

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

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The IWC at its Annual Meeting in May 2007 set a five-year Russia-USA block quota of 620 Gray whales, with an annual cap of 140 animals landed. The IWC regulation does not address the number of Gray whales of allowed strikes.

The Fisheries Council of the Administration of the Chukotka Autonomous Region distributed the quota on Gray and Bowhead whales among local whaling enterprises. Aboriginal harvest in 2012 was supervised by Department of Industrial and Agricultural Policy of the Administration of the Chukotka Autonomous Region.

A total of 143 Gray whales were strikes in 2012.

139 Gray whales (50 males and 89 females) were landed, 8 whales were inedible (due to strong chemical smell - stinky) and 4 strikes but lost.

111 whales were landed in Chukotsky region while 26 were landed in Providensky region. 2 more whales were landed in Iul'tinsky and Beringovsky regions, accordingly. Hunters of Anadyrsky and Shmidtovsky region did not take part in whaling season 2012, due to technical reasons.

The furthest transportation distance to coast was 49 km, while the closest was 0.2 km.

Body length of whales, harvested in Chukotka in 2012 varied between 7.7 and 14.5 meters, with the average of 10 m. Body weights of those whales were between 5.8 and 32.4 tons with average weight of 11.5 tons. The largest male had been harvested in Novoe Chaplino settlement of Providensky region. It was 14.5m long with body weight of 32.4 tons and its meat had specific chemical smell (stinky).

Scientific supervision of subsistence whaling had been performed by TINRO-Center (Vladivostok) and ChukotTINRO (Anadyr) specialists. A total of 62 landed whales were observed.

No Bowhead whales were taken in 2012 in Chukotka waters.

All aboriginal whaling data were presented by Department of Industrial and Agricultural policy of the Administration of the Chukotka Autonomous Region.