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2021 Update to IWC: Inuit Subsistence Harvests of Bowhead Whales in Canada (2016-2020)

Canada



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2021 Update to IWC: Inuit Subsistence Harvests of Bowhead Whales in Canada (2016-2020)

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

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) licences bowhead harvests, upon written confirmation that the appropriate Regional Wildlife Organization has approved the community's Hunt Plan. 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 seven (7) EC-WG bowhead whales per year, of which five (5) are allocated within the Nunavut Settlement Area and two (2) within the Nunavik Marine Region .

During the most recent 5 year interval (2016-2020), a combined total of eleven (11) bowhead whales from the EC-WG population have been landed by Inuit whalers in the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region (see table below).

Year	Community	Harvested	Struck	Landed	Sex	Length (m)
2016	Igloolik, NU	2016-08-20	1	1	F	8.23
2016	Pangnirtung, NU	2016-09-09	1	1	F	11.74
2017	Kangiqsujuaq, QC	2017-08-31	1	1	F	14.00
2018	Coral Harbour, NU	2018-06-28	1	1	F	8.00
2018	Naujaat , NU	2018-08-26	1	1	F	17.0
2018	Iqaluit, NU	2018-08-14	1	1	F	10.0
2019	Coral Harbour, NU	2019-06-28	1	1	F	8.00
2019	Naujaat, NU	2019-08-26	1	1	F	14.27
2019	Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), NU	2019-08-02	1	1	F	9.14
2019	Igloolik, NU	2019-08-10	1	1		9.14
2020	Coral Harbour, NU	unsuccessful				
2020	Sanirajak (Hall Beach), NU	2020-08-01	1	1	М	12.68
2020	Qikiqtarjuaq, NU	cancelled				0.00

Two subsistence harvests were conducted in 2020, however only one was successful. The whaling crew returned a completed data sheet, and biological samples for scientific analysis.

For the 2021 season, two (2) Inuit subsistence harvests within the Nunavut Settlement Area have been allocated. The remaining ECWG bowhead harvest allocation decisions for Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region have yet to be announced.