

## ABORIGINAL HARVEST OF WHALES BY RUSSIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN 2011

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Prepared by V.Yu. Ilyashenko

A blocked quota of 600 gray and 25 bowhead whales was allocated for Chukotka indigenous hunters for a period of 2008-2012.

Harvest of gray and bowhead whales was supervised by The Association of indigenous peoples of the North in 2011. Fisheries Council of Chukotka autonomous region distributed quotas among whaling villages on March 2011.

A total of **126** gray whales (58 males, 68 females) were **landed** in Chukotka waters in 2011. Biological parameters of gray whales taken in 2011 are given in tables.

The largest gray whale female was 13.0 m long and weighted 23.2 tons. The largest gray whale male was 12.9 m long and weighted 22.7 tons.

Generally in the harvest there was predomination of subadult whales (57.1 %). The average length of harvested whales in 2011 was higher than in previous two years. Whalers did not hunt on calves, followed by mothers; and there were no signs of milk in the stomachs of whales.

The furthest trailing distance of killed whales was 27,0 km, the shortest – 0,4 km.

10 whales have traumas or hematomas.

42% of taken gray whales demonstrated aggressive behaviour during the hunt.

2 pregnant females were taken in 2011.

**2** individuals of **128** gray whales were considered as **unfit for consumption** (stinky whales) in 2011 (samples were taken from animal) and **2 – struck and lost**. Biological sampling was conducted on 55 gray whales.

The bowhead whales no taken in 2011.

All aboriginal whaling data were presented by Department of industrial and agricultural policy of Chukotka Autonomous Region.