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2019 Update: Inuit subsistence harvests of
Eastern Canada-West Greenland bowhead
whales in Canadian waters

Canada



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

2019 Update: Inuit Subsistence Harvests of Eastern Canada-West Greenland Bowhead whales in Canadian waters

A small Inuit subsistence harvest of Eastern Canada-West Greenland (EC-WG) bowhead whales occurs annually in Canadian waters. This fishery is subject to provisions of the Nunavut Agreement (NA), the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA), the *Fisheries Act* and its supporting regulations.

A community's bowhead harvest is licenced by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) only if the associated Hunt Plan has been approved by the appropriate Regional Wildlife Organization. The DFO Marine Mammal Fishing Licence authorizes individual Hunt Captains "...to hunt and land one, or strike two bowhead whales whichever occurs first." The primary killing device is the penthrite grenade. Unused strikes cannot be carried over between years.



In the eastern Canadian Arctic, the combined maximum take is now seven (7) EC-WG bowhead whales per year. Of these, five (5) are allocated within the Nunavut Settlement Area and two (2) within the Nunavik Marine Region .

During the most recent 4 year interval (2015-2018), a combined total of eight (8) bowhead hunts were conducted and 7 bowheads were successfully landed (see chart below).

Year	Community	Harvested	Struck	Landed	Sex	Length (m)
2015	Naujaat, NU	16-Sep-2015	1	1	F	14.00
2015	Hall Beach, NU	02-Sep-2015	1	0	-	n/a
2016	Igloolik, NU	20-Aug-2016	1	1	F	8.23
2016	Pangnirtung, NU	09-Sep-2016	1	1	F	11.74
2017	Kangiqsuaq, QC	31-Aug-2017	1	1	F	14.00
2018	Coral Harbour, NU	28-Jun-2018	1	1	F	8.00
2018	Naujaat , NU	26-Aug-2018	1	1	F	17.0
2018	Iqaluit, NU	15-Aug-2018	1	1	F	10.0

To date, two (2) bowhead harvests have been allocated for 2019 within the Nunavut Settlement Area. The remaining harvest allocation decisions within Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region are pending approval.