



INTRODUCTION

The overall aim of the hunt is to kill the animal instantaneously or as quick as possible in a manner that maximizes hunter's safety and the efficiency of the hunt while minimizes animal suffering.

A prerequisite for responsible resource management is to have mechanisms to monitor the resources not only with respect to abundance and trends but also hunting methods and utilisation. In recognition of this, NAMMCO established in 1998 an International Observation Scheme whereby observers monitor hunting activities in member countries on an annual basis. Each year a different hunt is chosen randomly to be observed.

The purpose is to provide a mechanism to monitor the conduct and regulation of marine mammal hunting activities, to ensure international transparency in whaling and sealing operations in the region. NAMMCO observation is two-fold: 1) observing whether member countries implement the national inspection scheme they have committed to (in other words do they correctly fulfil their own inspection) and 2) observing whether there is compliance with the hunting regulations. The observer scheme also facilitates possibilities for the recording and collection of reliable data on struck-and-lost animals.

1. FAROE ISLANDS

Whale hunting is subject to detailed regulations laid down by the Faroese Parliament and the Ministry of Fisheries. Seal hunting is not governed by any special legislation¹.

1.1 Whales

Long-finned pilot whale, white-sided dolphin, white-beaked dolphin and bottlenose dolphin are the four cetacean species that can be hunted in the Faroe Islands as drive hunts. In addition, it is permitted to shoot harbour porpoise with shotguns loaded with pellets cartridges. This hunt is carried out using boats.

When a school of pilot whales or other small whales, except harbour porpoise, is sighted the district administrator must be notified. The district administrator, in consultation with the whaling foremen, decides into which whaling bay the school shall be driven, following currents. A whaling bay must fulfil certain criteria and there are presently 23 authorised whaling bays in the Faroes. Once the decision on location is made, the boats form in a semi-circle behind the whales and stones are thrown into the water to make air bubbles, which help herd the whales in the desired direction. Upon approaching the whaling bay the boats are arranged by size, the smallest boats which can get closest to the beach, are in the front row, while the larger boats are kept behind. In this manner the school is beached or driven so close to the beach that people can wade out to the whales to secure them for the killing.

The actual killing method has changed very little throughout history. The whale is secured with a blowhole hook, after which the spinal lance is positioned in the midline between the blowhole and the dorsal fin at one hand's breadth behind the blowhole and directed at an angle approximately 10 degrees backward. With a single thrust followed by sideways movements the spinal cord and the

¹ Parliamentary Act No 56 of 19 May 2015 on pilot whales and other small whales, most recently amended by Parliamentary Act No 44 of 6 May 2016. Executive order No 100 of 5 July 2015 on pilot whale drive.



surrounding blood vessels are severed, directly followed by severing the jugulars and the carotids with a whaling knife so that the whale can be bled properly. Once the cut is made, the whale lies completely paralyzed and unconscious.

1.1.1 Training

New legislation was introduced in 2015 and hunters are now obliged to have received certification following an accredited course in pilot whaling to be entitled to kill whales. The course includes a review of the NAMMCO instruction manual on pilot whaling.

1.1.2 Monitoring

Monitoring and systematic reporting of the whale hunt takes place through the district administrators report to the Ministry of Fisheries. For each drive hunt information is reported about where and when the school of pilot whales was found, whaling bay, total killing time, number of whales, size and sex, number of participating boats, number of hunters on shore and in boats and if there have been any violations of the regulations as well as appraisal, marking and sharing of the pilot whales.

If any harbour porpoise is hunted, hunters are obliged to report the number of shot harbour porpoises to the district administrators, which report to the Ministry of Fisheries.

1.2 Seals

The only seal species presently found in the Faroese is the grey seal. The species is not protected and is intentionally killed in the Faroe Islands as nuisance animals around fish farms in the Faroese fjords. There is no specific legislation pertaining to the hunting of seals and they were previously shot with rifles. In 1969 new weapons legislation² banned the use of rifles as hunting weapons in the Faroes. However, in response to the complaints from fish farmers, permission has been granted to kill seals with rifles of minimum calibre 6.5 mm using hollow pointed bullets.

