

# Sustainable hunt of Harp seals and ringed seals

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# There are 5-6 seal species in Greenland

Bearded seal



Harp seal



Hooded seal



Ringed seal



Harbor seal



Grey seal



# There are 5-6 seal species in Greenland

Bearded seal



Harp seal



Hooded seal

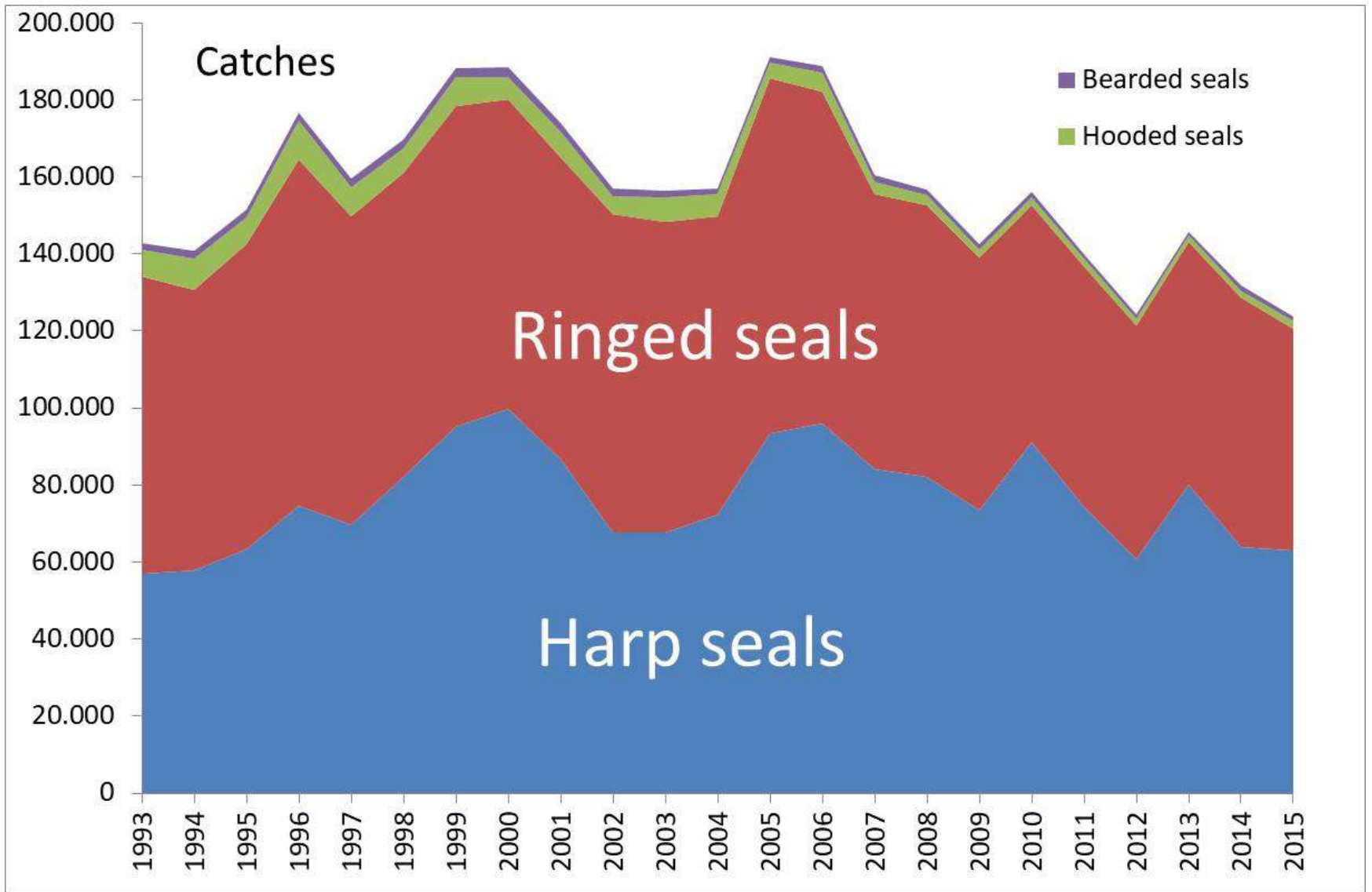


Ringed seal

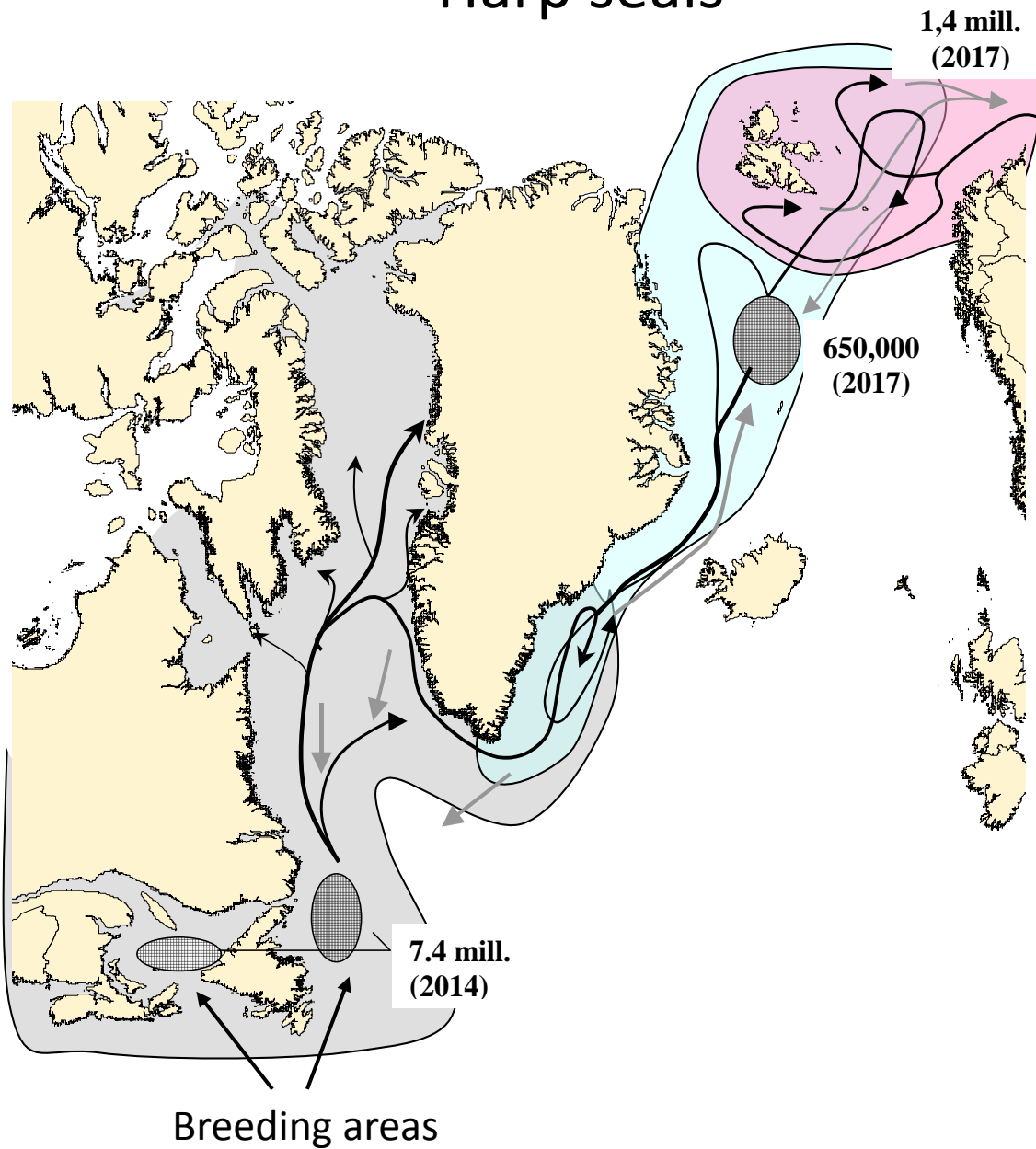


Protected





# Harp seals



The pup (whitecoat)  
Lactate for 10-12 days.



They are whitecoats for  
about a week after the  
mother has left.



Then they are ragged jackets  
for about 1-2 weeks.



