

## A story about a Ringed seal puppy



The first time these 2 photos of a seal puppy were published we believed, that it was a Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*, but after we had worked a bit on the photos they improved so much, that some seal experts from NAMMCO were able to confirm the puppy to be a Ringed seal *Phoca hispida*.

In the summer of 2003 Sólfinn Kjærbo worked at some salmon rings near Núpurin in Vágur on Suðuroy. Sólfinn became aware of a tiny seal puppy at about 70 cm., who tried to crawl up on a salmon ring. Sólfinn grabbed the puppy with a ketcher and lifted it onboard the salmon supply-boat, where Linda Holm from Vágur on Suðuroy took some photos of the puppy. It was released again immediately and was at the salmon rings for approximately one week.

Ringed seal is an Arctic seal that breeds in caves in the snow on the ice. It is the smallest seal in the Northern hemisphere.

Ringed seal is rare in Faroe Islands but it is registered a few times.

In the period 1963-67, when there were shots premiere of seals, 5 lower jaws from Ringed seal were delivered.

At Laksaaling in Oyri they had a tame Ringed seal in some years in 1980. It came by itself. After some time they put the seal in a big jar where it was cared, until it died from an accident. In the same period a Ringed seal puppy was observed in the same area.

05.12.2002 a Ringed seal puppy was photographed in Vestmanna, and finally we have this observation about the one, caught by Sólfinn Kjærbo in Vágur.

There is a possible observation about a Ringed seal seen in Sørvágur app. 20 years ago, but we can't prove this observation.

In the photos: Petur Erhard Kjærbo from Vágur on Suðuroy, his son Trúgví and the Ringed seal puppy.

*References: J-K. J., Andrias Reinert, Bjarni Mikkelsen and others.*