



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1592
c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

Implementation of Schedule paragraph 13(a)(6) regarding ASW strike/catch limits

At IWC67 in 2018, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) adopted sub-paragraph 13(a)(6) of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) Schedule, which states:

Commencing in 2026, and provided the appropriate Strike Limit Algorithm has been developed by then, strike/catch limits (including any carry forward provisions) for each stock identified in sub- paragraph 13(b) shall be extended every six years, provided:

- (a) the Scientific Committee advises in 2024, and every six years thereafter, that such limits will not harm that stock;
- (b) the Commission does not receive a request from an ASW country relying on the stock ('relevant ASW country'), for a change in the relevant catch limits based on need; and
- (c) the Commission determines that the relevant ASW country has complied with the approved timeline and that the information provided represents a status quo continuation of the hunt.

At IWC69, the Commission will, for the first time, be making a determination under paragraph 13(a)(6)(c) of the Schedule. As such, we are setting forth the process for that determination in this circular and a further updated circular to follow the Scientific Committee meeting, as endorsed by the Bureau at its meeting of 4 March 2024. The discussion on this issue will have its own agenda item at IWC69 prior to consideration of resolutions or Schedule amendments.

The Scientific Committee will meet 22 April to 3 May when it will review the catch limits contained in paragraph 13 and advise the Commission whether these limits continue to not harm those stocks.

In accordance with the *Revised Timeline to Assist in the Process to Agree any Requested Changes to ASW Strike/Catch Limits* ([ASW/68/04/01](#)), should an ASW country wish to seek a change in strike/catch limits (including carryover provisions), it must submit a proposal to the Scientific Committee (secretariat@iwc.int) **by 7 April 2024.**

Following the Scientific Committee meeting (SC69B) and its report (to be made available on the IWC website by 27 May 2024), and before the 60-day deadline for items of business for IWC69, we will issue another circular regarding next steps in the Paragraph 13(a)(6) implementation process.

We look forward to working with you as we consider this important next step in solidifying IWC's commitment, reflected in IWC's adoption of Schedule paragraph 13(a)(6) in 2018, to the management of aboriginal subsistence whaling that provides predictability for the cultural and nutritional requirements of native peoples in the long term.



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