect to the seal products industry

Increase stakeholders capacity and program effectiveness



Conclusions



The need to maintain support for market access for seal products continues. Support to enable the Indigenous exemption continues as organizations still lack capacity to operationalize Recognized Body status. Capacity to support market readiness within Indigenous communities is still needed in order to leverage the exemption, and there is a need for more work to articulate needs and design responses. The need to support commercial sector participation in marketing activities remains. As well, the need for advocacy and awareness-raising by governments and industry stakeholders to address misconceptions about seal products continues and is vital to achieving objectives.



There is a need for a collaborative approach to address challenges earlier in the value chain to fully realize CMAPS objectives. The importance of certification and tracking systems for market access extends beyond the requirements of the Indigenous exemption. For example, industry-led standards to certify sustainability are a critical component of the branding strategy. In this regard, stakeholders identified a need for updated research into harvesting techniques and population science to be eligible for certification. Demand for product exists, but there is insufficient supply. A need to establish reliable supply chains and rebuild markets is critical for all stakeholders. Clarification of trade regulations around seal products is also needed to develop markets for seal products beyond fur.

To varying degrees, the CMAPS has made progress on meeting its objectives. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment is that positive results were realized given the challenging context in which the program operates.

1

Under Pillar 1, capacity to enable the Indigenous exemption was established. Nunavut and the Northwest Territories became Recognized Bodies. However, tracking systems to support certification remain largely as they existed prior to CMAPS, and do not extend to processed products. Uncertainty over compliance with the EU regulation created challenges, and Recognized Bodies are still seeking clarification from the EU before investing in further systems development. In addition, information about the certification process has not been widely distributed, and stakeholders outside the process have limited understanding of requirements.

2

Under Pillar 2, there was some improvement in capacity to support exports. Project funding resulted in a Circumpolar Crafters' Network whose goal is to support trade and product development among crafters. Market intelligence specific to opportunities for leveraging the Indigenous exemption was obtained through direct experience and meetings. Some product development and skill-building workshops were held, but were not widespread. The key challenge in this regard is the initial underestimation of what was needed to increase capacity to leverage the Indigenous exemption.

3

Under Pillar 3, the objectives related to the broader seal products industry were well advanced. The contributions supported promotional events; participation in international trade shows; and market research. For the first time, there is a high level of consensus among industry players on a marketing strategy to securing market access, and a funding application to the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund received a high level of support from stakeholders. However, this does not replace the need for funding to support individual marketing activities.



Appendix 1: Methodology



Methodology: 5 Lines of Evidence



Data was collected using multiple lines of evidence to increase reliability and findings were corroborated by triangulated. A preliminary scan of data available revealed performance information was limited; therefore, mitigation strategies were utilized.

1. INTERVIEWS



Interviews were undertaken with CMAPS staff and management, as well as external stakeholders. Interviews were used as a means of obtaining current and ongoing needs of the stakeholders, as well as their perception of results achieved and suggestions for improving design and delivery. Interviews were held by phone and in person at the Fur Institute of Canada's 36th annual general meeting. In addition to consultations with program managers, a total of 13 interviews were conducted.

2. PROJECT FILE REVIEW



Contribution agreements, as well as associated project reports, were examined and related correspondence in order to assess the effectiveness of the program. All of the program's projects were reviewed in order to mitigate the lack of performance data.

3. DOCUMENT REVIEW



Reviewed program documents relating to planning, communications, budgeting, and performance to obtain insight into needs, programs relevance, effectiveness, and design and delivery. A total of 56 documents provided useful information to the evaluation.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW



Examined external literature provided by DFO Library Services in order to develop knowledge about CMAPS, especially the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. In addition, to mitigate the lack of interviewees from northern communities, a review of northern media outlets (e.g., CBC North, Nunatsiq News) was integrated into the literature review.

5. CASE STUDIES



Two case studies were conducted to form a single line of evidence and fill expected information gaps. The first was looking at the Fur Institute of Canada, the second was looking at pillar two of the program. Case studies focused on design and delivery, factors impacting performance, lessons learned, and GBA+ considerations.



