A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of family Phocidae in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Mammalia

1.2 Carnivora (suborder Pinnipedia)

1.3 Phocidae

1.4 Genera *Monachus*, *Leptomychotes*, *Hydrurga*, *Ommatophoca*, *Mirounga*, *Cystophora*, *Pusa*, *Pagophilus*, *Halichoerus* und *Phoca* mit insgesamt 13 Arten:

a. *Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779)
b. *Monachus tropicalis* (Gray, 1850)
c. *Leptomychotes weddelli* (Lesson, 1826)
d. *Leptomychotes carcinophagus* (Jacquinot & Pucheran, 1842)
e. *Hydrurga leptonyx* (Blainville, 1820)
f. *Ommatophoca rossi* Gray, 1844
g. *Mirounga leonina* (Linnè, 1758)
h. *Mirounga angustirostris* (Gill, 1866)
i. *Cystophora cristata* (Erxleben, 1777)
k. *Pusa hispida* (Schreber, 1775)
l. *Pagophilus groenlandicus* (Erxleben, 1777)
m. *Halichoerus grypus* (Fabricius, 1791)
n. *Phoca vitulina* Linnè, 1758

(Another 5 species cannot be included in Appendix II, since they do not cross national boundaries on migration.)

1.5 Common names for the family Phocidae:

Earless seals (English)
Robben (German)
Phocidés (French)
Focas (Spanish)

- for single species:

a. Mediterranean monk seal (English)
Mittelmeer-Mönchsrobbe (German)
Phoque moine (French)

b. Caribbean monk seal (English)
Karibische Mönchsrobbe (German)
Phoque des Indes occidentales (French)

c. Weddell's seal (English)
Weddell-Robbe (German)
Phoque de Weddell (French)

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d. Crab-eater seal (English)
Krabbenesser (German)
Phoque crabier (French)

e. Leopard seal (English)
Seeleopard (German)
Phoque léopard (French)

f. Ross seal (English)
Ross-Robbe (German)
Phoque de Ross (French)

g. Southern elephant seal (English)
Südlicher See-Elefant (German)
Éléphant de mer du Sud (French)

h. Northern elephant seal (English)
Nördlicher See-Elefant (German)
Éléphant de mer du Nord (French)

i. Hooded or bladdernosed seal (English)
Klappmütze (German)
Phoque à capuchon (French)

k. Ringed or floe seal (English)
Ringelrobbe (German)
Phoque annelé (French)

l. Harp seal (English)
Sattelrobbe (German)
Phoque du Groenland (French)

m. Grey or Atlantic seal (English)
Kegelrobbe (German)
Tête de cheval (French)

n. Harbour or common seal (English)
Seerobbe (German)
Phoque veau-marin, phoque commun (French)

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution: Seals included in the list under 1.4 inhabit cold and temperate waters of coasts and open seas of the northern and southern hemisphere. Beside the species with extended ranges (c, d, e, f, i, k, l, m, n) there are those which inhabit very limited ranges (a, b, g, h). Species which may be the subject of regional agreements occur in the following waters:

a. Parts of the northern Mediterranean coast, coast of NW Africa;

b. Coasts of the Caribbean states; the latest proofs came from Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti (for the most part, however, the species is already extinct);

c. to f. Round the Antarctic as far as the edge of the southern ocean.

g. Southern Georgia, Falkland Islands, Kerguelen Islands, Macquarie, and several other islands, which are situated north of the Antarctic Polar Oceans;

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h. Today only coasts of Galapagos Islands, Guadeloupe and some Californian islands, formerly also coasts of California as far as south Alasca;

i. Waters round the North Pole;

k. Very widely distributed over the northern oceans;

l. Widely distributed from Greenland to the oceans of Northern Europe and North America;

m. Coastal waters and islands of the North Atlantic Ocean, to the south, as far as the British and French coasts as well as the Baltic Sea, also Labrador and Newfoundland;

n. Coastal waters of the northern hemisphere, to the south as far as N Europe, N California and Japan, the overall range being split into some populations which are separated from each other (one of these separate populations e.g. is the harbour seal population of the Wadden Sea in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands).