1.2.1 Reporting

Fish farms are obliged to report the number of seals that are shot to the Ministry of Fisheries³. According to the weapon legislation, completion of a firearms training course and possession of a firearms license are required to be entitled to handle weapons.

2. GREENLAND

The responsibility for whaling and sealing lies with the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture. They regulate and administer the hunts, while the Fisheries License Control Authority, through their wildlife officers, supervise and control the activities. The Ministry issues regulations that detail the scope and requirements for obtaining hunting permits, reporting requirements and sanctions. Large cetaceans, Narwhal and Beluga and walrus hunting are regulated by a quota system whereas other small cetaceans and seal hunting is not, though the municipality may set local regulations⁴.

² No 43 of 22 May 1969 on weapons etc., as last amended by Parliamentary Act No 81 of 22 May 2015

³ Executive order No 50 of 30 April 2018 on fish farming

⁴ www.Lovgivning.gl – link to where all laws and regulations can be found online.

Greenland Home Rule Act

No 1 of 16 May 2008 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting

No 25 of 18 December 2003 on animal welfare



2.1 Whales

2.1.1 Minke whales, fin whales, bowhead whales and humpback whales with harpoon gun

The hunt is opportunistic and seasonal, *i.e.* the hunters are not full-time whalers. Fin whales are caught either by two boats of a minimum length of 30 ft working together, or by one boat of a minimum length of 36 ft. One boat with a minimum length of 36 ft is required for the humpback whale. The bowhead is caught by three boats of a minimum length of 36 ft working together. The majority of the minke whales are also taken by this method by one boat with a length of 30-70 ft. Each boat should be equipped with one certified 50mm Kongsberg harpoon gun, which is checked every second year.

The primary weapon is a harpoon with the Norwegian penthrite “Whale Grenade 99”. This whale-grenade was produced for minke whales but has been modified for the hunt of larger whales (triggering cord extended from 40 cm to 90 cm, and explosive increased from 30 g to 45 g of penthrite). Primary and secondary weapons for the three larger whale species are the modified “Whale Grenade 99”. Gunners target the heart and lung region by aiming at an area close to the pectoral fins.

The secondary weapon for the minke whale is either a new grenade or rifle of a minimum calibre of 7.62 mm (30.06) employing full mantled bullets. Some hunters use solid round-nosed bullets together with rifles with higher calibre (.375), due to its better penetration. Rifle shots are aimed at the neck, in the back of the animal’s head.

Hunting generally occurs in good sea conditions only (<Beaufort 3) as the main method of hunting is stealth. Trips generally last less than 24 hours and once a vessel has caught a whale it tows it to the nearest suitable flensing site. Hunting usually occurs within 60 nmi of the home port of the vessel and depending on conditions up to 10 nmi offshore.

2.1.2 Collective minke whale hunt

The collective minke whale hunt is carried out in settlements without harpoon gun boats. The collective minke whale hunt is the only hunt of large whales in areas with little infrastructure, such as East Greenland and West Greenland north of Disko Bay.

A minimum of five skiffs are required to carry out a hunt, but normally it will be around 8 -10 small (usually around 19 ft and never more than 29 ft) boats equipped with outboard motors. Each boat generally contains around 2-4 people. Boats of larger size without harpoon gun can also take part, but not as the lead boat. Each skiff must be equipped with at least one hand harpoon with line and buoys. This harpoon is attached to the whale at the first opportunity, to prevent the animal from sinking. During the hunt, the whale is herded towards shallow and inshore waters.

