

They took millions of lobsters, and monk seal pups starved to death

In the 1980s the monk seal's largest colony at major rookeries began a long decline (chart at right). By 2000, two-thirds of the seals at French Frigate Shoals were gone. Chart below shows the rise and fall of the lobster fishery, 1983-2000. Many

scientists believe seal pups starved to death because a handful of fishers had killed too many lobsters. The total catch these years was more than 10,270,000 lobsters. The catch was nearly 4 million above the quota from 1983 to 1992, when it crashed.

