

RECURRING RECOMMENDATIONS GROUPED IN CATEGORIES

There are overlaps between the categories

RC

Training and education

Training and education improve safety, efficiency and animal welfare. Theoretical and practical aspects of hunting and considerations of local conditions are essential elements (regional differences between killing efficiency). (EG-2015)

Recommended topics to be included in training (also to fill data requirements)

- physical meetings (e.g. debriefing end of season) between hunters to exchange knowledge and experience (WS and EGs)
- hunters be trained to measure and report on strike location, detonation location and distance between the two to see why NO has higher IDR than GL in minke harpoon hunt (EG-2010, 2015: GL)
- for shooters/gunners harpoon gun hunts:
The significance of the angle of the shot relative to the animal's long axis; from 45 to 135 degrees relative to the animal's long axis and aiming the shot at the thorax.

Reducing Struck and lost (S&L)

Reviewing underlying reasons for S&L (EG-2015) and reporting back to hunters. (WS-2006:2.2.4)

Cooperation (hunters, managers, scientists) to improve recording and reporting of S&L, e.g., local sub-committees to develop monitoring system. (WS-2006:2.3.4)

To develop a weapon to improve the firing/strike range and the securing of the whale, e.g.,

- an air gun modified to incorporate firing a harpoon head
- a harpoon gun with floats attached (WS-2006:2.3.2).

Improve the minke whale rifle hunt in Greenland (harpoon hunt has shorter TTD and lower S&L)

To describe and analyse methods and equipment to identify necessary adjustments. (WS-1999: 4b)

(WS-1999: 4b, EG-2015)

- Evaluate the sequence of the use of rifle and harpoon and the efficiency of the harpoon in this sequence, inc. accessing other types of harpoons.

Cooperation hunters – managers - regulatory measures

The safety of the hunters must be the number one priority and should be considered in any regulatory measures or technical innovations to equipment and techniques.

- The hunters should be involved in the decision-making processes, including development of regulations and at all levels in development (design, testing) of new hunting gear (weapons and equipment) (WS-2004:S&L, WS-2006: 1.5, 2.3.3)
- Establishing formal meetings with local government officials (WS-2006: 2.3.3)

Monitoring

Monitoring large whale hunts at 10-year intervals unless other important issues arise that require more frequent. (EG-2015)

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(WS-2006:2.4.4)

- The importance of monitoring must be explained to hunters so that they can “buy in” to a monitoring programme.
- A monitoring system should provide feedback to hunters so that they can improve their hunting techniques.
- Community-based monitoring, based on a combination of hunt observation and post-hunt interviews, has been effective in Chukotka and could be adapted to other areas.
- A system based on “index hunters” may be effective in some areas.

Data requirements – knowledge gaps

Struck and loss estimates are a priority for open water seal and walrus hunts. (WS-2004)

Data needed on where the whale is hit in relation to TTD. Data be analysed by the statistical methods recommended in 2010. These analyses should include analysis of the efficiency of the backup killing methods (EG-2015: GL)

Collecting TTD for whales that do not die instantaneously. The purpose is to analyse the reasons for differences among different hunts to improve efficiency. (EG-2010)

To develop regulations and document efficiency, S&L rate and TTD for small whales. Data to be gathered in a standardized manner making comparison between hunts and development over time possible. (EG-2011: GL)