

## ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE SMALL WORKING GROUP ON CONVERSION FACTORS: IWC/M10/2

In response to a request for clarification received after publication of the report, we would like to note the following with respect to the correction factors used after estimating the yield per animal.

As the objective of our study was to provide information and determine conversion factors relevant to likely yield to be obtained given certain strike limits, the correction for struck-and-lost animals used in this report followed the approach of Witting (SC/61/AMMP8); this also incorporated information on whether the strike limits had been able to be met in recent years. This is primarily relevant to the case of the fin whale for which the strike limit (which had been voluntarily reduced by Greenland to 10 in 2006 and 2007) was not always met. Thus the correction factor used in that study and our report takes into account both of these factors (actual struck-and-lost and fulfilment of strike limit) for the period 2003-2007.

If instead it was assumed that the strike limit is always reached, then the correction for struck-and-lost animals for fin whales would be lower, i.e. 0.84 (the simple ratio of animals struck to those landed); the correction for common minke whales would be largely unchanged (0.97). If that approach were taken, the conversion factors per strike would be higher (9.2 tonnes per fin whale and 1.84 tonnes per minke whale).

The importance of the correction factors related to the ratio of landed whales to struck whales and to the catch limits **re-emphasises** our recommendations that the conversion factors are re-evaluated at the end of each block quota using the most recent data for the last five years.

### Erratum

Subsequently to completing the report, it was drawn to our attention that there may have been differences in the catch data between that included in the submitted progress reports to the Scientific Committee (data used by Witting and the basis for our analysis). We have thus re-examined the data for the period 2003-2007 to use the most recent data held by the Secretariat that included some subsequent minor corrections to the progress reports; we apologise that we had not noted this before. The corrected struck-and-lost values become 0.62 rather than 0.66 for fin whales and 0.97 rather than 0.98 for common minke whales. This affects our resultant **recommended** conversion factors slightly as follows: (1) fin whales **6.8 tonnes per strike** instead of 7.2 tonnes per strike; (2) common minke whales **1.82 tonnes per strike** instead of 1.84 tonnes per strike. The final version of the report will be modified accordingly. The slightly revised Tables 12 and 13 are included here to show the effect of these changes.

Table 12 (revised)

The recommended conversion factors per strike (RCFPS). In addition we provide the equivalent conversion factors per animal (RCFPA), as well as the original conversion factors (per animal and calculated per strike on the basis of the struck-and-lost rates given in this report – OCFPA and OCFPS). NG = not previously given.

	OCFPA	RCFPA	OCFPS	RCFPS
Common minke whale	2	1.88	1.96	<b>1.82</b>
Fin whale	10	10.91	6.6	<b>6.8</b>
Bowhead whale	NG	11.00	NG	<b>11</b>
Humpback whale	NG	11.59	NG	<b>9.5</b>

Table 13 (revised)

Information on tonnes of products to be expected on average for certain catch limits (see text) using the conversion factors per strike (RCFPS) recommended in this report and for (A) the present strike limits and (B) for those limits that were in accord with Scientific Committee advice in its report based upon the request by Denmark.

	RCFPS	(A) present limits	(B) Limits within SC advice on sustainability	Products for (A)	Products for (B)
Common minke whale	1.82	200	178	364	324
Fin whale	6.7	19	19	127.3	127.3
Bowhead whale	11	2	2	22	22
Humpback whale	9.5	0	10	0	95
Total				513.3	568.3