



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FUR BUYERS TAKE 27,862 U.S. SEAL SKINS AT AUCTION; \$59.55 AVERAGE PRICE

A U.S. Government-owned lot of 27,862 Alaska fur-seal skins was sold at the annual spring auction in St. Louis by the Fouke Fur Co., April 11, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today.

Proceeds of the sale totalled \$1,659,165. Fur buyers paid an average \$59.55 per skin. Average price at the last fall auction was \$59.38; at last year's spring auction, \$70.10.

Dyed matara brown skins sold for an average \$62.87, a decline in price of 1.3 percent since the last auction of Government Alaska fur-seal skins. Average price of safari brown skins was \$49.57, a decline of 8.1 percent. Black skins averaged \$62.19, an advance of 20.3 percent.

In addition to the U. S.-owned skins, the Fouke Fur Co. sold 2,500 Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins for the Government of the Union of South Africa, and 2,500 Cape skins for private shippers. The South African Government-owned skins averaged \$25.84, a decline of 15 percent. Cape skins of private shippers averaged \$22.39, a decline of 19.1 percent.

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