

AGENDA item 9: INFORMATION ON MONITORING IN NORWAY, ICELAND AND GREENLAND

Norway

Responsible authority

The responsibility for whaling lies with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and is regulated, administrated and supervised by the Directorate of Fisheries.

Monitoring system

Norway has since 2006 an automated monitoring system that 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 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 reading see document Øen, EO: electronic monitoring of Norwegian minke whaling, IWC 2005

Inspection

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

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 grenade used in the catch.

Iceland

Responsible authority

The responsibility for whaling lies with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and is regulated, administrated and supervised by the Directorate of Fisheries.

Monitoring and inspection system

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

Reporting system

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

Greenland

Responsible authority

The responsibility for whaling lies with the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture. They regulate and administer the hunt, while the Fisheries Licence Control Authority, through their wildlife officers, supervise and control the activities.

Monitoring and inspection system

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 whaling activity it-self 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. In 2015, 8 wildlife officers and 4 assisting wildlife officers were employed nationally.

Reporting system

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 large whale taken, 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 information given includes information about the hunter, his licence and boat, description of the weapon used to kill the animal, serial number of the grenade, etc. Furthermore it gives information on species, catch area and 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.

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

For more information see document Greenland: White paper on management and utilisation of large whales in Greenland, 2012.