

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 6 February 2016 at the Ministry of Fisheries, in Oslo, Norway. Present were Guðni Magnar Eiríksson and Kristján Lofsson (Iceland), Alessandro Tavik Aström, Kathrine Ryping and Hild Yngesdal (Norway), Annelie Jensen and Nete Levrinsen (Greenland), Sigur Þorsteinsson (Faroe Islands) and Charlotte Wisnes from the Secretariat.

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair of the Committee, Nete Levrinsen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting, especially the new member Sigur Þorsteinsson. The draft agenda was adopted, and meeting documents were reviewed. Charlotte Wisnes acted as rapporteur.

2. UPDATE ON HUNTING METHODS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

Greenland

Levrinsen informed the meeting that there is a revision to the Executive Order regulating the hunt on large whales (2014) pertaining to the hunting period for minke whales. The new hunting period is March to November. The change in period is reflecting change in observed behavior of the minke whales.

Also a revision of the two executive orders on hunting licenses (2014) has been made because a change in the price of a hunting license has been approved.

Finally a revision to the Executive Order regulating the hunt on narwhal and beluga (2016) is recently approved. It is based on the newest scientific information of stock status, area and hunting grounds.

One new reference on reporting of catch data of large whales have come in 2015.

Whaling

The national quotas for large whales in 2015-2016 is based on the advice from the IWC Scientific Committee and approved by the IWC Commission in 2014.

Quota 2015-2016: West Greenland: 164 minke whales, 19 fin whales, 10 humpback whales and 2 bowhead whales. East Greenland: 12 minke whales. Carry-over numbers have been added for both years.

Active hunting boats: there were 32 approved whaling boats with harpoon guns and 425 smaller boats were active in whaling activities in Greenland in 2015.

Catch including struck and lost: West Greenland: 11 fin whales, 130 minke whales including 3 struck and lost, 4 humpback whales and 1 bowhead whale. East Greenland: 6 minke whales.