Executive Order	No 29 of 18 December 2003 on nature protection
	No 26 of 24 October 1997 on extraordinary check and approval of harpoon canons
	No 22 of 19 August 2002 on trophy-hunting and fishing
	No 20 of 27 October 2006 on protection and hunting of walrus
	No 12 of 16 July 2010 on reporting from hunting and strike of large whales
	No 16 of 12 November 2010 on protection and hunting of seals
	No 13 of 30 December 2014 on hunting licenses for full time hunters
	No 14 of 30 December 2014 on hunting licenses for part-time hunters
	No 3 of 27 January 2017 on protection and hunting of beluga and narwhal
	No 9 of 6 December 2018 on protection and hunting of large whales

Catch registration form (1993-present) “*Piniarneq*”



The weapons used are rifles of a calibre of 7.62 mm. (30.06) or larger using full mantled bullets. As a rule, the whales are first wounded and then secured with the hand harpoons. When possible, the hand harpoon is used before wounding the animal. One hunter is the designated leader and it is his task to secure the animal with the hand harpoon. Once a whale has been secured, it is killed by shots aimed at the neck. Round-nosed solid bullets together with rifles of higher calibre, such as .375, are often used to kill the whale.

2.1.3 Small whale hunts

Harbour porpoise, white-sided and white-beaked dolphins, long-finned pilot whales, killer whales, narwhal and beluga are the small cetacean species that are hunted in Greenland. Of these only narwhal and beluga are restricted by national regulations (see below). The hunting method is essentially similar for all the species; a collective hunt with small, open, motorboats. The whales are shot with rifles with a minimum calibre of .30-06 full metal jacket bullets (exception is the smaller harbour porpoise where recommended calibre is .222). The hunter aims at the thorax region which will kill the whale rapidly by hitting the heart, lungs or vertebrae. The shot ranges vary from 5 – 30 meter. After a successful shot the hunter secures the whale with a long shafted gaff hook (*nissik*) before it sinks.

In the narwhal and beluga hunt which takes place in the open sea and ice-cracks, the whale will first be harpooned to attach floats to secure the whale before being shot. The desired target is the brain, but the neck and heart are also regarded as good target points. Harpoon hunts from qayaqs takes place close to the ice edge in North Greenland. Two hunters will often cooperate and when the whale is spotted from shore they will very quietly embark the kayak. They will secure the whale with hand held harpoons and then shoot it using 30.06 or .375 calibre rifle with full metal jacket pointed ammunition. It is not a national requirement to secure the animals before shooting. However some regional regulations recommend harpooning to secure the animal before killing it, and within the Melville Bay protected reserve this is a requirement.

In East and North Greenland hunters are allowed to hunt narwhal and beluga with net during the dark period of the year when there is no daylight. The nets are set in open water or under the sea-ice, and they are checked daily. An average of 20 whales are hunted by this method annually.

2.2 Seals and walrus

Six species of seal are found in the waters surrounding Greenland. These are harp seal, ringed seal, hooded seal, harbour seal, bearded seal and grey seal. Today, the focus of the hunt is on harp and ringed seals but also, to a much lesser extent, hooded seals. From 1 December 2010 the harbour seal and grey seal are completely protected pending biological advice indicating that the stocks are in a condition to be hunted. For all seal species lactating female and pup pairs and pups with lanugo hair (white-coats) are protected.

Hunting methods vary depending on season, region and species. The hunt for harp and hooded seals takes place all year round, but predominantly during summer and fall in open water. The hunter approaches the seal and shoots it with a rifle. In northern Greenland during the dark winter months netting is the preferred hunting method for ringed seals. The use of nets is a local small-scale hunt compared to the traditional rifle hunt. In spring, when ringed seals haul-out on the ice, hunters use white screens to sneak up to an appropriate shooting distance and shoot the seal dead in the head.

No quotas are set for the Greenland seal hunt, because of the very large seal population and relatively small sustainable hunt. Hunters are required to report their catches to the Ministry on an annual basis.