Beater about 1 month +

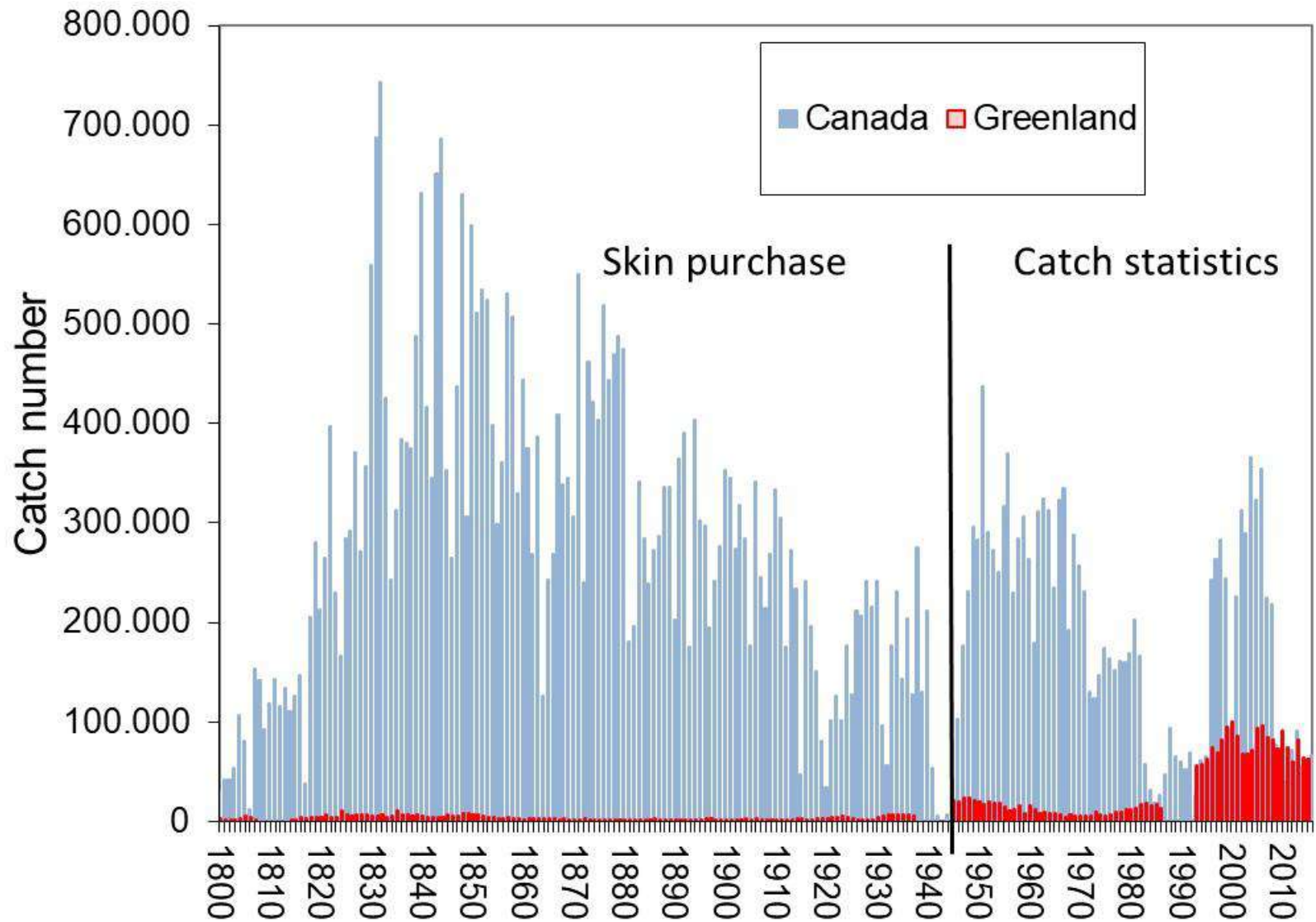


Photo Stewart Cook

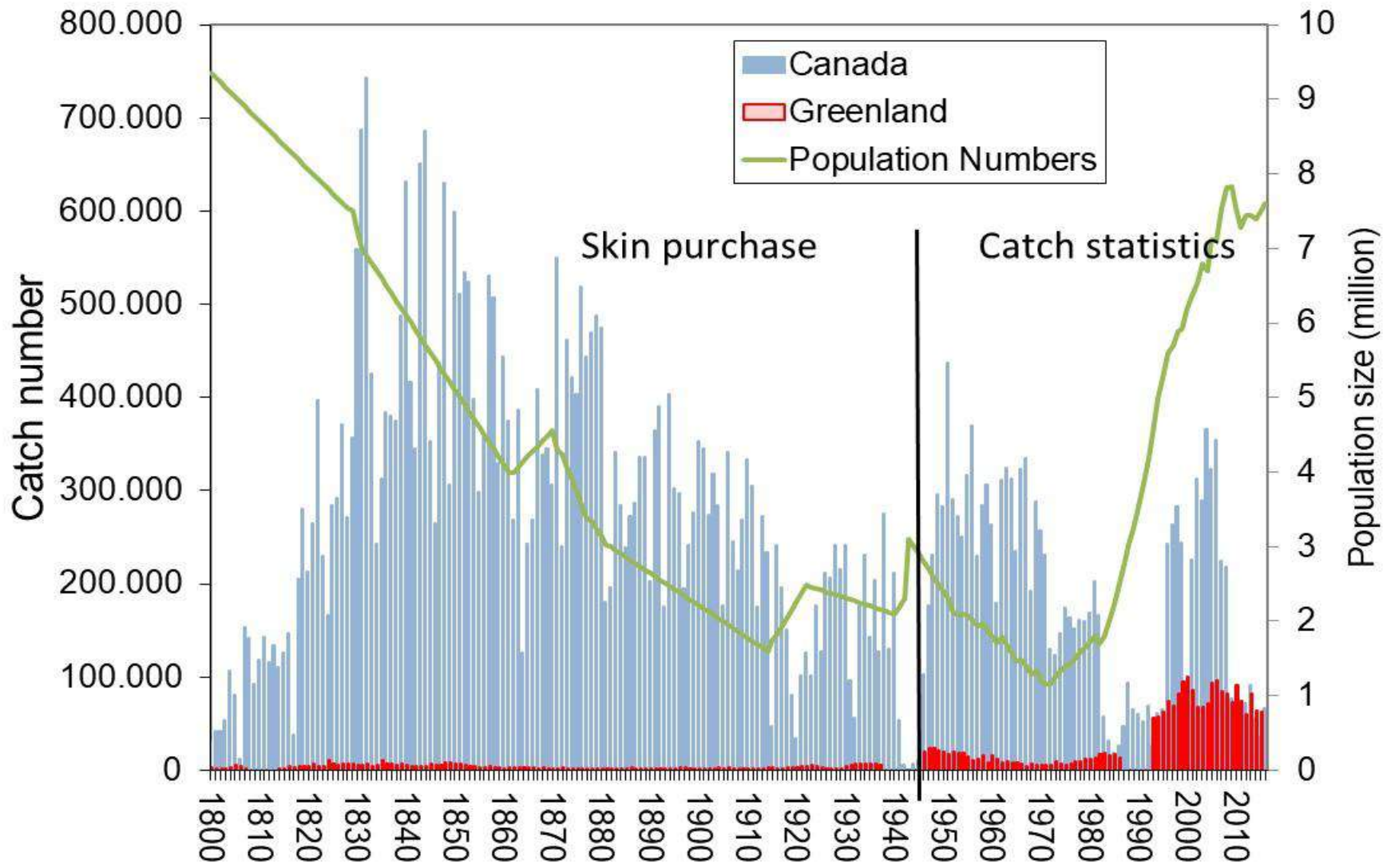
