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2018 Update to the International Whaling Commission (IWC): Canadian Bowhead Harvests Since 2015

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INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

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There is a small Inuit subsistence harvest of EC-WG Bowhead whales in Canada. This fishery is subject to provisions of the Nunavut Agreement (NA), the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA), the *Fisheries Act* and its supporting regulations.

In the eastern Canadian Arctic, the combined maximum take is now seven (7) EC-WG bowhead whales per year. Of these, five (5) are allocated within Nunavut and two (2) in northern Québec (Nunavik).

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) issues a Marine Mammal Fishing License for each subsistence harvest that has been approved by the appropriate Regional Wildlife Organization. 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 penthrate grenade. Unused strikes cannot be carried over between years.

For the most recent 3 years (2015-2017), a combined total of 17 bowhead hunts were approved. Of these, only five (5) hunts were conducted and 4 bowheads were successfully landed (see chart below).

Year	Community	Harvested	Struck	Landed	Sex	Length (m)
2015	Nauyasat (Repulse Bay), NU	16-Sep-2015	1	1	F	14.00
2015	Hall Beach, NU	02-Sep-2015	1	0	?	n/a
2016	Igloolik, NU	20-Aug-2016	1	1	F	8.23
2016	Pangnirtung, NU	09-Sep-2016	1	1	F	11.74
2017	Kangiqsujuaq, QC	31-Aug-2017	1	1	F	14.00

To date, two (2) bowhead harvests have been approved for 2018 in Nunavut. Decisions for other regions are pending approval.