

Annex F

Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-Committee

5.5 West Greenland stock of bowhead whales

5.5.2 Report of the Scientific Committee

The Chair of the SWG noted that the Scientific Committee's discussions under this item can be found under Item 9.1 of IWC/63/Rep1. The current working hypothesis of the Committee is for a single stock of bowhead whales in this region. However, in the past additional genetic work has been recommended to finalise its conclusions. The Committee again recommended genetic analyses to be presented to the 2012 meeting but recognises the complications arising out of the fact that much of the existing data are held by a non-member nation, Canada.

In 2010, three bowhead whales were harvested in Disko Bay, West Greenland, and biological samples were obtained from all three animals.

In 2007, the Commission agreed to a quota for 2008 to 2012 of two bowhead whales struck annually (plus a carryover provision of two unused strikes from the previous year) 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. Following the agreed approach for determining interim management advice, the Committee again agreed that the current catch limit for Greenland 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 will not change the Committee's advice with respect to the strike limits agreed for West Greenland. Given the importance of this issue, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat should continue to contact Canada requesting information about catches and catch limits for bowhead whales.

Catches Taken: Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling

(http://iwc.int/table_aboriginal)

Year	Area	Bowhead
2008	West Greenland	0
2009	West Greenland	3
2010	West Greenland	3
2011	West Greenland	1
2012	West Greenland	0