Harp seals become mature  
around 5 years of age



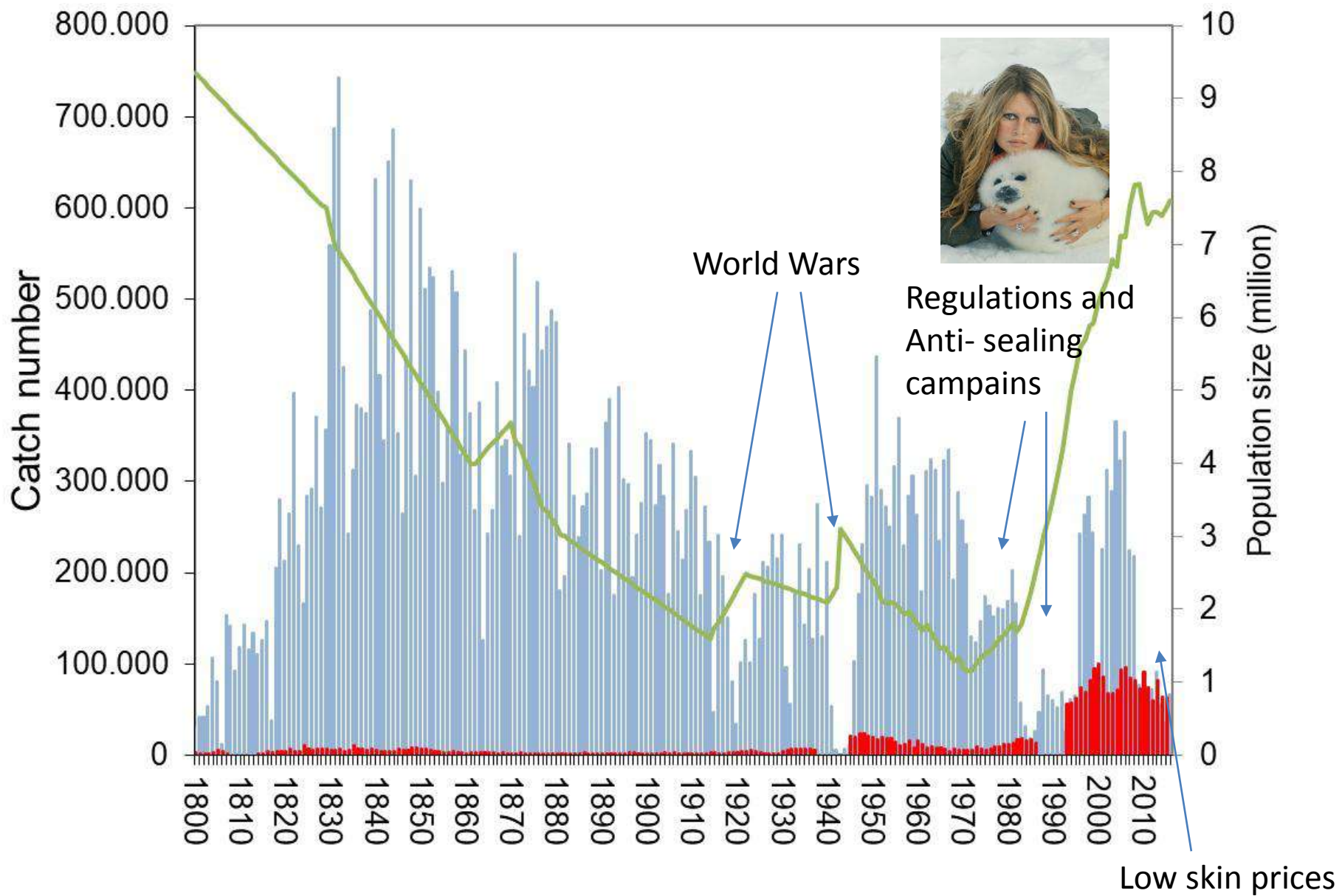
# The harp seal catch numbers in the west Atlantic



