



Seal hunters gather their harvest on the ice floes off Canada's east coast during the annual harp seal harvest. The seals are killed humanely and the herd size has more than doubled in recent years, says Jim Winter.



Seal oil omega 3 capsules – one of the many products processed from Canada's east coast seal harvest.

Europe, parts of Canada and the US unconsciously accept attacks on their fellows in Canada, Greenland and Norway because they do not appear to harm them.

For years the Inuit fell for the same tactic, but the experience of the EU bans on certain seal products led the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to write to Angela Merkel, the German chancellor,

rejecting the Bundestag's offer to exempt Inuit from impending German bans on more seal products because: "It will hurt us."

Many in the international fur trade have also recognised the same point. They are extremely concerned and are articulating that concern.

Retail fish operations – and even general merchandisers throughout western society carrying seal products ranging from omega-3 seal oil to clothing – have been attacked by the animal rights movement though boycotts.

Many, but not all, fail to understand that today this tactic is employed by the animal rights movement by focusing on seal-based products produced by fishermen but, tomorrow, it will lead to the same tactic being employed on those who sell any animal-based products.

Seals are simply the tactic...not the goal.

**Jim Winter is a journalist and an Association of Canadian Radio and Television Artists best documentary writer award winner. He is also the founding president of the Canadian Sealers' Association.*

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