Seals can be hunted by all Greenlandic residents, provided they have either a full time or a part time hunting permit. The rifle is the most common weapon for seal hunting. The .30-06 calibre is common in some districts during the winter, while the calibres .17, .22 Mag., and .222 are the most common in the spring and summer hunts. There are no specific guidelines defining the types of rifles that can be used, however the ammunition used must have a muzzle energy $E_{100} > 160$ Joule, for shotgun the minimum allowed calibre is 20. Some communities may have more restrictive local rules on transportation.

Walrus can only be killed by fulltime hunters with licenses issued by the municipality. The walrus is shot with rifles with a minimum calibre of .30-06 full metal jacket sharp point bullets. Full- and semi-automatic rifles are not allowed. It is mandatory to harpoon the animal before delivering the deadly shot to prevent it from sinking. The harpoon must have one or several attached floats. Sometimes the first shot will be a body shot with the aim of slowing down the animal before harpooning it. Walrus may only be hunted at sea, not on land.

2.3 Training – whales, seals and walrus

There are no required training courses on how to shoot or where to aim at the animal in Greenland. Knowledge is passed on from generation to generation and between captain and crew. For the whale hunts there are courses on the handling and maintenance of harpoon grenades. Furthermore, the NAMMCO instruction manual on hunting of small cetaceans has been sent out to all hunters reporting a catch of a small cetaceans for the last five years.

2.4 Monitoring and inspection system – whales, seals and walrus

The wildlife officers work in close cooperation with the municipality authority, the police, Arctic Command and the Government of Greenland. The wildlife officers monitor the whale, seal and walrus activity itself by inspections of some of the hunts at sea and / or by controlling permits, licenses and equipment used on-board the vessels and skiffs and at the open markets where the hunters can sell their products.

2.5 Reporting system – whales, seals and walrus

The reporting system in Greenland is a self-reporting system where all catches are reported to the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture. For every marine mammal taken under license the hunter or the responsible person (captain of the harpoon boat or the chosen leader in the collective hunt) is required to fill out a reporting form that is submitted to the Ministry shortly after the hunt.

The report includes information about the hunter, his license and boat, description of the weapon used to kill the animal, serial number of the grenade in the case of a large whale, etc. Furthermore, it gives information on species, catch area and different kinds of biological data depending on the species e.g. for large whales: flensing place, body length, sex, reproductive state of females, stomach contents, weight of edible products and estimated time to death (TTD). Cases of “struck and lost” are also reported.

Reporting requirements are based on the hunting act, and hunting and species executive orders. *Særmeldingsskema* is for marine mammal species under quota (bowhead, fin, humpback and common minke whales and beluga, narwhal, walrus and polar bear) while the *Piniarneq*/Luli database is for the other species (both marine and terrestrial mammals and birds). Until now, however, a few marine mammal quota-species have also been kept in *Piniarneq*, which provides the possibility for differentiating between direct catch and by-catch as separate reporting of by-catch has been introduced in *Piniarneq* in 2015.



DNA samples are taken from all catches of marine mammals and sent to Greenland Nature Institute.

No edible products from a licensed marine mammal may be sold before the catch is reported to the municipality. By this reporting the hunter will obtain a stamp on their license. To get a stamp it is required that a completed reporting scheme is handed in and for whalers with a harpoon boat license also the receipt for the purchase of the whale grenade as well as the used grenade with serial number must be presented.

3. ICELAND

The responsibility for whaling lies with the Ministry of Industries and Fisheries and is regulated, administrated and supervised by the Directorate of Fisheries. Whale hunting is subject to detailed regulations whereas no special legislation governs seal hunting⁵.

3.1 Whales

Iceland hunt two species: The minke whale and the fin whale.

The minke whale hunt in Iceland is carried out with similar weapons and boats as are described for Norwegian minke whaling above. Minke whales are hunted in Icelandic coastal waters from small or medium sized (60-70 feet) fishing boats that are rigged for whaling in the spring and summer season. The weapons are deck mounted 50 mm Kongsberg harpoon guns equipped with the penthrite grenade (Whale Grenade-99) developed in Norway in 1997-1999. The grenade is loaded with 30 g pressed penthrite as explosive. Back-up rifles of calibres .375 or .458 using full metal jacket, round-nosed bullets are used if the whale is not instantly killed by the grenade detonation. The vessels usually search for whales at slow speed (4-6 knots/h) and the whales are often shot from a relatively short range (< 30m). No sonar or similar instruments are used during the hunt as such instruments are thought to scare the whales off.