# The harp seal catch numbers in the west Atlantic







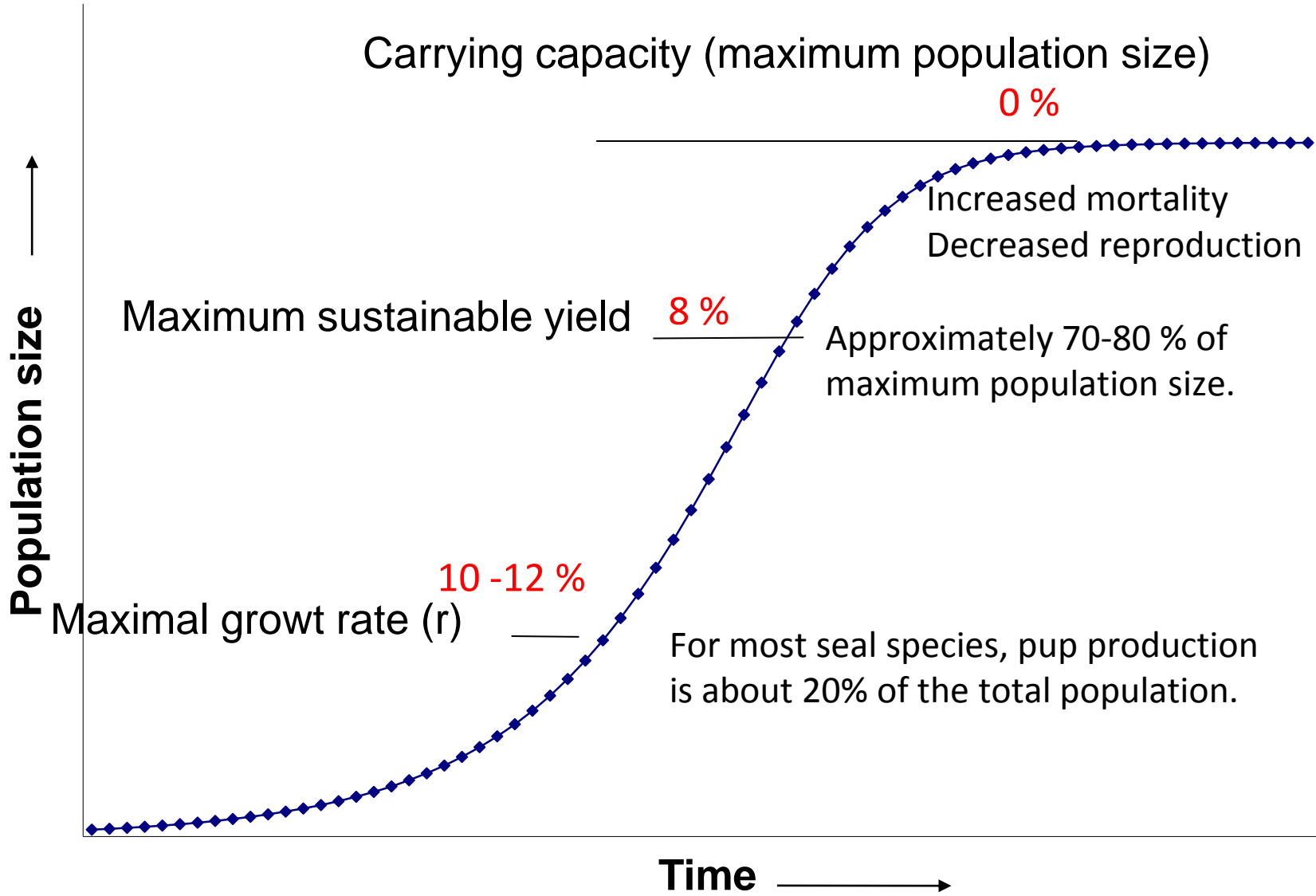
World Wars

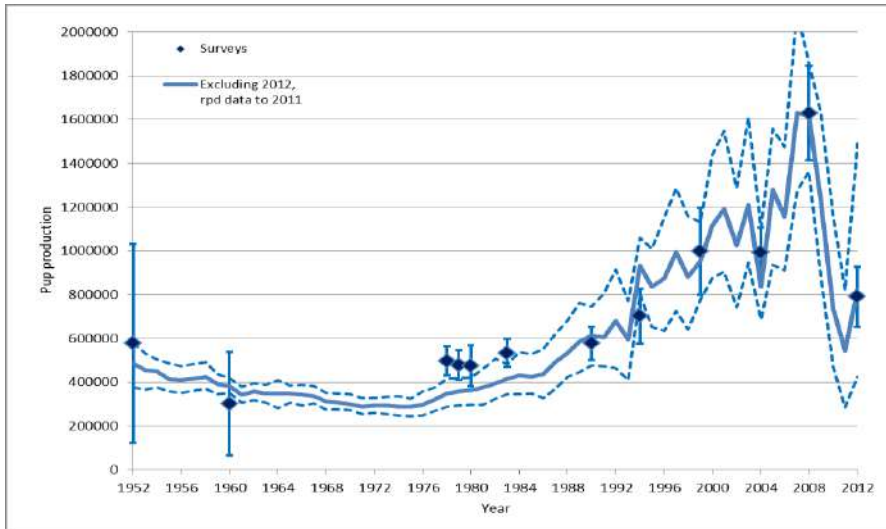
Regulations and  
Anti-sealing  
campaigns

Low skin prices

Sigmoidal increase (single species model) - seals

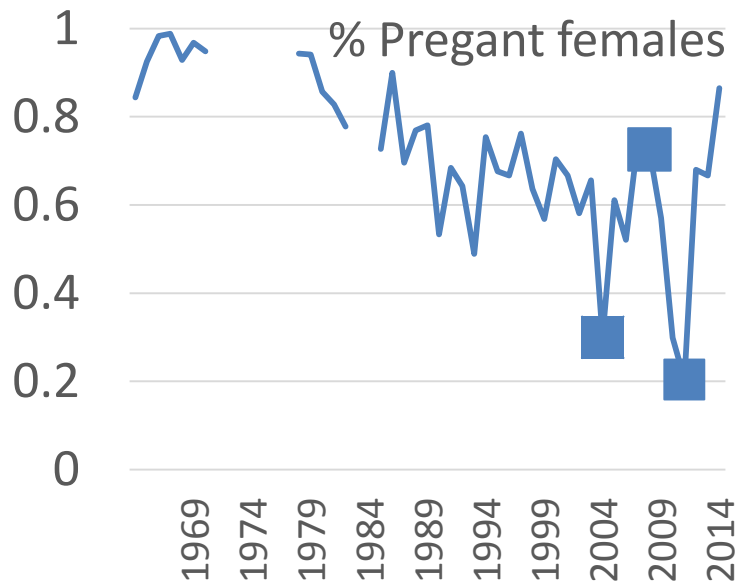
Carrying capacity (maximum population size)



