

### Supplementary Information

## THE REINTRUCTION OF GREY SEAL HUNTING IN SWEDEN – A REVIEW OF HUNTING AND SEAL POPULATION DATA (2001-2024)

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Table A1. Overview of grey seal hunting in Sweden from 2001 to 2024, including hunting form, region, dates, quotas, hunting bag (number of seals hunted, with percentage of quota filled) and notes on the purpose and management context of the hunt. Counties, from north to south (Figure 1): Norrbotten (1), Västerbotten (2), Västernorrland (3), Gävleborg (4), Uppsala (5), Stockholm (6), Södermanland (7), Östergötland (8), Kalmar (9), Gotland (10), Blekinge (11), and Skåne (12).

Year	Hunting form	County	From	To	Quota	Hunting bag (% of quota)	Regional (county) or national quotas	Hunting from boat in the water	Purpose and connection to fisheries	Comment
2001	Protective	1-6	Sep 26	Dec 31	150	57 (38 %)	Regional	No	Reduce damage to fishing gear and catches in the costal fishery.	≤ 50 % of the quota in each county could to be hunted before June 1.
2002	Protective	1-6	May 1	Dec 31	150	79 (53 %)	Regional	No		
2003	Protective	1-8	Apr 16	Dec 31	170	79 (47 %)	Regional	No		
2004	Protective	1-8	Apr 16	Dec 31	170	71 (42 %)	Regional	No	No connection to fishing gear, but hunting was only allowed within defined ‘damage areas’.	
2005	Protective	1-8	Apr 16	Dec 31	170	82 (48 %)	Regional	No		
2006	Protective	1-8	Apr 16	Dec 31	170	107 (63 %)	Regional	No		
2007	Protective	1-9	Apr 16	Dec 31	200	96 (48 %)	Regional	Yes	Reduce damage to fishing gear and catches in the costal fishery.	
2008	Protective	1-9	Apr 16	Dec 31	210	106 (50 %)	Regional	Yes		
2009	Protective	1-9	Apr 16	Dec 31	230	128 (56 %)	Regional	Yes	No connection to fishing gear and no defined ‘damage areas’.	

2010	Protective	1-9	Apr 16	Dec 31	230	92 (40 %)	Regional	Yes		≤ 50 % of the quota in each county could be hunted before July 1.
2011	Protective	1-9	Apr 16	Dec 31	230	72 (31 %)	Regional	Yes		
2012	Protective	1-9	Apr 16	Dec 31	230	92 (40 %)	Regional	Yes		
2013	Protective	1-9	Apr 20	Dec 31	230	102 (44 %)	Regional	Yes		
2014	Protective	1-12	Apr 16	Dec 31	290	110 (38 %)	Regional	Yes	Reduce damage to fishing gear and catches in the costal fishery.  Hunting should primarily be conducted in places affected by damage and aimed at seals causing the damage.	
2015	Protective	1-12	Apr 20	Dec 31	430 (raised from 350)	285 (66 %)	Regional	Yes	Reduce damage to fishing gear and catches in the costal fishery.  Hunting should, as far as possible, target seals observed to cause damage and occur within 50 metres of fishing gear exposed to seal-induced damage.	Original quota raised from 350 to 430 (23%)
2016	Protective	1-12	Apr 20	Dec 31	480	190 (40 %)	Regional	Yes	Reduce damage to fishing gear and catches in the costal fishery.	Original quota raised from 525 to 555 (6 %)
2017	Protective	1-12	Apr 20	Dec 31	555 (raised from 525)	263 (47 %)	Regional	Yes	Hunting only allowed within 200 meters from fishery locations and	
2018	Protective	1-12	Apr 20	Dec 31	740 (raised from 600)	499 (67 %)	Regional	Yes	where seals have caused damage to gear or catches.	

2019	Protective	1-12	Apr 20	Jan 31	1750 (raised from 1100)	1060 (61 %)	Regional	Yes	Reduce damage to fishing gear and catches in the costal fishery.  Hunting only allowed within 200 meters from fishery locations and where seals have caused damage to gear or catches.	Original quota raised from 1100 to 1750 (59%)
2020	Licensed	1-12	Apr 20	Jan 31	2000	1028 (51 %)	National	Yes	Reduce damage to fishing gear and catches and reduce negative impact on fish populations.  No connection to fishing gear.	Protective hunting in January 2022 (n=50)  No hunting May 21 – June 5
2021	Licensed	1-12	Apr 20	Jan 31	2050	944 (46 %)	National	Yes		
2022	Licensed	1-12	Apr 20	Jan 15	2000	684 (34 %)	National	Yes		
2023	Licensed	1-12	Apr 20	Jan 15	1500	727 (%)	National	Yes		
2024	Licensed	1-12	Apr 20	Jan 15	750	759 (%)	National	Yes		