Fin whale hunting is conducted from medium-sized boats that are exclusively used for whaling. Hunting grounds are within Iceland's 200-mile exclusive economic zone and the whales are towed to a land station for flensing and processing. The whales are killed using 90 mm Kongsberg harpoon guns and a modified Whale Grenade-99 designed to trigger the detonation of 100 g pressed penthrite explosive at a depth of 110 cm after penetration into the whale. The back-up weapon is a new grenade.

Hvalur hf.—the company hunting fin whales in Iceland—has, since 1985, worked to improve the killing efficiency in the hunt. Whale Grenade-99 replaced the former “Black Powder Grenade” (filled with 650 g of black powder as explosive) that had been used for large whales for at least 70-80 years. The killing by the “Black Powder Grenade” is a combination of the concussion from the blow and

⁵ Law No 26, May 3, 1949 on whaling, No 92, July 1, 1991 on amendments to Law 26/1949 on whaling (cf. Law No 40/1979 and 23/1991)

Regulation No 163, May 30, 1973 on whaling

No 359, April 6, 2009 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983, 239/1984, 862/2006, 822/2007, 456/2008 58/2009 and 263/2009). No 414, April 29, 2009 on the ban on whale hunting in specific areas.

Rules in the licenses for minke whaling and fin whaling.



the wounds and tissue lacerations caused by the heavy splinters from the cast iron grenade. However, the wounding and killing efficiency of such splinters is highly unpredictable.

3.1.1 Training

No training courses /requirements exists on an annual basis. However, courses for gunners have been held regularly, and in order to get a whaling license, the gunner must complete a course on handling of harpoon guns and grenades. In addition, he must have a general license for firearms.

3.1.2 Monitoring and inspection system

There are random inspections carried out by the Directorate of Fisheries.

3.1.3 Reporting system

In Iceland there is a self-reporting system to report the position, sex and length, foetus/size of foetus where all whale catches are reported to the Directorate of Fisheries.

3.1.4 DNA register

DNA samples of minke and fin whales are taken and recorded from all whales ensuring full traceability of whale products. The register, which includes the DNA profiles of all whales captured, permits the control and validation of all whale products sold in the domestic or international markets. It has also been used for a range of scientific purposes. The samples are analysed and stored at the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) in Reykjavik.

3.2 Seals

In Iceland, primarily harbour and grey seals are hunted. Landowners have the right to hunt seals on their land. No quotas are set for the Icelandic seal hunt.

Traditional hunt: The traditional seal hunt in Iceland revolves around hunting pups. Harbour seal pups are mainly hunted using netting. Nets used for this purpose are large meshed nets, often referred to as sealing-nets. The pups are caught in nets set close to small rocky islands or across creeks and channels. The seal pups are then clubbed and subsequently bled. Recent animal welfare laws in Iceland forbid drowning as a killing method of animals, which means that the nets need to be monitored regularly to avoid that the pups drown. Grey seal pups, on the other hand, are almost entirely killed on land in pupping areas during the pupping period in October, using either a seal club or by shooting. Adult grey seals are sometimes hunted as well, using calibre rifles (.222 -243 calibre).

Culling around salmon estuaries: The largest removal of seals in Iceland currently occurs due to culling of harbour seals around river mouths that are considered important for salmon angling. The cull is intended to reduce the potential effect that seal predation is believed to have on salmonid stocks. Mainly adult harbour seals are killed in the river mouth, and the method used is shooting, usually by .22 calibre rifles. Hunters are required by law to collect the culled animals, and it's forbidden to leave the carcass in the water.