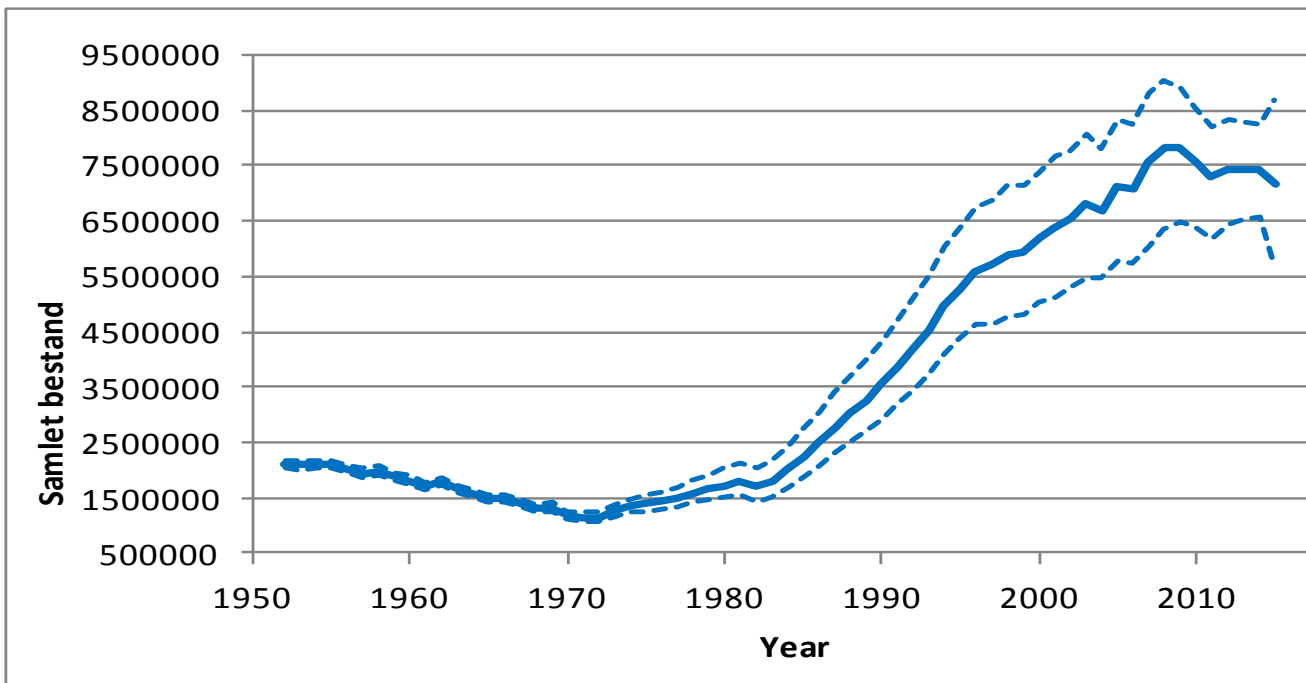


## Since 2004

Pup production have fluctuated between 800.000 and 1.6 million

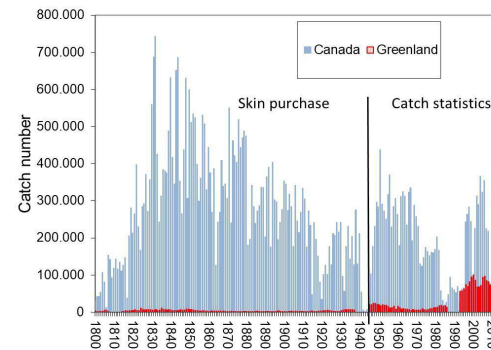
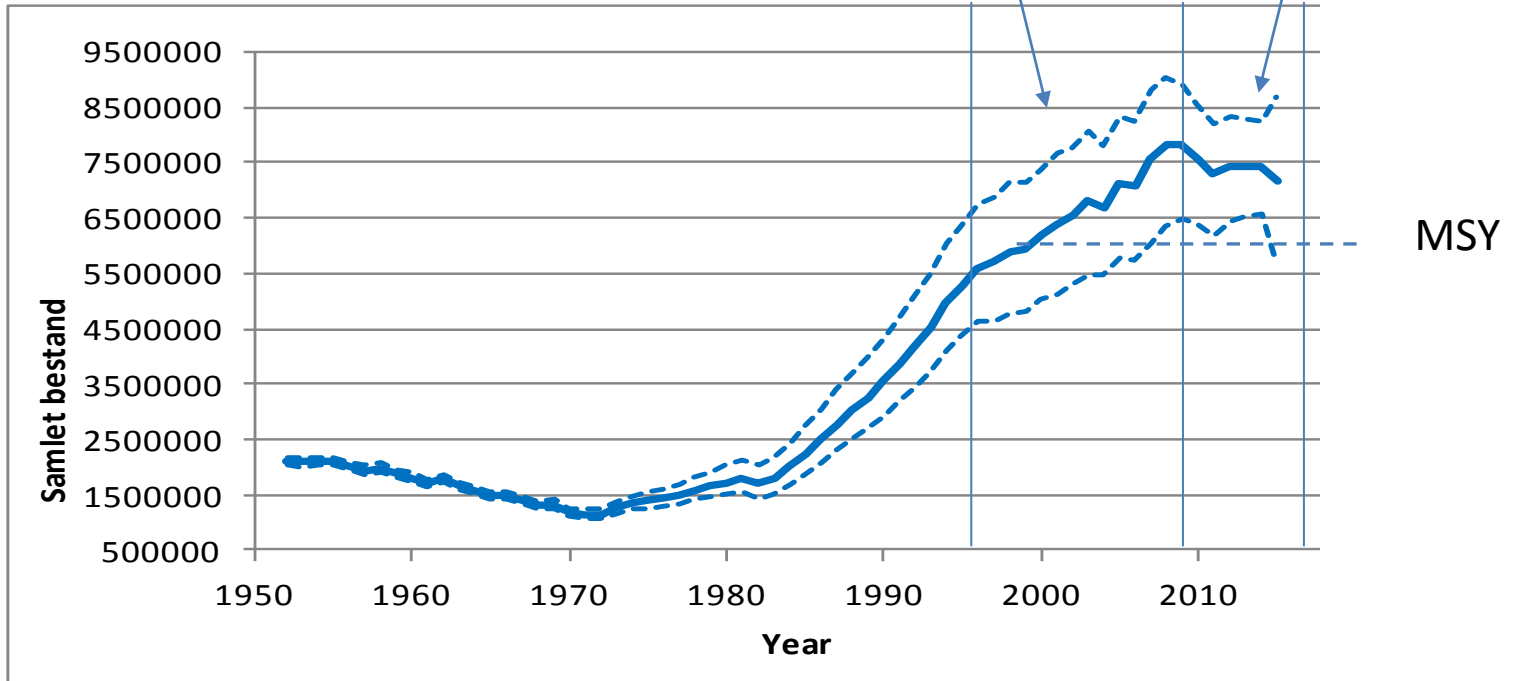


