

Mr. Feldwick.

Seals Fisheries Protection.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT for the Protection and Preservation of Seals. Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows :—

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be “The Seals Fisheries Protection Act, 1878.” Short Title.

2. Section two of “The Protection of Animals Act Amendment Act, 1875,” is hereby repealed. Repeal.

3. No person shall hunt, catch, or attempt to catch or kill, seals between the days hereinafter mentioned (which interval is herein referred to as “the close season”); that is to say between the *first* day of *October* and the *first* day of *June* following, both inclusive; and any person acting in contravention of this section shall forfeit any seal caught by him, and shall in addition thereto incur a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds, and a further penalty not exceeding *ten* pounds in respect of each seal so caught. Close season for seals.

4. The Governor may, by Order in Council, from time to time extend or vary the time during which it is prohibited to hunt, catch, or kill seals, and may from time to time vary the close season so extended, and may also prescribe that any such Order shall take effect in the whole colony, or only in particular parts thereof to be defined in such Order. Close season may be varied.

5. If he shall think it necessary for the preservation of seals to do so, the Governor may, in a similar manner, extend the time during which it is prohibited to hunt, catch, or kill seals over any term not exceeding three years, and may at any time before the expiration of any such term further extend the same. Fishery may be closed.

6. Any penalties imposed by this Act for the purpose of prohibiting the catching or killing of seals during the close season shall apply to such season however the same may be varied or extended. Penalties to apply to extended seasons.

7. The Governor may, by Order in Council, from time to time exclude any part of the colony from the operation of this Act. Districts may be excluded from Act.