

**ABORIGINAL HARVEST OF GRAY AND BOWHEAD WHALES IN  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN 2008 – 2012**

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Subsistence aboriginal whaling within the Russian Federation had a five-year block quota on Gray and Bowhead whales in Chukotka Autonomous Region for the period of 2008-2012. According to IWC decision Russia could catch (landing) 600 Gray whales, but no more than 135 per year (struck, but lost Gray whales are not counted into the quota) and 25 Bowhead whales, 5 landed Bowhead whales per year, taking into account that it's allowed to strike and lose not more than 2 whales while whaling.

Resulting from negotiations between Russian and US Commissioners and the representatives of Makah Tribe (Washington State) American side agreed to transfer their unused portion of the block-quota within five years on Gray whales to the Russian side in 2012 equaling 20 whales. The total quota on Gray whales for the Russian Federation was 620 landed whales.

Russia stated multiple times during IWC sessions that there are inedible whales with a very strong "medicine" odor (stinky) among the landed Gray whales. Such whales are not counted against the quota since they don't meet food needs of the indigenous people of the Chukotka Autonomous Region. There were no objections.

The general results of the quota implementation on aboriginal whaling for the period of 2008-2012 are the following.

4 Bowhead whales out of 25 were struck and landed. There were no struck and lost Bowhead whales.

638 Gray whales were struck, 11 were lost, and 627 whales were landed, including – 24 inedible with a strong medicine odor (stinky). Hence, there were 603 edible whales struck and landed out of 620 allowable.

There were no violations on the aboriginal harvesting and use of the quota found.

Year	Gray whales				Bowhead whales, struck and landed
	struck total	landed		struck and lost	
		total	stinky		
2008	130	127	7	3	2
2009	115	115	6	0	
2010	118	118	1	0	2
2011	132	128	2	4	
2012	143	139	8	4	
Total:	638	627	24	11	4