



Statutes in Force

Official Revised Edition

Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act 1912

(2 and 3 Geo. 5 c. 10)

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SEAL FISHERIES (NORTH PACIFIC) ACT 1912 (c. 10)

Ss. 1-3

An Act to make such provisions with respect to the prohibition of catching Seals and Sea Otters in certain parts of the Pacific Ocean, and for the enforcement of such prohibitions, as are necessary to carry out a Convention between His Majesty the King and the United States of America, the Emperor of Japan, and the Emperor of All the Russias. [7th August 1912]

Act made permanent: Expiring Laws Act 1931 (c. 2), ss. 1, 3, Sch. 1

Whereas a Convention has been entered into between His Majesty and the United States of America, the Emperor of Japan, and the Emperor of All the Russias with respect to the prohibition of pelagic sealing in certain parts of the Pacific Ocean, and it is desirable that such amendments of the law should be made as will enable effect to be given to that Convention:

1. The seas with respect to which an Order in Council may be made under the Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act 1895, prohibiting the killing, taking, and hunting of seals therein shall include the seas within such part of the Pacific Ocean as is north of the thirtieth parallel of north latitude, including the seas of Behring, Kamchatka, Okhotsk and Japan, . . .¹

Extension of area within which pelagic sealing may be prohibited. 1895 c. 21.

2. His Majesty in Council shall have the like power of making Orders in Council under the said Act as amended by this Act with respect to the killing, taking, and hunting of sea otters within such part of the Pacific Ocean as aforesaid as with respect to the killing, taking, and hunting of seals, and that Act as so amended shall apply accordingly.

Power to prohibit killing and hunting of sea otters.

3.—(1) If any person uses any port within the United Kingdom for the purpose of equipping any ship intended to be used or employed in killing, taking, or hunting seals in contravention of any such Order as aforesaid, he shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to be dealt with as if such offence were an offence declared to be a misdemeanour by the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, and the ship and her equipment and everything on board thereof shall be subject to forfeiture to His Majesty.

Prohibition of using ports for purposes of pelagic sealing contrary to Order. 1894 c. 60.

(2) If the Secretary of State is satisfied that there is reasonable cause for believing that a ship has been or is being equipped contrary to this section, the Secretary of State may authorise the Board of Trade, or any officer of the Board, to seize and detain the ship. Where such an authority is given, the ship may be seized and detained in like manner as if it were liable to seizure and detention under the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 1907.

¹Words amend Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act 1895 (c. 21), s. 7(2)

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(3) For the purposes of this section, “equipping” in relation to a ship shall include the furnishing of a ship with any tackle, apparel, furniture, provisions, munitions, fuel or stores, or any other thing which is used in or about a ship for the purpose of fitting or adapting her for the sea or for killing, taking, or hunting seals.

Functions of Board of Trade now exercisable concurrently by Secretary of State: S.I. 1970/1537, art. 2(1)

Prohibition of importation of skins of seals captured in contravention of Order.

4. Skins of seals taken in contravention of any such Order as aforesaid, and skins of seals identified as being of the species known as *Callorhinus alascanus*, *Callorhinus ursinus*, and *Callorhinus kurilensis*, and belonging to the American, Russian, or Japanese herds, except such as are taken under the authority of the respective Powers to which the breeding grounds of such herds belong and have been officially marked and certified as having been so taken, [are hereby prohibited to be imported].

Power to extend certain provisions outside the United Kingdom.

5.—(1) His Majesty may by Order in Council extend the provisions of the last two foregoing sections to any part of His Majesty’s dominions outside the United Kingdom to any British protectorate . . .², subject to such modifications and adaptations as may appear to him to be necessary:

Provided that those provisions shall not be so extended to a self-governing dominion except with the consent of the Governor General in Council or Governor in Council of the dominion.

(2) For the purposes of this section, “self-governing dominion” means the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, . . .³

Short title and construction.
1895 c. 21.

6. This Act may be cited as the Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act 1912, and shall be construed with the Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act 1895; and that Act and this Act may be cited together as the Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Acts 1895 and 1912.

¹Words substituted by Customs and Excise Act 1952 (c. 44), Sch. 10 Pt. II para. 21

²Words repealed by Cyprus Act 1960 (c. 52), Sch. para. 12

³Words repealed by Newfoundland (Consequential Provisions) Act 1950 (c. 5), Sch. Pt. II and South Africa Act 1962 (c. 23), Sch. 5