2.2 Population: The populations of the species listed under 1.4 are very different, ranging from small residual populations, which are threatened with extinction, to populations of very frequent occurrence. The latter are mostly such species as are exploited for their fur or whose isolated partial populations (in some cases subspecies) are threatened in number. In most cases, there is only insufficient information available on the populations of the various species. The characteristic features of the populations can be summed up as follows:

a. A remainder of some hundred animals, distributed over some separately living populations;

b. Only some residual specimens, or the species is already extinct;

c., d. and e. Larger populations still existing; the species d. (L. carcinophagus) is the most frequent southern seal with a population of ca. 10 million animals (growing tendency in the 20th century);

f. The overall population only comprises ca. 20 thousand individuals; according to some sources, however, it is said to be higher (estimated up to a max. of 220,000);

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g. In some parts of its former range the species is already extinct; other populations are declining; only a few partial populations are constant in number;

h. There is only one residual population left, consisting of some scattered herds, which mostly do not have any contact with each other. It was possible to raise the number from about 50 to now ca. 1,500 individuals by carrying out specific protection measures;

i. There is still a population of 300 - 500,000 animals, which, however, shows a clearly (in some areas drastically) declining tendency;

k. There are still larger populations, which are estimated to range between 1 and 7 million animals; strong local fluctuations in number;

l. Formerly 3.3 million animals; now the population has decreased to about 1 million;

m. Owing to intensive exploitation, population numbers have considerably fallen off, now comprising ca. 33,000 animals (according to other estimates, ca. 90,000 animals);

n. The present overall population still amounts to ca. 390,000 individuals (some sources give higher numbers); a few partial populations have, however, strongly decreased as a result of human interference.

2.3 Habitat: All seals of the family Phocidae are aquatic, only coming out of the water to breed and rest. They occur in coastal and deep waters, estuaries, rivers and, in a few cases, on land-locked lakes.

2.4 Migrations: Except for those few species of the family which have not been considered here, all seal populations listed under 1.4 go on migrations, in the course of which the overall populations, entire partial populations or a considerable part of the populations cross national boundaries. Migrations of the 13 species can be characterized as follows:

a. Migrations are less typical than with other species, but take place in the border waters between France and Italy, between Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia and Turkey as well as in coastal areas of the states adjoining the Black Sea;

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b. Little studied, in particular since today's population is only very small; it may be possible that migrations take place between Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti;

c. Migrations in coastal and international waters round the Antarctic;

d. Also migrating in the Antarctic waters, but going much farther north (on ice floes) as far as the coasts of Australia, New Zealand and South America;

e. Outer zone of the South Polar drift-ice as far as some of the South Pacific islands (e.g. Heard Islands);

f. Inner drift-ice zone round the Antarctic;

g. Typical migrations between winter range and breeding places as well as to resting zones (moulting) and feeding grounds;

h. Migrations in costal waters between the USA, Mexico, and Canada are likely to have ceased; they could, however, be resumed after the residual populations will again have increased in number;

i. Extended migrations on the drift-ice in the North Atlantic ocean; individuals even migrate as far as Portugal and Florida (partly joint migrations with the harp seal);

k. Some of the separately living partial populations go on long-range migrations, e.g. those of the polar sea (between the USSR, Norway, Iceland and Greenland) as well as those of the Baltic Sea (Sweden, Finland, USSR);

l. Typical migrations to the whelping places as well as in search for food (the animals follow migrating fish);

m. and n. Some of the partial populations go on regular migrations between winter quarters, whelping places and feeding grounds.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threat to the population: Several species are commercially exploited on a large scale (skins, leather, meat, oil, etc.); some are persecuted by fishermen. The annual bag is estimated as follows:

i. 1960s - 75,000 p.a., late 1970s - 35,000, has since declined;

k. 150,000 p.a.;

l. 1820 - 1860 - around 500,000 p.a., ave. 20,000 late 1970s, has since declined;

m. Now only a few hundreds p.a.;

n. 16,000 - 22,000 p.a.

Formerly other species were exploited as well, but declines in the populations (and growing demands of the consumers) finally put a stop

to utilization. The extent of control (persecution by fishermen) is difficult to estimate. But it is doubtlessly one of the factors which is responsible for the two monk seal species being on the brink of extinction. Until recently hunting also had a limited negative influence on the populations of the harbour seals.

3.2 Habitat destruction: In some areas, e.g. in Europe (Mediterranean, Black Sea, North Sea) as well as in Central America (Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Ocean) the destruction of suitable habitats, especially of reproduction areas, exerts a decisive influence on the decline in populations. Oil pollution and other types of sea pollution also play an important role (although there are no quantitative data available to prove the significance of these factors). Data on changes in the Arctic and Antarctic habitats are not available at all.

3.3 Indirect threat: It was established that the organo-chloride substances and heavy metals accumulated in seal organisms as well as the disturbance of the animals by noise, aquatic sports and boat trips (in particular during the whelping and sucking period from June to August) have a negative influence on the harbour seal population of the North Sea. The former factor should also play a role in the development of the populations of other seal species. Massive exploitation of young seals (pups) of some species leads to a change in the population structure (i.a. in the age structure), which can adversely affect further development of the population.