3.2.1 Reporting

Hunters are not required to report their catches. Hunt statistics are collected by MFRI by direct contact with the hunters.

3.2.2 Training

There are no regulatory training courses on how to shoot or where to aim at the animal in Iceland, though a normal firearms license must be attained.



4. NORWAY

Marine mammal hunting is subject to detailed regulations (hunting seasons, quotas, methods of stunning and killing, training of hunters and their supervisors etc). The rules and regulations are instituted by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, and are administered and supervised by the Directorate of Fisheries.⁶

4.1 Whales

The only targeted species is the minke whale.

Norwegian fishermen are hunting minke whales from small (50 feet) or medium sized (60-120 feet) fishing boats that are rigged for whaling in the spring and summer season. The weapons are 50 mm and 60 mm harpoon guns. The harpoon is equipped with a penthrite grenade (Whale Grenade-99) developed in Norway in 1997-1999. The grenade is loaded with 30g pressed penthrite as explosive. The back-up weapon is a rifle of .375 or .458 calibre, using full metal jacket, round-nosed bullets. The vessels usually search for whales at slow speed (4-6 knots/h) and the whales are often shot from a relatively short range (< 30m). No sonar or similar instruments are used during the hunt as such instruments are considered to scare the whales off.

4.1.1 Training

Starting in 1984, all gunners and license holders have been required to attend obligatory training courses. Shooting tests with harpoon gun and rifle must be passed annually. The recommendation is to fire the grenade at the whale from a side position (45°-135° - relative to the animal's long axis) and aim at the thorax (chest). The rifle is usually fired at close range and when the whale's head is above the water. The shot is directed at the brain.

4.1.2 Monitoring system

In 2006 Norway introduced and made mandatory an automated monitoring system, and is thus far the only country to do so. This electronic system verifies when and where a shot has been fired and when a whale has been taken on board. Consequently, struck and lost whales are also recorded. All licensed whaling boats are equipped with an Electronic Trip Recorder (the Blue Box). The system cannot be manipulated and consists of a control and data logger box (Blue Box) designed to independently monitor and log hunting activity data. An independent GPS and different sensors deployed in certain areas and structures of the boat collect the data, and the programmes are designed for continuous

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Act of 29 May 1981 No 38 - Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats (the Wildlife act)

Act of 27 March 1999 No 15 - The Right to Participate in Fisheries and Hunting

Act of 6 June 2008 No 37 - The Marine Resources Act

Act of 19 June 2009 No 97 - Animal Welfare

Executive Orders from the Ministry:

31 March 2000 - Regulation of the practice of hunting minke whales.

11 March 2003 - Regulation of the practice of hunting seals in the West Ice and the East Ice

22 December 2009 - Regulation of the practice of hunting seals on the coast of Norway

Executive orders pertaining to the participation and governing of the hunt of Whales and Seals are issued annually by the Ministry and the Directorate of Fisheries.



operation and logging of data for at least 4 months. It is equipped with back-up batteries and automatic restart functions if system interruption occurs.

After the hunting season, the encrypted data from the Blue Box are decrypted and analysed by authorized personnel in the Directorate of Fisheries. For more information see document Øen, EO: electronic monitoring of Norwegian minke whaling, IWC 2005

4.1.3 Inspection

There are also random inspections occurring carried out by the Directorate of Fisheries. These inspectors have attended the same training courses as the whalers.

4.1.4 Reporting system

There is no mandatory reporting of TTD or IDR.

The reporting system in Norway is a combination of a self-reporting system and the automated blue box. The automatic monitoring system is a supplement to the electronic catch reporting system. The hunters are obliged to electronically report the catch (or no catch) on a daily basis. This report includes information on catch, position of catch, sex, length, circumference, blubber dimension, foetus/size of foetus and number of grenades used in the catch.

