

Summary of the points relevant to limitations of catch, monitoring of quota and human killing methods, from the *“The Government of Greenland’s executive order nr. 12 of 22 of December 2014 on the hunt of large whales”*

Species:

- All baleen whales and sperm whales are protected, with the exemption of minke whales, fin whales, bowhead whales and humpback whales, which can be taken following the rules specified in the executive order.
- Only fin whales above 15.2 m can be taken from January 1 to December 31. Mother/calf pairs are protected year round.
- Only adult humpback whales can be taken from January 1 to December 31. Mother/calf pairs are protected year round.
- Minke whales can be taken from March 1 to November 30. Mother/calf pairs are protected year round.
- Only adult bowhead whales can be taken from April 1 to December 31. Mother/calf pairs are protected year round.
- It is possible to apply for a dispensation for the euthanasia of whales that are injured, entangled in fishing gear or captured in ice entrapments.
- Large whales caught legally, but discovered being sick and unsuitable for human consumption are considered as euthanized and are not counted as part of the quotas.
- The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture decides how to use products derived from whales euthanized. It has been the custom that the meat of whales entangled in fishing gear is distributed freely among local institutions, such as hospitals or schools, and among the people from the community.

Requirements:

- Only Greenlandic boats registered in the Danish Maritime Authority can be used for whaling. Furthermore, there are restrictions related to the size of the boat and the equipment on board. The restrictions include the type of harpoon cannon.
- Harpoon cannons should be mounted and approved by authorized personnel. All harpoon cannons have to be examined and approved every other year by authorized personnel.
- Only persons that have taken a special course on the handling and use of whale-grenades can buy or handle whale-grenades. A certificate of the whale-grenade course, as well as a license, valid for the current year, has to be shown in order to buy a whale-grenade. Registers of all the purchases of whale-grenades are kept at the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture.

- The boat and the equipment that will be used for whaling have to be approved before a hunter can obtain a license. Only full-time hunters that have taken the course on handling and use of whale-grenades can apply for licenses for large whales (an exemption from this rule are the license for the collective hunt for minke whales described below). Only persons with license can hunt large whales.
- Licenses for the collective hunt of minke whales can be given in places without harpoon cannon boats or where the local boats equipped with harpoon cannon cannot satisfy the demand of fresh meat. Only full-time hunters that own skiffs and do not have access to boats with harpoon cannon can apply for licenses for the collective hunt. There are further regulations concerning the equipment necessary on board the skiffs and the minimum amount of skiffs that can participate in a collective hunt.

Quotas and licences:

- After consulting with the municipalities and with the hunter's organization, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture decides every year the maximum number of fin whales, bowhead whales, humpback whales and minke whales that can be taken from each municipality. The allocated IWC quotas are the basis of the annual quota.
 - The municipal authorities provide numbered licenses that allow the owner to hunt whales with a specified boat during the current year. Since 1994, the fin whale quotas have been set free, meaning that quotas are not allocated to specific municipalities. Hunters who have obtained a licence for taking fin whales can hunt freely and the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture stop the hunt when the catches approach the quota.
 - Licenses for minke, bowhead and humpback whales are restricted to one whale per license. Licenses for hunting of these three whale species are given in numbered forms by the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture and distributed to the municipal authorities. The municipal authorities issue the licenses for all the large whales to the hunters.
 - Once the amount of licenses allowed by the allocated quotas has been issued, the municipal authorities send information about the hunters, licenses and boats to the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture. This information is entered into an electronic database.
 - A license for the hunt of a large whale in West and East Greenland is used when the animal is struck, not depending on the success of the landing.
 - When the quota for any of the four species have been reached for the calendar year any exceeded numbers shall be reduced the same year or following year on any allowed species.
- Redistribution and reduction of quotas:

- The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture can reduce the quota for the current year, or for the following year, if the quotas have been exceeded. Quotas can also be reduced if whales, including whales of protected species, have been shot or captured without license.
- The municipal authorities and the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture have the authority to transfer or cancel licenses. Incorrect reporting of taken or wounded whales may lead to loss of licenses.
- The quotas are redistributed in early fall. Unused licenses cannot be used after the redistribution of quotas. Sale of catch, biological samples and catch data
- The product of a catch cannot be sold before the municipal authorities have registered the hunt and stamped the license. In order to obtain a stamp, whalers must show the receipt for the purchase of the whale-grenade, as well as the used whale-grenade with serial number (hunters from the collective hunt do not buy whale-grenades and are exempted from showing receipts or used whale-grenades).
- It is forbidden to export meat of large whales for commercial purposes.
- Anyone who kills a large whale has the obligation to deliver a fresh tissue sample to the municipal authorities. The sample should be stored in containers with chemical solution provided by the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, and sent to this institute as soon as possible. The sample should be accompanied by information about species, date, location, etc.
- Failure to compile with the regulations of this executive order can lead to fines.