

Amisut!

It is fine weather for sailing. Only small ripples on the ocean, and we make good headway. The sky is almost cloudless, but many reefs and skerries are hidden in areas with sea fog. Around in the fiord several icebergs present themselves majestically and in sharp contrast to the green-brown mountains and the blue sea.

Suddenly we discover movements in the sea. A larger wedge of foam appears on the surface of the sea and soon the disturber of the peace appears on the scene. Amisut! A large shoal of seal has full speed ahead, uninterrupted gambolling to impress each other with jumping out of the water.

Previously, the sealing was an absolute condition for the locals. The hunt for seal was intense, and the seals could be used both for food, heating and light in the oil lamp and not least, the fur used as clothes by the whole family.

Today, the seal remains a popular and inexpensive dining in Greenland. But scientific studies show that the eating of Greenland's marine mammals should take place in moderation, and some researchers even advise against eating marine mammals.

Although the pollution in the waters of Greenland is much less than elsewhere in the world, both heavy metals and POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) have been detected in Greenland seals. The POPs are fat-soluble and accumulate in the fatty tissues of animals and humans. Especially older seals contain a substantial amount of contaminants.

This day we are not hunting, and the seals continue their acrobatic swimming without seeming to worry about the danger from us humans.



The fiord north of Qaqortoq, August 2015