

MONITORING IN 2008  
BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
OF THE ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE QUOTA  
FOR BOWHEAD 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 280 bowhead whales landed, based on a joint proposal by the United States and the Russian Federation. The explanation accompanying the requested quota showed that the needs of both countries' Native groups could be met with an annual average of 56 landed bowhead whales (or a total of 255 for the Alaska Eskimos and 25 for the Chukotka people over the five-year period). In addition, for each of the years 2008 through 2012, the IWC limited the number of bowhead whales that may be struck to 67, except that any unused portion of a strike quota from any year, including 15 unused strikes from the 2003-2007 quota, may be carried forward. No more than 15 strikes may be added to the strike quota for any one year. At the end of the 2007 harvest, there were 15 strikes available for carry-forward, so the combined strike quota for 2008 is 82 (67 + 15).

So that the 2008 quota of bowhead strikes is not exceeded, the Russian Natives may use no more than seven strikes, and the Alaska Eskimos may use no more than 75 strikes. Each side will ensure that the numbers specified in this paragraph for its Native group are not exceeded. Each side will consider any strikes or landings in excess of the specified numbers in discussing monitoring of the quota for 2009.

The Russian side plans to inform the U.S. side immediately upon learning that its Natives have struck or landed a bowhead whale. The U.S. side plans to inform the Russian side once a month of the number of bowhead whales struck or landed by the Alaska Eskimos in the preceding month. In September-October, 2008, either side may initiate discussions on the transfer of unused strikes 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, including any strikes that may be carried forward from 2008.

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