

Report of the Small Group to develop an approach to address the question of ‘stinky’ whales in the Chukotkan hunt

MORISHITA, DEMASTER, ILYASHENKO, ZHARIKOV, SECRETARIAT

REQUEST FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Definition of ‘stinky’ whales

For the moment, the most practical definition remains a pragmatic one such that these are whales that have an unpleasant odour and which are deemed inedible by the hunters. The Scientific Committee can be asked to review scientific papers on the cause of ‘stinky’ whales should they be submitted.

Examining sustainability

The Scientific Committee should be asked to examine two potential scenarios based upon past data provided in the Table below (these are on the ‘high’ side deliberately – to bracket the likely range and do not imply particular numbers for the Schedule). One is based upon and absolute number and the other a percentage. The examination will be undertaken using the existing *Gray Whale SLA*:

- (a) that from 2019, the number of killed animals in each year is increased by ten whales (to include both inedible and struck-and-lost whales);
- (b) that from 2019, the number of killed animals in each year is increased by 6% of the landed (this includes both inedible and struck-and-lost)

Table 1

Summary of information on inedible and struck-and-lost whales in the Chukotkan hunt, 2008-2015

	landed	inedible	S&L	% inedible	% inedible + struck and lost
2008	127	10	3	7.9	10.2
2009	115	6	1	5.2	6.1
2010	118	1	0	0.8	0.8
2011	128	2	2	1.6	3.1
2012	139	8	4	5.8	8.6
2013	125	2	2	1.6	3.2
2014	122	0	2	0.0	1.6
2015	124	1	1	0.8	1.6
Total	998	30	15	3.0	4.5
Average	124.8	3.8	1.9		
Upper		10	3		