Appendix 2: Sealing Areas in Canada



Seals are harvested in Atlantic Canada and the Arctic



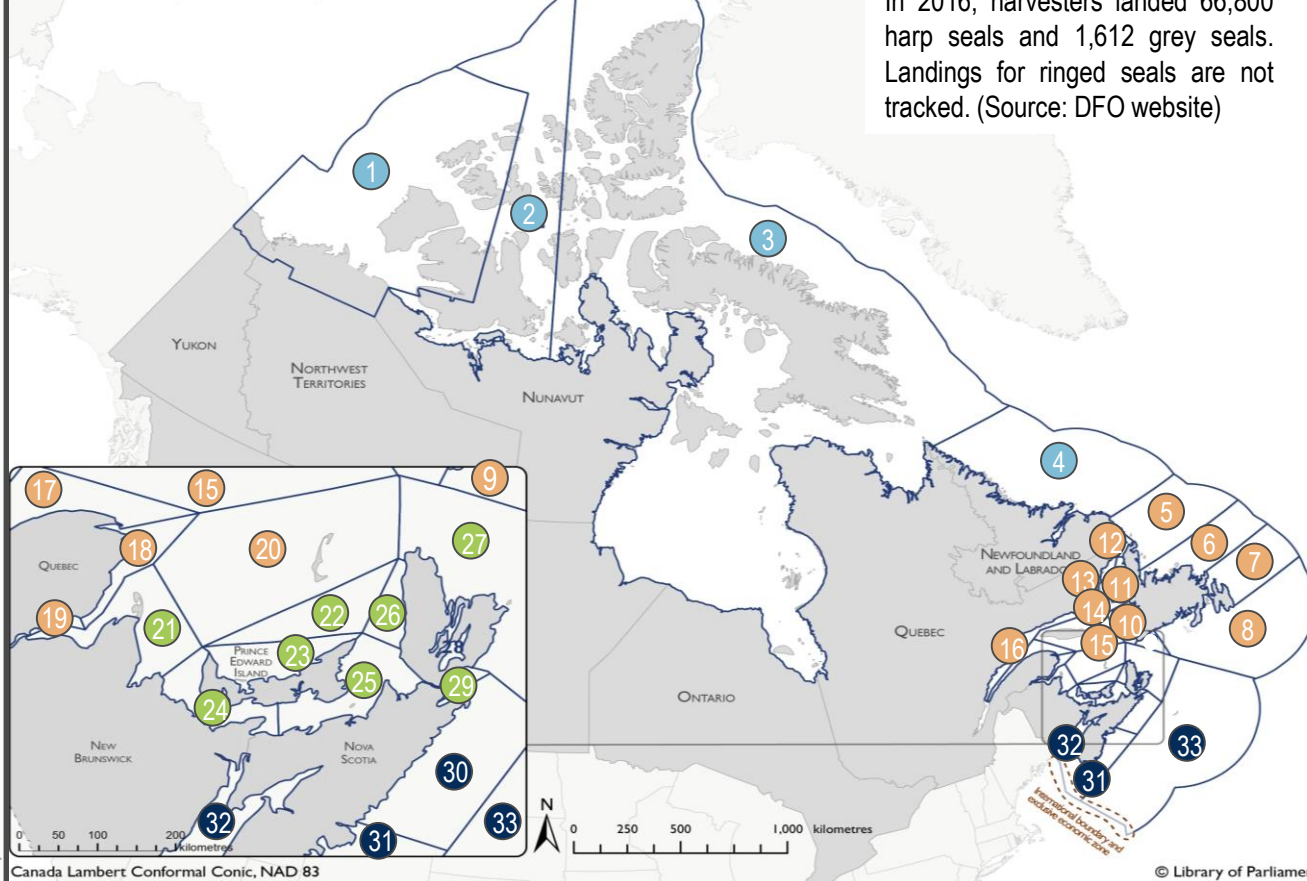
Seals are accessed by foot using snowmobiles where ice is thick and close to land, or from small vessels (under 65') among the ice floes further offshore. Rifles are used by most hunters; although the hakapik and harpoon are permitted.

Commercial harvesters require licenses and professional sealer designation. Since 1995, residents adjacent to sealing areas throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have been allowed to harvest up to six seals for their own use, and require a personal use license to do so. A total allowable catch (TAC) determines how many seals can be taken. TACs are established for hooded, harp and grey seals.

Aboriginal peoples and non-Aboriginal coastal residents who reside north of 53°N latitude can harvest seals for subsistence purposes without a license, or as determined by specific treaty rights.

Sealing Areas of Canada

(Current to 14 September 2017)



Areas 1 – 4:

- Mainly Inuit subsistence harvest of Ringed Seals (ringed and harp seals in Area 4)
- No licenses required
- No population survey for ringed seal, estimated at 1 million animals

Areas 5 -20

- Mainly licensed commercial harvest of harp (some hooded) seals
- Areas 5-7 known historically as the front
- Area 20 has increasing population of grey seals
- Personal use licenses allowed

Areas 21 –29

- Mainly licensed commercial harvest of harp seals
- High abundance of grey seals with impact on cod recovery in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence

Areas 30-33

- Grey seals TAC permitted