3.4 Threat especially connected with migrations: Not studied.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status: Countries recorded by the IUCN Law Centre and other sources as having legislation concerning Phocidae, including those species currently listed in the Appendices of CITES:

Australia, Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Falklands/ Malvinas, Finland, France, German Dem. Rep., Germany, Fed. Rep. of, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America, USSR.

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4.2 International protection status: There are a number of international agreements relating to Phocidae. These include (short title):

- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (CCEWNH)
- Convention Benelux en Matière de Chasse et de Protection des Oiseaux (Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands)
- Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS)
- Antarctic Treaty
- African Convention
- Canadian/Norwegian Sealing Commission
- Norwegian/Soviet Sealing Commission
- ICNAF

All species are included in Appendix II of the Washington Convention, some (Mirounga angustirostris, Monachus spp.) in Appendix I.

4.3 Additional protection needs: Seals require two different types of protection measures, which are to be laid down in the future regional agreements: such species whose populations are threatened with extinction, endangered or strongly declining require suitable measures for maintaining or multiplying the population (incl. conservation of biotopes); for such species whose populations are still larger in size but are intensively exploited the regional agreements are to define the level of exploitation (quotas) and methods of exploitation in order to prevent possible threats (these agreements could also take account of the claims made by nature conservationists). The problems of exploitation must be taken into account particularly because hunting in the individual Range States takes place on a large scale (see paragraph 3.1); this should be coordinated among the neighbouring states in order to avoid over-exploitation. Owing to the wide geographical distribution of the seals, it will not be possible to regulate their conservation and exploitation problems under one agreement; for this purpose, separate treaties must be concluded for each geographical area. A good example is the situation of the Wadden Sea seal population (Phoca vitulina vitulina): a largely isolated residual population, which must, on any account, be preserved as an important component of the fauna in the Wadden Sea, migrates between its German, Dutch and

Danish areas of occurrence as well as in adjoining international waters. The population suffers from high juvenile mortality (18 p.c.); some threatening factors like disturbances caused by aquatic sports and noise as well as by water pollution have not ceased to exert their influence. Specific protective measures have brought about an increase of the population since 1974 (Fig. 1); since, however, the growth rates in Holland and Lower Saxony are still low (Fig. 2), a regional agreement to be concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands could improve the conservation status of the population.

5. Range states

a. Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, USSR;

b. Belize, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, international waters (Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea), Jamaica, Mexico;

c. Argentina, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, United Kingdom (Falkland Is.), (? France -Kerguelen) Corzet Is.), (? Norway - Bouvet), international waters (Southern Ocean);

d. Argentina, Australia, (? France - Kerguelen), (? New Zealand), United Kingdom (Falkland Is.), (? Norway - Bouvet), international waters (Southern Ocean).

e. Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom (Falkland Is.), (? France - Kerguelen), (? Norway - Bouvet), international waters (Southern Ocean);

f. Australia, (? France - Kerguelen), (? Norway - Bouvet), New Zealand, United Kingdom (Falkland Is.), international waters (Southern Ocean);

g. Argentina, Australia, Chile, France (Kerguelen), New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom (Falkland Is.), international waters (Southern Ocean);

h. Canada, Ecuador (Galapagos Is.), France (Guadeloupe), Mexico, USA, international waters (Pacific, Caribbean Sea);

i. Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Iceland (?), Norway, USSR, international waters (Arctic Ocean);

k. Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, USA, USSR, international waters (Arctic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, North Pacific);

