



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1341

Updates to the Schedule of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling
(1946) following the Commission's 67th Meeting

At the 67th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC67) held in Florianopolis, Brazil from 10-14 September 2018, no modifications were made to the provision in Paragraph 10(e) for zero catch limits for commercial whaling with effect from the 1986 coastal and 1985/86 pelagic seasons. As a consequence, the following updates to paragraphs 11 and 12, and Tables 1, 2 and 3 of the Schedule of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling become necessary (changes in *bold italic* type):

Substitute the dates 2016/2017 pelagic season and 2017 coastal season for **2018/2019** pelagic season and **2017** season as appropriate.

In addition, at IWC67, modifications were made to the provisions for aboriginal subsistence whaling resulting in the following updates to Paragraphs 5, 13 and 15 of the Schedule (text to be deleted is shown in ~~strikethrough~~ and text to be added is shown in **underline and bold**).

Other Operations

5. Each contracting Government shall declare for all whale catchers under its jurisdiction not operating in conjunction with a factory ship or land station one continuous open seasons not to exceed six months out of any period of twelve months during which the taking or killing of minke whales by such whale catchers may be permitted. Notwithstanding this paragraph one continuous open season not to exceed nine months may be implemented so far as Greenland is concerned. **This paragraph shall not apply to aboriginal subsistence whaling under paragraphs 13(b)(3)(ii) and 13(b)(3)(iii).**

Baleen Whale Catch Limits

13(a)...

(6) Commencing in 2026, and provided the appropriate Strike Limit Algorithm has been developed by then, strike/catch limits (including any carry forward provisions) for each stock identified in sub-paragraph 13(b) shall be extended every six years, provided: (a) the Scientific Committee advises in 2024, and every six years thereafter, that such limits will not harm that stock; (b) the Commission does not receive a request from an ASW country relying on the stock ('relevant ASW country'), for a change in the relevant catch limits based on need; and (c) the Commission determines that the relevant ASW country has complied with the approved timeline and that the information provided represents a status quo continuation of the hunt.

(7) The provisions for each stock identified in sub-paragraph 13(b), especially the provisions for carryover, shall be reviewed by the Commission in light of the advice of the Scientific Committee.

13(b) Catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling are as follows:

(1) The taking of bowhead whales from the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock by aborigines is permitted, but only when the meat and products of such whales are to be used exclusively for local consumption by the aborigines and further provided that:

(i) For the years ~~2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, the number of bowhead whales landed shall not exceed ~~336~~ **392**. For each of these years the number of bowhead whales struck shall not exceed 67, except that any unused portion of a strike quota from ~~any year (including 15 unused strikes from the 2008–2012 quota)~~ **the three prior quota blocks** shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of any subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~15 strikes~~ **50 percent of the annual strike limit** shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.

(ii) ~~This provision shall be reviewed annually by the Commission in light of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(2) The taking of gray whales from the Eastern stock in the North Pacific is permitted, but only by aborigines or a contracting Government on behalf of aborigines, and then only when the meat and products of such whales are to be used exclusively for local consumption by the aborigines.

(i) For the years ~~2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, the number of gray whales **landed** taken in accordance with this sub-paragraph shall not exceed 744 ~~980~~, provided that the number of gray whales **struck** taken in any one of the years ~~2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025** shall not exceed 140, **except that any unused portion of a strike quota from the prior quota block shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.**

(ii) ~~This provision shall be reviewed annually by the Commission in light of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(3) The taking by aborigines of minke whales from the West Greenland and Central stocks **from the East Greenland hunt** and fin whales from the West Greenland stock and bowhead whales from the West Greenland feeding aggregation and humpback whales from the West Greenland feeding aggregation is permitted and then only when the meat and products are to be used exclusively for local consumption.

(i) The number of fin whales struck from the West Greenland stock ~~in accordance with this subparagraph~~ shall not exceed 19 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, **except that any unused portion of a strike quota from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.**

(ii) The number of minke whales struck from the Central stock ~~in accordance with this sub-paragraph~~ shall not exceed ~~12~~ **20** in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, except that any unused portion of the ~~a~~ **strike** quota for each year shall be carried forward ~~from that year~~ and added to the **strike** quotas of any subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~3~~ **strikes** shall be added to the **strike** quota for any one year. **Commencing in 2020, and provided a Strike Limit Algorithm for this stock has**

been developed by then, any unused portion of a strike quota from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.

(iii) The number of minke whales struck from the West Greenland stock shall not exceed 164 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, except that any unused portion of the ~~a strike~~ quota for each year ~~from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice~~ shall be carried forward from that year and added to the strike quotas of any of the subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~15 strikes~~ **50 percent of the annual strike limit** shall be added to the strike quota for any one year. ~~This provision will be reviewed if new scientific data become available within the 4-year period and if necessary amended on basis of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(iv) The number of bowhead whales struck off West Greenland in accordance with this sub-paragraph shall not exceed 2 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, except that any unused portion of the ~~a strike~~ quota for each year ~~from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice~~ shall be carried forward from that year and added to the ~~strike~~ quotas of any subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~2 strikes~~ **50 percent of the annual strike limit** shall be added to the ~~strike~~ quota for any one year. ~~This provision will be reviewed if new scientific data become available within the 4-year period and if necessary amended on basis of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(v) The number of humpback whales struck off West Greenland in accordance with this sub-paragraph shall not exceed 10 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, except that any unused portion of the ~~a strike~~ quota for each year ~~from the three prior quota blocks under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice~~ shall be carried forward from that year and added to the strike quotas of any of the subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~2 strikes~~ **50 percent of the annual strike limit** shall be added to the strike quota for any one year. ~~This provision will be reviewed if new scientific data become available within the remaining quota period and if necessary amended on basis of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(4) For the seasons ~~2013-2018~~ **2019-2025** the number of humpback whales to be taken by the Bequians of St. Vincent and The Grenadines shall not exceed ~~24~~ **28**. The meat and products of such whales are to be used exclusively for local consumption in St. Vincent and The Grenadines.

Baleen Whale Size Limits

15(b) It is forbidden to take or kill any fin whales below 57 feet (17.4 metres) in length in the Southern Hemisphere, and it is forbidden to take or kill fin whales below 55 feet (16.8 metres) in the Northern Hemisphere; except that fin whales of not less than 55 feet (16.8 metres) may be taken in the Southern Hemisphere for delivery to land stations and fin whales of not less than 50 feet (15.2 metres) may be taken in the Northern Hemisphere for delivery to land stations, provided that, in each case the meat of such whales is to be used for local consumption as human or animal food. **This paragraph shall not apply to aboriginal subsistence whaling under paragraph 13(b)(3)(i).**

In accordance with Article V of the Convention, these amendments become effective with respect to each Contracting Government ninety days following the date of this letter, unless any Contracting Government lodge an objection, in which case the procedure under Article V, paragraph 3 of the Convention will be followed.

The ninety days period will expire on **29 December 2018**. In the absence of objections by that date the updates will become effective. Contracting governments will be notified accordingly.

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Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC