

15. In this greater reduction of the pelagic catch, compared with the gradual decrease of the herd, there is a tendency towards equilibrium, or a stage at which the numbers of the breeding herd would neither increase nor decrease. In considering the probable size of the herd in the immediate future, there remains to be estimated the additional factor of decline resulting from reductions in the number of surviving pups caused by the larger pelagic catch of 1894 and 1895.

16. The diminution of the herd is yet far from a stage which involves or threatens the actual extermination of the species, so long as it is protected in its haunts on land. It is not possible during the continuance of the conservative methods at present in force upon the islands, with the further safeguard of the protected zone at sea, that any pelagic killing should accomplish this final end. There is evidence, however, that, in its present condition, the herd yields an inconsiderable return either to the lessers of the islands or to the owners of the pelagic fleet.

(Signed)

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APPENDIX I.

STATISTICS regarding Land and Sea Killing, 1871-1897.

Year.	Date quota filled.*	Hauling grounds driven,*	Number of Drives,†	Killed on land,‡	Killed at sea.
1871	July 28 ..	46 ..	13 ..	102,060	16,911
1872	" 25 ..	43 ..	30 ..	108,819	5,356
1873	" 24 ..	51 ..	37 ..	109,177	3,229
1874	" 17 ..	61 ..	11 ..	110,585	3,873
1875	" 16 ..	55 ..	37 ..	106,160	3,032
1876	August 1 †	36 ..	30 ..	94,657	3,515
1877	July 14 ..	14 ..	32 ..	84,310	3,210
1878	" 18 ..	54 ..	35 ..	109,323	5,544
1879	" 16 ..	71 ..	36 ..	110,411	8,557
1880	" 17 ..	78 ..	38 ..	105,718	8,418
1881	" 20 ..	99 ..	34 ..	105,063	10,382
1882	" 20 ..	86 ..	36 ..	99,812	15,551
1883	" 19 ..	81 ..	39 ..	79,509	16,557
1884	" 21 ..	101 ..	42 ..	105,434	16,971
1885	" 27 ..	106 ..	63 ..	105,024	23,040
1886	" 26 ..	117 ..	74 ..	104,521	28,494
1887	" 24 ..	101 ..	66 ..	105,760	30,628
1888	" 27 ..	102 ..	73 ..	103,304	26,189
1889	" 31 ..	110 ..	74 ..	102,617	29,858
1890	" 20 §	87 ..	55 ..	28,059	40,814
1891	" ..	(¶)	()	12,040	59,568
1892	" ..	(¶)	(¶)	7,511	46,642
1893	" ..	(¶)	(¶)	7,396	30,812
1894	" August 1 ..	..	..	16,270	61,838
1895	" July 27 ..	..	..	14,846	56,291
1896	" 27 ..	31 ..	21 ..	28,964	43,917
1897	" August 7 ..	42 ..	27 ..	20,890	25,079(¶)

* These figures refer to the hauling grounds of St. Paul.

† These totals include all males killed for any purpose on the islands.

‡ In 1876 the killing was begun at an unusual date, said to be on account of an exceptionally late season.

§ Closed by order of the agent in charge.

¶ Years of the *modus vivendi*.

¶ As reported to date.