4.1.5 DNA register

DNA samples are taken and recorded from all whales ensuring full traceability of whale products. The Norwegian minke whale DNA register was first established in the mid 1990's when Norway reinstated commercial minke whale hunting. The register, which include the DNA profiles of all whales captured (approximately 9000 as of 2014), permits the control and validation of all meat and whale products sold in the domestic or international markets. It has also been used for a range of scientific purposes. The samples are analysed at the Institute of Marine Research and the register is hosted by the Directorate of Fisheries.

4.2 Seals

4.2.1 The pack ice hunt

Today only the harp seal is hunted in the Greenland Sea (West Ice). Traditionally also hooded seals were hunted but this hunt was prohibited from 2007. Norwegian vessels have been allocated an annual quota in the Barents Sea (East Ice) in the Russian Economic Zone but no Norwegian vessels have conducted sealing in the REZ for several years.

Ocean going vessels suitable and equipped for seal hunting are licensed. The crew usually consists of 13 – 15 persons and they normally stay out at sea from 4 to 6 weeks during the hunting season (1 April to 30 June).

Weaned harp seal pups and adult harp seals (over one year) are subject for the hunt. The seals must be on the ice and are shot either from the ice or from the vessel or from a smaller boat. Seals are shot in the head, and the shooting range is normally 30 – 70 meters. All adult animals are to be shot with a rifle. Pups may be shot with a rifle or killed on the ice by using a hakapik or a seal blow hook, named slagkrok as the only weapon. The hakapik is mandatory to use as secondary weapon on all animals that are shot. Slagkrok may be used as secondary weapon on pups. The secondary weapon should be used as soon as possible after the animal is shot. Bleeding of the animal should be performed immediately after the use of the secondary weapon. When the hakapik or slagkrok is used as the only weapon on pups, a blow to the head with the blunt part is immediately followed by a blow



the with the spike. Then the animal is bled. Today, almost all seals are killed with a rifle. Haka-pik as the only weapon is only occasionally used to kill pups.

According to the regulations relating to the seal hunt it is explicitly forbidden to:

- Kill un-weaned pups
- Hunt adult harp seals in whelping areas
- Hunt seals that are in the water
- Shoot seals if conditions are such that they cannot be struck with a haka-pik and be bled on the ice
- Hunt in artificial light
- Use lines, nets or any form of trap
- Use shotguns
- Use a haka-pik on adult animals that have not been shot first
- Use a slagkrok on adult animals
- Strike with a haka-pik or a slagkrok anywhere but on the skull.

The prescribed ammunition used for pups is similar to what is prescribed for the hunting of smaller terrestrial games (roe deer, fox, etc.), which is soft-nosed, expanding bullets with impact energy of minimum 981 Joules (100 kgm) at 100m (.222 calibre and higher).

The prescribed ammunition for adult seals is similar to large terrestrial mammal ammunition (moose, red deer, etc.) which is soft-nosed, expanding, projectiles with impact energy of at least 2700 Joules (275 kgm) at 100m for 9g bullets and 2200 Joules (225 kgm) at 100m for 10g bullets (6.5, .308 calibre and higher).

4.2.2 Coastal seal hunting

Grey seals and harbour seals are harvested along the Norwegian coast and ringed seals and bearded seals along Spitsbergen. The hunt is conducted from land or from smaller boats and is carried out using rifles and slagkrok. The requirement for the ammunition is the same as the requirement for ice-breeding seals. It is a requirement that the depth of the water must be so that the seal may be retrieved if shot in water. In Spitsbergen the seals are hunted on the ice or on land, except for ringed seals that may be hunted in the water during the period 16 August – 30 November. The hunt is licensed.

4.2.3 Training, reporting and inspection.

Hunters and inspectors are trained prior to the pack-ice hunt. The shooters have to pass an annual shooting test. It is mandatory to keep a catch log book and to have an inspector on-board (usually a veterinarian) during the hunt. Vessels may also be required to take on-board international observers. In the coastal seal hunt the hunter also must pass an annual shooting test. There is no mandatory reporting of TTD or IDR for either of the two hunts.