

## PRESS RELEASE - DAY 3 – 13 JULY 2011

The Commission continued its extensive discussions of new and revised Rules of Procedure throughout the morning and early afternoon. After considerable work, the Committee agreed by consensus a [Resolution on improving the effectiveness of operations within the IWC](#) that also incorporated some changes to its Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations. In addition to the rule changes, the active parts of the resolution included: investigating options for providing assistance to member governments with limited means to participate actively in the Commission's work; establishing a working group to further consider the role of observers at meetings of the Commission based on experience gained in that regard at IWC/63; agreeing to regularly review its rules in the light of international good practice and to address specific problems that may arise.

The Commission then agreed the remainder of issues under finance and administration including adopting a budget for 2011/12 with no increase in total expenditure.

The Committee then turned to the issue of [Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling \(ASW\)](#). This was discussed in light of the [report of the Commission's ASW Sub-Committee](#). The Commission received a summary of the Scientific Committee's work and then moved to consideration of strike limits. The Commission normally sets limits for aboriginal subsistence hunts on a five-year basis although in some cases there is a formal provision for annual review. Traditionally, the Scientific Committee reviews its advice each year and presents this to the Commission. This year, the Commission received this information and made no changes to the present limits:

**Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales** (taken by native people of Alaska and Chukotka) - A total of up to 280 bowhead whales can be landed in the period 2008 - 2012, with no more than 67 whales struck in any year (and up to 15 unused strikes may be carried over each year).

**Eastern North Pacific gray whales (taken by native people of Chukotka and Washington State)** - A total catch of 620 whales is allowed for the years 2008 - 2012 with a maximum of 140 in any one year.

**East Greenland common minke whales (taken by Greenlanders)** - An annual strike limit of 12 whales is allowed for the years 2008 – 2012, with any unused quota available to be carried forward to subsequent years provided that no more than 3 strikes are added to the quota for any one year.

**West Greenland bowhead whales (taken by Greenlanders)** - An annual strike limit of 2 whales is allowed for the years 2008 - 2012 with an annual review by the Scientific Committee. Any unused quota can be carried forward to subsequent years so long as not more than 2 strikes are added to the quota for any one year.

**West Greenland fin whales (taken by Greenlanders)** - An annual strike limit of 16 whales is allowed for the years 2010 - 2012. However at the 2010 Meeting Denmark and Greenland agreed to voluntarily reduce further the catch limit for the West Greenland stock of fin whales from 16 to 10 for each of the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

**West Greenland common minke whales (taken by Greenlanders)** - An annual strike limit of 178 whales is allowed for the years 2010 - 2012 with an annual review by the Scientific Committee. Any unused quota can be carried forwards so long as no more than 15 strikes are added to the quota for any one year.

**West Greenland humpback whales (taken by Greenlanders)** – An annual strike limit of 9 whales is allowed for the years 2010-2012 with an annual review by the Scientific Committee. Any unused quota can be carried forwards so long as not more than 2 strikes are added to the quota for any one year.

**Humpback whales taken by St Vincent and The Grenadines** - For the seasons 2008-2012 the number of humpback whales to be taken shall not exceed 20.

Next year, new block limits will need to be decided. The Commission has agreed to establish a [small working group to identify and consider any unresolved ASW issues](#) with a view to suggesting short- and longer-term ways forward on these next year.

The Commission then moved onto consideration of socio-economic implications and small-type whaling. Japan to its longtime concern over the hardship suffered by its four community-based whaling communities since the implementation of the commercial whaling moratorium. It noted that in previous years, it had requested a vote on its proposal for an interim relief catch allocation to relieve

this hardship. It noted that in a spirit of co-operation it had not requested a vote during the discussions the future of the IWC process. Although it was disappointed at the outcome of those discussions last year, it recognised the improved atmosphere of discussions that process had engendered. Appreciative of the efforts for consensus that had already occurred in discussions, it again would refrain from asking for a vote this year.

The Commission then turned to the issue of the [Future of the IWC](#). Last year, it had decided to take a pause in those discussions. This year, the Commission agreed to: encourage continued dialogue amongst its members on the future of the IWC; co-ordinate proposals or initiatives as widely as possible prior to submission; continue to co-operate in taking forward the Commission's work, notwithstanding some fundamental differences in views.

Finally, the Commission returned to the question of obtaining visas it began on Day 2. It received an updated version of the [Secretary's report of this issue](#) and a constructive discussion was held on how to avoid such problems in the future.