The fraction of the adult females that give birth has fluctuated between 20% and 86%



Average catch/yr.  
1996-2008  
350.000

Average catch/yr.  
2009-2016  
140.000





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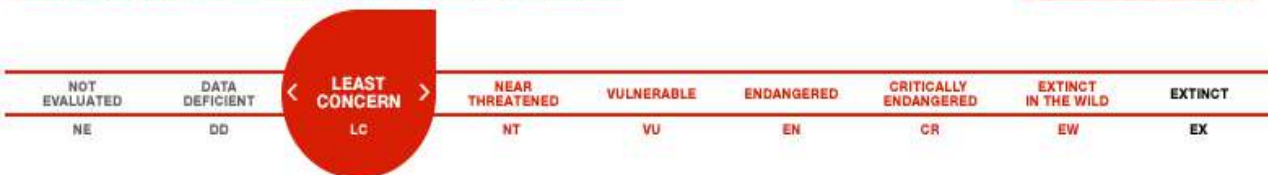
## Pagophilus groenlandicus

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41671A45231087.en>

Scope: Global

Language: English

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### Taxonomy [\[top\]](#)

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Phocidae

**Scientific Name:** *Pagophilus groenlandicus* (Erxleben, 1777)

**Regional Assessments:** [Europe](#)



**Common Name(s):**  
 English – Harp Seal, Greenland Seal  
 Spanish – Foca púa

**Synonym(s):** *Phoca groenlandica* Erxleben, 1777

**Taxonomic Notes:** The scientific name for the Harp Seal has shifted frequently in the past with generic names of *Pagophoca*, *Pagophilis* and *Phoca*, and specific names of *groenlandicus* and *groenlandica*. Berta and Churchill (2011) used the name *Pagophilis groenlandicus* and that is the name recognized by the Society of Marine Mammalogy (Committee on Taxonomy 2014). Rice (1998) recognized two subspecies, *P. g. groenlandicus* and *P. g. oceanicus*, the former breeding in the western North Atlantic off North America and also

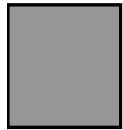
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- [Assessment Information](#)
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- [Population](#)
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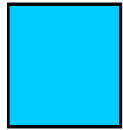
 Vælg sprog 

