

SUMMARY OF INFRACTIONS REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION FOR 2008

Under the terms of the Convention, each Contracting Government is required to transmit to the Commission full details of each infraction of the provisions of the Convention committed by persons and vessels under the jurisdiction of the Government. Note that although lost whales are traditionally reported, they are not intrinsically infractions.

Catch and associated data for commercial and scientific permit catches were submitted to the IWC Secretariat (IWC/61/Rep 1). Norway took 536 minke whales (including 4 lost) in her commercial whaling operations and reported no infractions. Iceland took 38 minke whales (including 2 lost) in her commercial whaling operations. Aboriginal subsistence catches and infractions are summarised in table 1.

Table 2 gives details of the infractions reported in the 2008 season and Table 3 gives information on the five unresolved infractions from previous years (numbers 2005.1, 2006.1, .2, .3 and .4).

Table 1. Summary of Aboriginal subsistence catches and infractions reported for the 2008 season.

Country	Species	Males	Females	Total landed	Struck and lost	Total Strikes	Infractions/ Comments
Denmark							
West Greenland	Fin	8	3	11	3	14	None
	Minke	55	86	148 ¹	5	153	2 ²
East Greenland	Minke	0	1	1	0	1	None
St Vincent and The Grenadines							
	Humpback	0	1	1	1	2	None
USA							
	Bowhead	18	19	38 ³	12	50	1 ⁴
Russian Federation							
	Bowhead	0	2	2	0	2	None
	Gray	63	64	127	3	130	None
Republic of Korea							
	Minke						14 ⁵

¹ Includes 7 animals of unknown sex (including 2 reported as infractions)

² See table 2, infractions 2008.1 and 2008.2

³ Includes 1 animal of unknown sex

⁴ See table 2, infraction 2008.3

⁵ See table 2 infractions 2008.4 – 2008.11

Table 2. List of infractions from the 2008 season

Ref.	Nation	Species	Sex	Length	Date	Infraction (specify)	Explanation	Penalty/Action	Investigatn. complete?
2008.1	Greenland /Denmark	Minke Whale	?	4 m	October 2008	Illegal rifle hunt	Young minke whale found dead with rifle wounds after the allocated quota had been taken	Reported to the police. Further investigation impossible.	Case suspended
2008.2	Greenland /Denmark	Minke whale	?	4 m	November 2008	Illegal rifle hunt	Reported catch after the allocated quota had been taken. The catch was left on a beach after it was reported as a illegal catch. Participating hunters are known.	Reported to the police. Investigation ongoing	No. Expected in 2009
2008.3	USA	Bowhead (<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>)	M	7.2m	6 Sep 09	Calf	Whale appeared to be a small independent animal that was not associated with a large whale. After being harvested, it was obviously a calf based on its standard length, baleen length, and milk in the stomach (George and Suydam 2006)	The AEWB Board of Commissioners met on March 2, 2009 to take testimony from the crew in question and crews nearby. After receiving testimony, the Commissioners determined that the crew had taken all possible precautions, but that the absence of a large whale in the area where the calf was taken led to an honest mistake	Yes
2008.4	Korea	4 Minke whales	-	-	27 May 07 4 Jun 07 21 Jul 07 16 Aug 07	No quota	The following 4 minke whales were caught in Korean waters 1) around 15 miles from Ulgi-lighthouse, Ulsan 2) in waters around Jangsaengpo-Port, Ulsan 3) in waters around Jangsaengpo-Port, Ulsan 4) in waters around Jangsaengpo-Port, Ulsan	10 months of imprisonment and 2 years probation.	Yes
2008.5	Korea	3 Minke whales	-	-	27 Jul 07 18 Aug 07 19 Aug 07	No quota	The following 3 minke whales were caught in Korean waters and taken onto a vessel in pieces 1) in waters around Gampo beach, Gyeongju-si 2) in waters around Chuksan-myeon, Yeongdeok-Gun, Gyeongbuk 3) in waters around Gampo beach, Gyeongju-si	10 months of imprisonment and 2 years probation.	Yes
2008.6	Korea	Minke	-	-	20 Oct 07	No quota	A minke whale was caught using a harpoon in Korean waters around Hupo-port, Uljin-gun Gyeongbuk by two vessels.	8 months of imprisonment and 2 years probation.	Yes
2008.7	Korea	Minke	-	7m	25 May 08	No quota	A minke whale was caught using a harpoon in Korean waters around 13 miles from Guryongpo-eup, Pohang-si.	6 months of imprisonment and 2 years probation. fine US \$5,000.	Yes
2008.8	Korea	Minke	-	3m	8 Jul 08	No quota	A minke whale was harpooned in Korean waters around 11 miles from Chuksan-myeon, Yeongdeok-Gun, Gyeongbuk.	14 months of community service command, 8 months of imprisonment and 2 years probation.	Yes
2008.9	Korea	Minke (2)	-	2*5m	20 Oct 08	No quota	In Korean waters around 1 mile from Namoe-port, Busan, a fishing vessel which carried 3 tons of whale meat obtained from 2 minke whales (worth of around 0.24 million dollars) was seized by a guard ship of Busan Customs.	10 months of imprisonment and 2 years probation.	Yes

