


MONITORING IN 2008
BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE UNITED STATES
OF THE ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE QUOTA
FOR GRAY WHALES SET BY
THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) at its Annual Meeting in May 2007 set a five-year block quota of 620 gray whales, with an annual cap of 140 animals taken, based on a joint proposal by the Russian Federation and the United States. The IWC regulation does not address the number of allowed strikes. The requested quota and accompanying documentation assumed an average annual harvest of 120 whales by the Chukotka people and an average annual harvest of four whales by the Makah Indian Tribe.


So that the 2008 quota of gray whales is not exceeded, subject to domestic legal requirements the Makah Indian Tribe may take no more than five gray whales, and the Russian Natives may take no more than 135 gray whales. Each side will ensure that the numbers specified in this paragraph for its Native group are not exceeded. Each side will consider any landings in excess of the specified numbers in discussing monitoring of the quota for 2009.

The U.S. side plans to inform the Russian side immediately upon learning if the Makah Indian Tribe has taken a gray whale. The Russian side plans to inform the U.S. side once a month of the number of gray whales taken by its Natives in the preceding month. During the remainder of 2008, either side may initiate discussions on the transfer of unused takes from one Native group to the other. During the last quarter of 2008, the two sides plan to confer on monitoring of the 2009 quota.

Dated 2 April 2008 Dated 2 April 2008



Valentin Ilyashenko
IWC Commissioner
Russian Federation



William T. Hogarth
IWC Commissioner
United States of America