Ringed seals lactate for 6-7 weeks

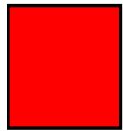




*Pusa hispida hispida*



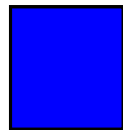
*Pusa hispida ochotensis*



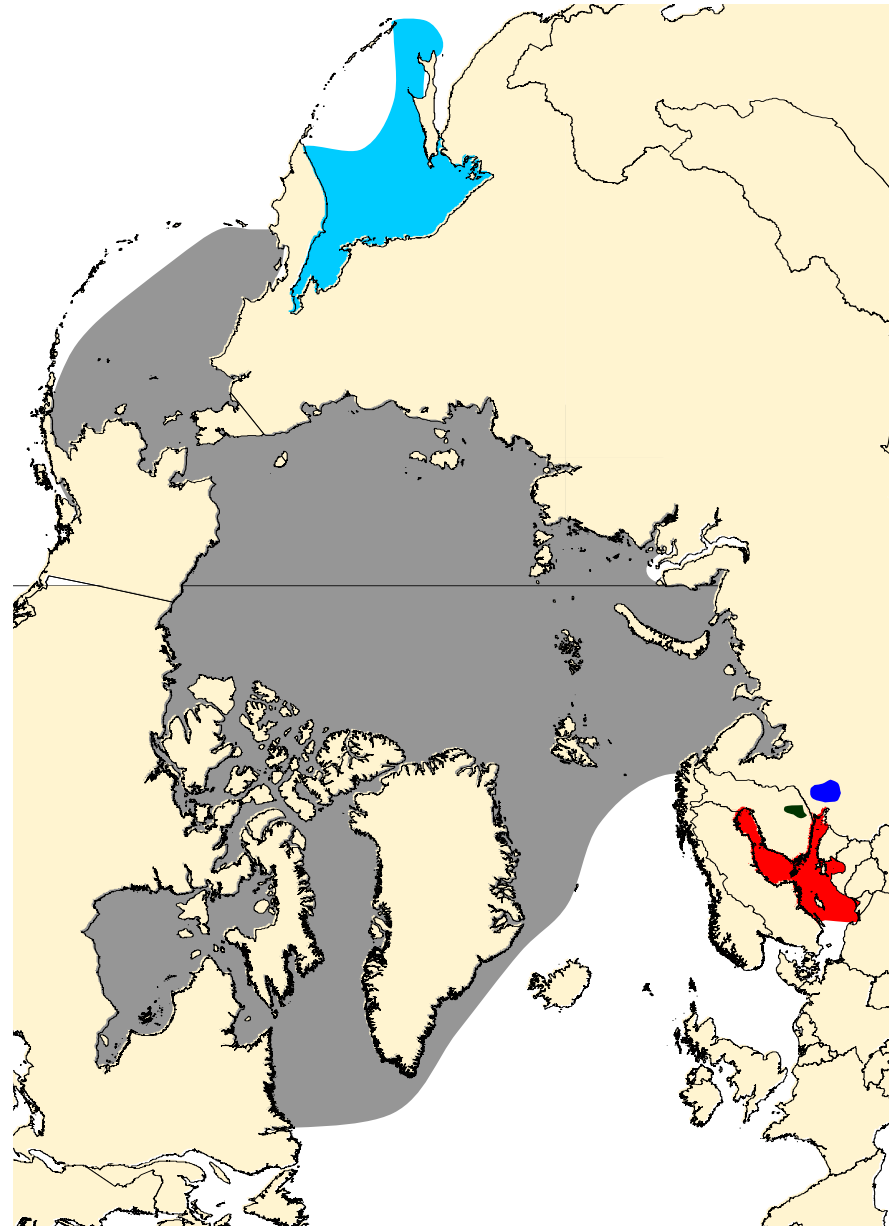
*Pusa hispida botnica*



*Pusa hispida lagodensis*



*Pusa hispida saimensis*





# Ringed seal estimates

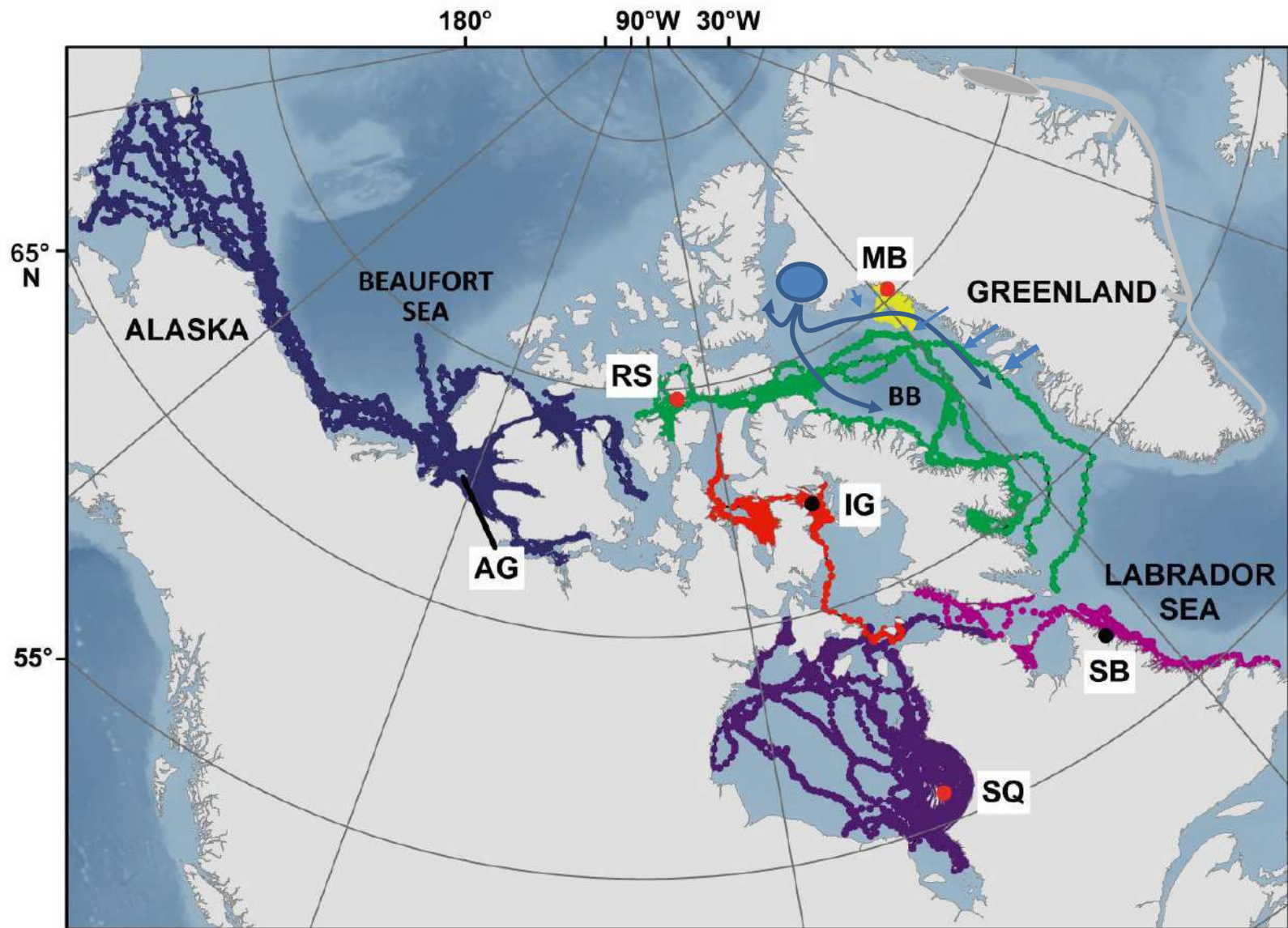
Most ringed seal surveys estimate the number of seals that haul-out on the ice during the moulting season (in May-June)

