

AGENDA ITEM 3 STUCK AND LOST

11.2.1. Struck and Lost

R-1.6.4 The SC has recommended that catch statistics include correction for struck but lost animals for different seasons, areas, and catch operations. Council requested the SC and the Committee on Hunting Methods to provide advice on the best methods for collection of the desired statistics on losses. Council noted that this request, although brought up regarding walrus, not only pertains to walrus but to all species.

Data on struck and lost (SL) presently used in assessments for some Greenland hunts (e.g. walrus) were collected in Canada and Greenland in the 1970s and 1980s and it is unknown whether these rates are still relevant.

The SC have commented that SL rates based on hunter interviews are often not reliable enough for use in assessments. It further agreed that the best method for collecting SL data was using observers in the different types hunts, as SL rates vary between species and hunts. The SC acknowledged that this would be logistically challenging and costly and would therefore perhaps not represent a prioritised parameter for improving assessments, see point 7.7.3.1 for walrus.

It was noted that in order to obtain more reliable reporting of SL, one possibility could be to not deduct SL from the quota for a certain period of time for species where the catch quota were not realised. This suggestion was however not discussed further by the SC.

Presently, depending on species, quota advice was given with and without including SL, i.e., sometimes as strikes and sometimes as landed animals. This is illogical and confusing and future quota advice should be streamlined.