

Commercial Utilization

With a sound approach that ensures responsible, efficient management of the seal resource, the sealing industry remains bright. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada encourage the fullest possible commercial use of seals, including oil, handicrafts, meat and leather.

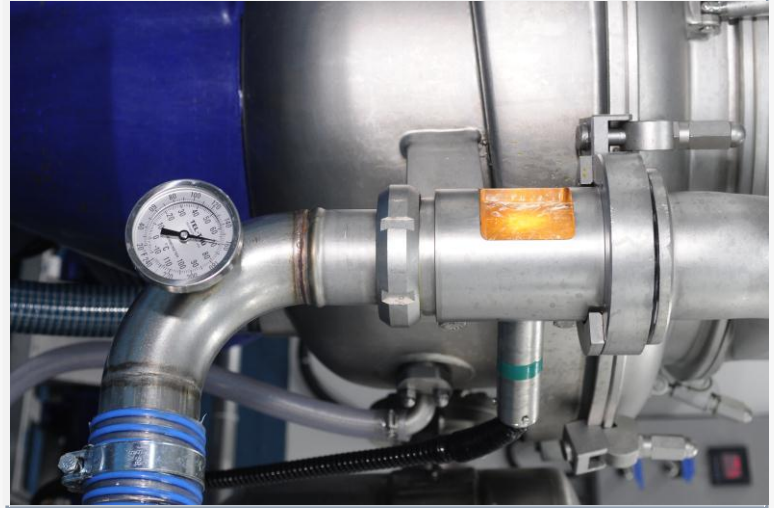
Seal oil and seal meat are high quality, versatile, and exceptionally nutritious products. Their potential as health food supplements and pharmaceutical ingredients is enormous, and holds great promise for further development. Seal skin products have the greatest potential in Far Eastern markets where demand has developed for the high-quality products available from Newfoundland and Labrador. The leather is top-notch, and new uses are also being explored for the fur. Scientific research has shown success in the use of seal heart valves as replacements for defective human heart valves.

Seal Meat

Although recently introduced to world markets, seal meat is recognized for its dark, rich meat which is high in iron and protein and contains many of the nutritional benefits of fish. Other value-added products include seal salami, pepperoni, sausages and entrées. The by-products of seal are also a proven source of high-quality protein for animal feeds and domestic pet food.

Seal Pelts

Researchers are discovering that seal leather is suitable for just about any product that requires high-quality leather. It is extremely supple and thin, with high tensile strength and a tendency to age very well. Seal fur continues to be popular in the garment industry. Seal fur can be used in all types of articles currently made with “traditional” furs to produce high-quality and distinctive finished goods. Fur produced from seal pelts has a variety of applications in the garment industry, particularly for hats and coats.



At current harvest levels, the maximum supply of seal hides is relatively limited; therefore seal fur will continue to be in high demand and a valued commodity in world fur markets.

Seal Oil

One of the most exciting potentials for seal oil can be found in the pharmaceutical and health food industries. Seal oil is rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, substances which have been generally recognized for their health benefits. DPA, one of these fatty acids, holds the most promise as it is linked to improved cardiovascular health. Currently seal oil is the most abundant source of DPA.

The beneficial health effects of Omega-3 include the lowering of triglyceride and cholesterol levels. In addition, Omega-3 fatty acids are essential for normal growth and development and may play a role in the prevention and treatment of hypertension, arthritis, inflammatory and autoimmune disorders, diabetes, and cancer of the breast and prostate. These positive health effects are creating a marketing edge for seal oil products. Seal oil capsules are one of several ongoing product development and commercialization efforts to diversify the sealing industry.