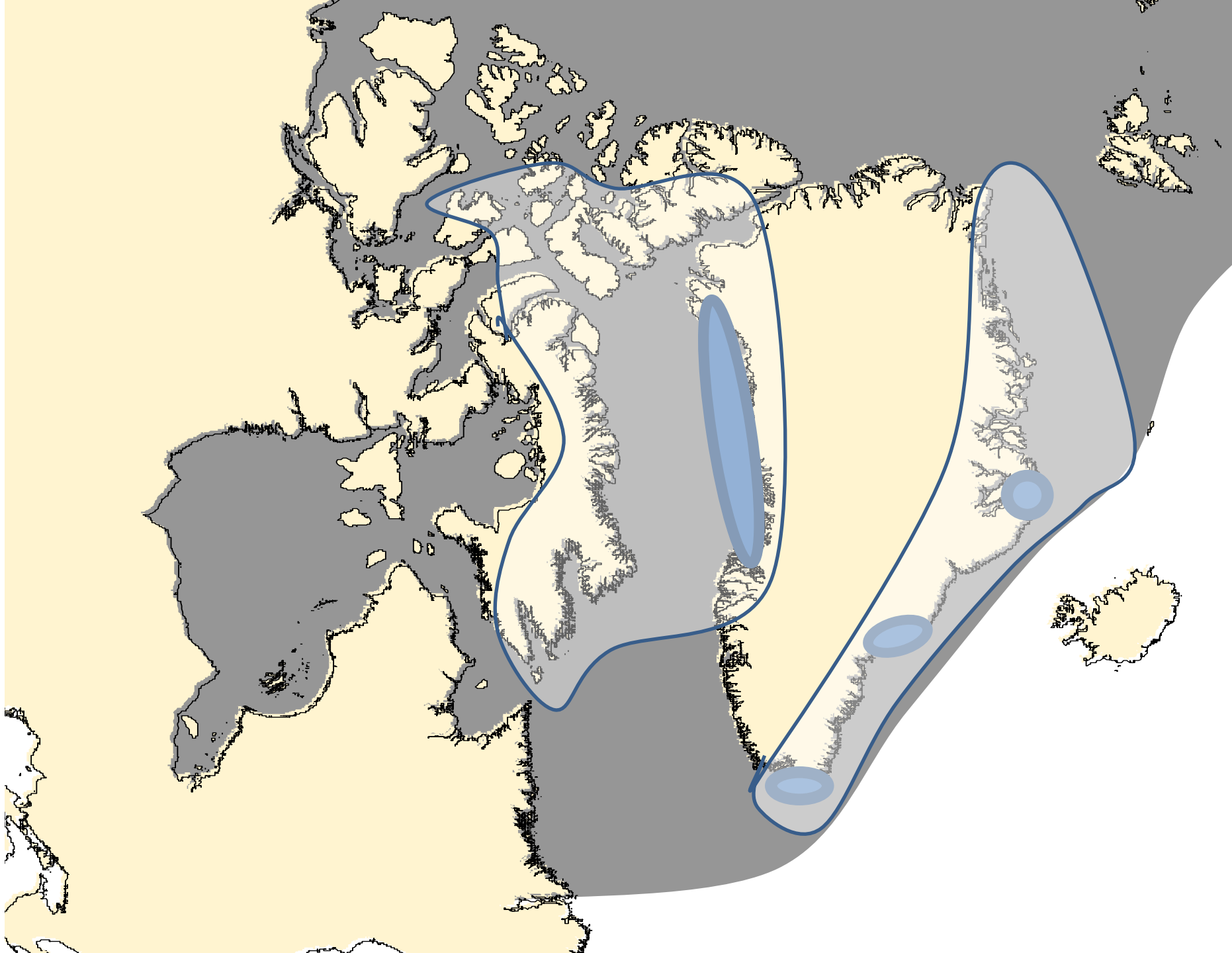
Estimates based on polar bear numbers

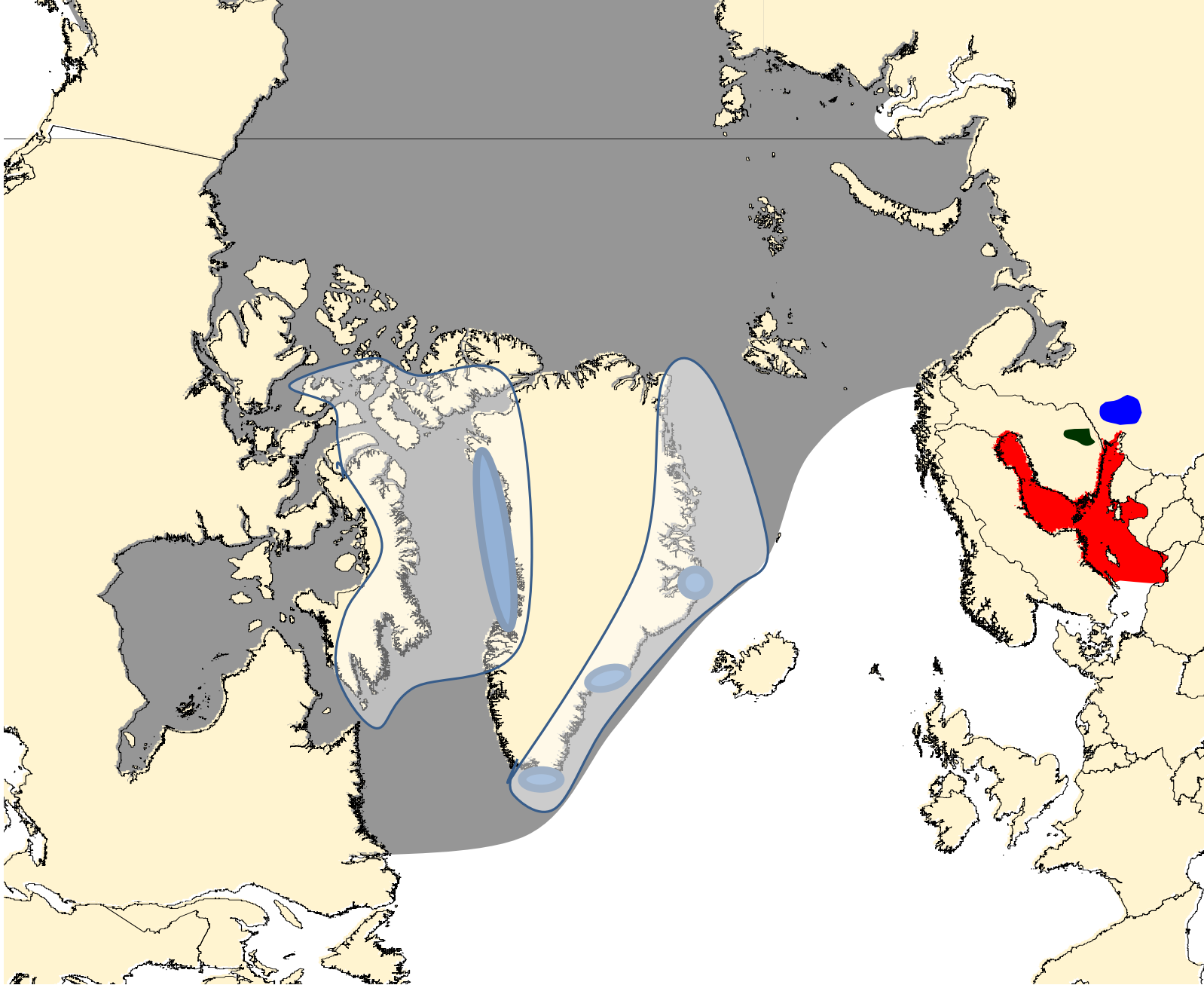
Polar bear : Ringed seals

1 : 200

25.000 : 5 million







## **Why do we think that the ringed seal hunt is sustainable?**

Ringed seals are distributed over vast areas and only hunted in a tinny fraction of their habitat.

The Greenland hunt is mainly on young seals – the adult breeding population will in most areas be undisturbed.

The present catch level in Northwest Greenland has been maintained for almost a century.



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## Pusa hispida

Scope: Europe  
Language: English



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### Taxonomy [\[top\]](#)

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Phocidae

**Scientific Name:** *Pusa hispida* (Schreber, 1775)

**Regional Assessments:** [Global](#)

**Common Name(s):**

- English – Ringed Seal, Fjord Seal, Jar Seal
- French – Phoque annelé
- Spanish – Foca Ocelada

**Synonym(s):** *Phoca hispida* Schreber, 1775

**Taxonomic Notes:** Five recognized subspecies: *hispida*; *botnica*; *ladogensis*; *saimensis*; and *ochotensis*.

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Vælg sprog | ▼



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