



To
Ministry of Environment and Nature
P.O. Box 1614
3900 Nuuk
Greenland

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4000-0101

Standing Non-Detriment Findings for Exports from Greenland of Products derived from Atlantic walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus*)

As is required under Article IV, Paragraph 2 of CITES, any export permit shall only be granted when the Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

In determining the extent to which harvesting of Atlantic walrus in Greenland for trade is potentially impacting natural populations, the following has been considered:

Management

Prior to 5 July 2006 there were no quotas for the catch of walrus in Greenland. New regulations came into the Greenlandic legislation in 5 July 2006 allowing the Greenland Home Rule Government to set quotas for the catch of walrus in Greenland. The quotas and harvest are managed using separate reporting for each walrus catch and a general reporting system that was introduced in 1993 - PINIARNEQ - where each harrier reports his total harvest by month of all species taken by him through the year (September to September).

Quotas are determined by the Greenland Home Rule government based on recommendations from the Directorate for Fishing, Hunting and Agriculture in Nuuk. Quotas issued for the Greenland catch of walrus for the year 2007 allowed for a catch of a total of 200 walrus in 2006. This quota does not consider non-reported loss¹. Annual quotas have been set for a three-year period (2007-2009) intending a gradual decrease in the catch of walrus from the two subpopulations in West Greenland, but unchanged in East Greenland.

The scientific advice to the Greenland Home Rule management authorities on sustainable catch of walrus in Greenland by population is provided by the Greenland Institute of

¹ In theory, losses of species subject to quotas should be reported. However, legislation concerning walrus is somewhere unclear on this respect, and in practice very few walrus losses are reported. It must be mentioned that, since the autumn 2006, it is mandatory to secure the walrus with a harpoon before administering the killing shot. It is expected that this measure will result in reduction of loss rates.