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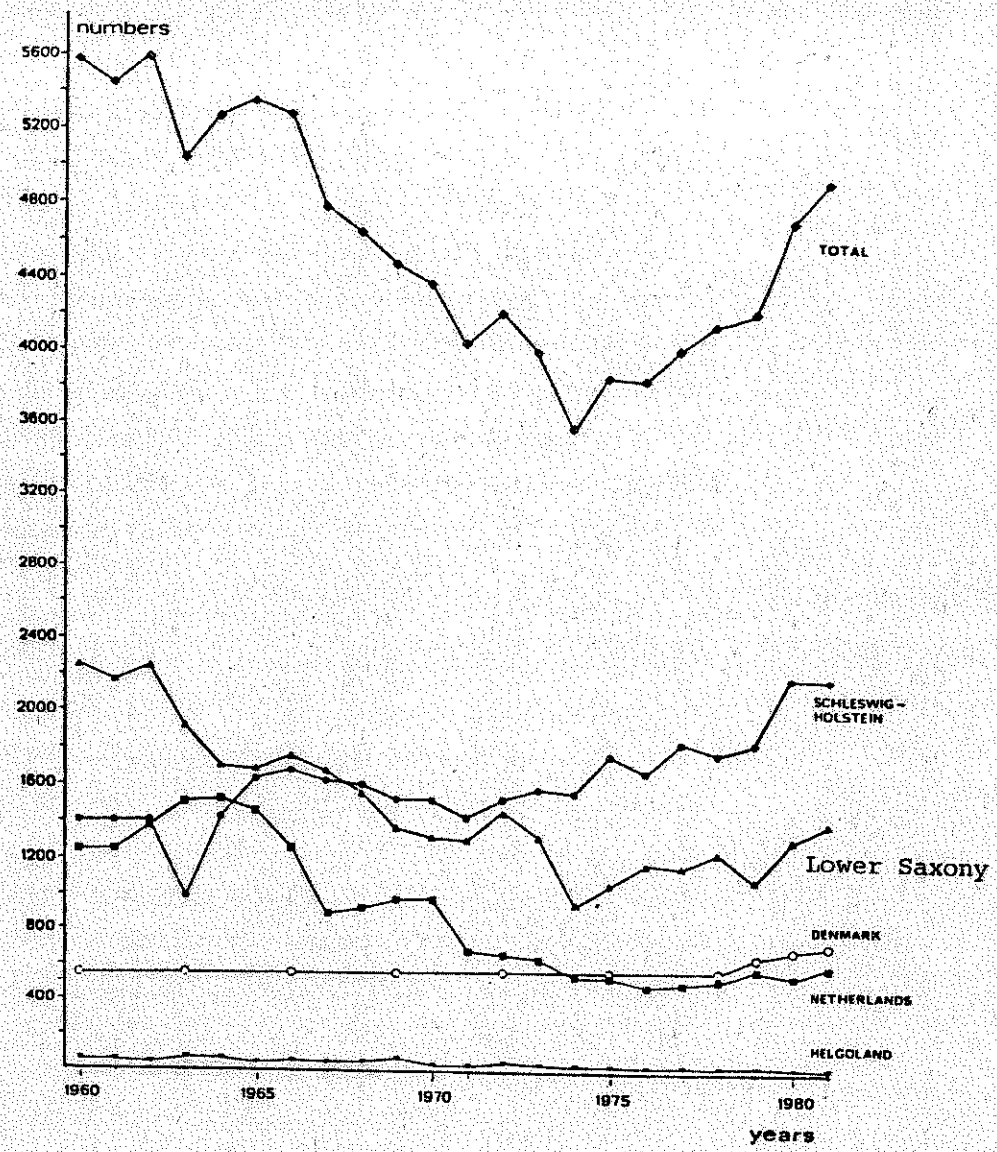

Fig. 1. Maximum numbers of Harbour seals observed in the total Wadden Sea area as well as in five subareas per year. The Danish data prior to 1979 are based on the assumption by Joensen et al. (1976) that the population was stable at 550 animals. According to Reijnders (1981) with later additions.

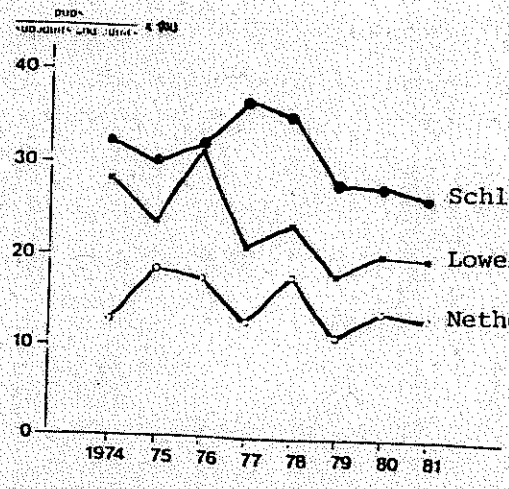

Fig. 2. Pup production shown as the maximum number of pups observed and expressed as a percentage of the total number of animals older than one year.

l. Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Iceland, Norway, USSR, international waters (Arctic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean);

m. Belgium, Canada, Denmark (incl. Greenland), Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, USSR, international waters (North Atlantic Ocean, North Sea).

n. Belgium, Canada, Denmark (incl. Greenland), France, Finland, Germany, Fed. Rep. of, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, USA, USSR, international waters (North Pacific, North Atlantic Ocean, North Sea).

6. Comments from range states

A regional agreement on the protection of the Wadden Sea population of the harbour seal between Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands is awaiting conclusion.

7. Additional remarks

Some seal species or their partial populations are listed in different "Red Data Books": the Carribean monk seal in the "IUCN Red Data Book" (1982), the Mediterranean monk seal (as endangered), the Ringed seal and the Grey seal (as vulnerable) in the "List of Endangered European Species", the monk seal, the grey seal and richardi spp. of the grey seal in the "Red Data Book of the USSR and the RFSSR", etc.

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