Ref.	Nation	Species	Sex	Length	Date	Infraction (specify)	Explanation	Penalty/Action	Investigatn. complete?
2008.10	Korea	Minke	-	5m	16 Nov 08	No quota	A vessel received 87 bags of minke whale meat from an unidentified vessel around the docks in Naengcheon brige, Cheongnim-dong, Pohang-si, Korea. The bags were seized.	6 months of imprisonment and 2 years probation. 87 bags of whale meat were forfeited.	Yes
2008.11	Korea	Minke	-	5m	17 Dec 08	No quota	A minke whale was caught in Korean waters around 12 miles from Chuksan-myeon, Yeongdeok-Gun, Gyeongbuk; a fisherman was drowned due to a harpoon hurled to catch the whale.	One violator was imprisoned for 10 months and received 2 years probation.	Yes

Table 3. List of unresolved infractions from previous seasons and follow-up actions

Ref.	Nation	Species	Sex	Length	Date	Infraction (specify)	Explanation	Penalty/Action	Investigatn. complete?
2005.1	Greenland /Denmark	Fin	?	?	Sept. 05	Unreported struck and lost whale	A dead whale with a harpoon embedded on its flank was seen near Maniitsoq (West Greenland).	Reported to the police. Investigation ongoing.	No. Completion unlikely.
2006.1	Greenland /Denmark	Fin	Unk.	Unk.	Aug 06	Hunting method; failure to report; waste of meat	Reported on August 22, Qasigiannguut (Disko Bay). Skiffs were observed using rifle shots to assist a boat equipped with harpoon cannon. Probably the same whale was found dead later, with only part of the meat removed for consumption.	Case given up by the police, since further investigation are expected not to result in any persecution.	Yes
2006.2	Greenland /Denmark	Fin	Unk.	Unk.	23 Aug 06	Prohibited stock	A fin whale with bullet wounds was observed at Kulusuk (East Greenland). Fate unknown.	Investigation stopped.	Yes
2006.3	Greenland /Denmark	Humpback	Unk.	Unk.	14 Sept 06	Prohibited species	A humpback whale with bullet wounds was observed at Niaqornaarsuk (Southwest Greenland). Fate unknown.	Reported to the police. Investigation ongoing.	No Completion unlikely
2006.4	Greenland /Denmark	Sei	Unk.	Unk.	21 Aug 06	Prohibited species	A sei whale was taken at Uummannaq (Northwest Greenland) by hunters licensed to catch a minke whale	Reported to the police. Investigation ongoing.	No Expected in 2009