

Most Canadians back seal hunt: poll

NUNATSIAQ NEWS

More than four in five Canadians support the Inuit seal hunt, according to a poll sponsored by the Fur Institute of Canada and the governments of Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

The poll, conducted April 12-18 by TNS Canadian Facts, revealed 82 per cent of Canadians support the Inuit seal hunt, while 85 per cent believe seals should be managed to protect fish stocks.

Seventy-five per cent of those polled said they believe both Inuit and non-Inuit seal hunters respect animal welfare. The same amount of people surveyed think Canada's harp seal population is much lower than the estimated 6.9 million animals.

Just 16 per cent of respondents said they oppose all forms of seal hunting.

"The results of this study clearly demonstrate that Canadians are distinguishing enough to see beyond the sensationalist propaganda of anti-sealing lobby groups," said Daniel Shewchuk, Nunavut's environment minister, in a news release.

The results are drawn from an omnibus telephone survey of 1,017 Canadians. The margin of error is 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.