



STRUCK AND LOST (S&L)

“Struck and Lost” occurs when an animal is hit (struck) by a weapon, such as a rifle bullet, grenade or harpoon, and is not landed. The injured animal may survive or die, depending on the severity of the injury.

FACTORS THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCE S&L

Always have equipment to secure the animal before or after it is killed, such as a harpoon, line and float or a grappling hook.

It is important that equipment is suited to local conditions and maintained in good condition.

Anatomical and physiological features:

- Involuntary reflex movements – especially up and down twitching with flippers and/or tail – can be very violent and last for several minutes.
- The animal's locomotion ability makes it possible for a seal to slide off the ice, thus it is important to take this into consideration when shooting seals that are lying near the ice edge. A wounded animal can move quickly into the sea.
- Most marine mammals sink when dead or in a state of unconsciousness.
- A thick blubber layer relative to the volume of the animals may make some animals float when dead, while in the opposite case the animals will sink. For example, walrus float, while thin animals sink. This is the case for seals and smaller toothed whales but not for large whales.

Important to consider these factors before taking a shot/throwing a harpoon/halapiik etc.

Hunters training/experience and technique:

Proper hunting skills and proper hunting techniques are more critical than equipment to hunting success and reducing S&L. Here is a list of the most important aspects to consider:

- Target area (head, neck, and throat (heart and lungs)) differs from species to species – see attached figures.
- The angle of the shot relative to the longitudinal axis of the whale – do not shoot from behind – see attached figures.
- Shoot when the probability of retrieving the animal is best – i.e. after it has taken a breath so it does not sink.
- To be patient and wait for the right moment to strike an animal.
- Knowledge and training on use of equipment.
- Bullets/grenades are slowed down in water and changes direction.
- In water versus on land/ice.
- Seals: if long shooting distance, the animal may sink before being secured.
- Seasonality, salinity of the water and locality plays a role. For seals: sink easier when body fat content and the salinity of the water is low. River deltas will have less saline water.

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