

Annex F

Report of the Sub-Committee on Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales

5.2 Eastern Canada-West Greenland bowhead whales

5.2.4 Management advice

In 2007, the Commission agreed to a quota (for the next five years) of two bowhead whales struck annually off West Greenland but the quota for each year shall only become operative when the Commission has received advice from the Scientific Committee that the strikes are unlikely to endanger the stock.

This year, the Committee was pleased to have developed an **agreed** (option C) approach for determining interim management advice (the details are provided under Item 8.2 and Annex E (Appendix 2)), and to have an agreed (negatively biased) abundance estimate of 6,344 (95% CI = 3,119-12,906) which pertains to the Baffin Bay-Davis Strait population – if the review next year confirms the working hypothesis of a single stock then this estimate will be even further negatively biased. Given this, the Committee **agreed** that the current catch limit will not harm the stock. It was also aware that catches from the same stock have been taken by a non-member nation, Canada. It noted that should Canadian catches continue at a similar level as in recent years, this would not change the Committee's advice with respect to the strike limits agreed for West Greenland.