

terrified at thunder and lightning, it seems to delight them ; they generally come on shore in tempests and storms, and even quit their icy abodes to avoid the shock of the waves ; at such times they sport in great numbers along the shore ; the tremendous conflict seems to divert, and the heavy rains that fall, to enliven them. They have naturally a disagreeable scent, and which is smelt at a great distance, when there are great numbers together. When pursued they often drop their excrements, which are of a yellow colour, and of a very abominable scent. They have a prodigious quantity of blood, and being also loaded with fat, they are, consequently, very dull and heavy. They usually sleep a great deal, and very sound, and are fond of taking their repose in the sun on flakes of ice, or sides of rocks, and they may be approached very nigh without being disturbed, which is the usual method of taking them. They are very seldom secured with fire-arms, for they do not immediately die, even if shot in the head, but plunge into the sea, and are entirely lost to the hunter ; therefore the general method is to surprise them when asleep, or at a distance from the sea, and knock them on the head with clubs. “ They are not easily killed, and are a long time dying (says an eye-witness), for
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