

THE IN-SHORE COD FISHERIES IN THE NORTH HAVE FAILED SEVERAL YEARS IN SUCCESSION AND THE IN-SHORE FISHERMEN BLAME PARTLY THE FREEZER TRAWLERS (NORWEGIAN AND FOREIGN) AND PARTLY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF SEAL THAT INVADE THE NORTHERN COASTLINE EVERY YEAR. INDEED, THERE IS A GROWING FEELING THAT THE RECORD INVASION OF SEAL OVER THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS MAY POSE A THREAT TO THE ECONOMY OF NORTHERN NORWAY, WHICH IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE FISHERIES, AND LAST YEAR SAW A HIGH NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES IN THE INDUSTRY. HOWEVER, IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR (1988) AND AGAIN THIS SPRING, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF GOOD CATCHES OF COD IN THE BARENTS SEA FOR BOTH THE IN-SHORE AND THE OFF-SHORE FLEET. TRAWLER SKIPPERS HAVE REPORTED OF LARGE, FAT COD, WHICH IS CONTRARY TO FINDINGS BY RESEARCH VESSELS EARLIER LAST YEAR. THE COD IS EATING LOTS OF CAPELIN AND HAS A VERY FAT LIVER, ACCORDING TO FISHERMEN.