

The Russian Federation Proposal on the Chair's Consensus Decision  
(Submitted by the Russian Federation)

The Russian Federation would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Chair and Vice-Chair in working out the proposed Consensus Decision. We also appreciate the work undertaken by SWG, Support Group and Scientific Committee.

However, the Russian Federation is concerned that proposed accommodation for "stinky" gray whales in Table 4 does not adequately account for current and projected subsistence hunting.

The Russian Federation has demonstrated recent years for several times that the real needs of Chukotka Native peoples are 350 of Eastern North Pacific Gray whales annually. The Scientific Committee has agreed that taking of 350 of Gray whales is sustainable level. Because of technical issues the Native hunters do not have possibilities to take 350 whales. The 5-year block-quotas are established for 620 (124 per year) whales.

The Chairs' proposal would increase the annual strike limit for indigenous subsistence take of Gray whales by five whales in recognition of the issue of the "stinky" whale issue.

Native hunters traditionally harvested the small-sized Gray whales but at the present time they endeavor to large-sized whales. But there are a bigger proportion of the "stinky" whales amongst the large-sized whales. The "stinky" whales can not be consumed and are lost for Native peoples. Depending of the year the quantity of "stinky" whales was 6, 8, 10. The number of "stinky" gray whales taken will increase as Chukotkan Natives take larger whales.

The Russian Federation projects that there will be about 10 stinky whales landed per year. Therefore the landed limit should be increased from Chairs' proposal of 1,290 to 1,340. We recommend that footnote 9 in the Chairs' proposal be revised as follows:

**"9. This represents the maximum number of animals that may be struck in any one year. The total number of animals that may be landed over the 10 seasons from 2011-2020 is ~~1,290~~ 1,240, plus an additional 100 in order to account possible stinky gray whales. The term "stinky" gray whale shall mean a whale that is deemed inedible to eat because of strong unnatural, purgen odor. This odor may be detectable from landed whales. The odor can also sometimes be detected when the meat is cooked".**