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# Aboriginal subsistence whaling in the Russian Federation in 2014

V. Ilyashenko, K. Zharikov



INTERNATIONAL  
WHALING COMMISSION

## ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN 2014

V. Ilyashenko<sup>1</sup>, K. Zharikov<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>A.N.Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution (Russian Academy of Science)

<sup>2</sup>Russian Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) (Federal Fisheries Agency)  
e-mail: valpero53@gmail.com

IWC allocated blocked quota for subsistence whaling including needs of Chukotka indigenous hunters in 2013-2018. The total of 714 gray and 42 bowhead whales supposed to be taken in a 6-year period with a limit of 135 gray and 7 bowhead whales' strikes annually.

The Fisheries Council of the Administration of Chukotka Autonomous Region distributed the quota on Gray and Bowhead whales among local whaling communities. Aboriginal harvest in 2014 was supervised by Department of Industrial and Agricultural Policy of the Administration of Chukotka Autonomous Region.

13 local communities were involved in whaling in 2014.

A total of 124 Gray whales were struck in 2014. No bowhead whales were taken during 2014 hunting season. Most of the whales (59) were struck by indigenous hunters of Lorino settlement.

122 Gray whales (42 males and 80 females) were landed, 2 whales were struck but lost, none of taken whales was stinky (inedible).

Harpoons, darting guns and rifles were used during hunt. About 44% of whales demonstrated aggressive behavior. Mean amount of ammunition spent to each whale was approximately same as in 2013 season while mean time to death was slightly shorter. The furthest whale towing distance to coast was 40 km, while the closest was 0.3 km. In most cases (except May and early June) ice was absent during 2014 hunting season.

Body length of whales, taken in Chukotka waters in 2014 varied between 8 and 14.5 meters, with an average of 10.1 m (same as in 2013 season). Body weights of those whales were between 6 and 32.4 tons with mean weight of 11.8 tons. The largest whale (male) had been taken in Neshkan settlement of Chukotsky region. It was 14.5m long and weighted 32.4 tons. Among whales taken there were 2 females with fetuses, none of taken females was lactating. In 49 cases sampling of tissues was performed.

Scientific supervision of subsistence whaling had been performed by TINRO-Center (Vladivostok) and ChukotTINRO (Anadyr) scientists.

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