



To: CITES kontor
Departementet for Indenrigsanliggende, Natur og Miljø

10.09.2009

J. nr. 40.00.01.01/09

Standing Non-Detriment Findings for Exports from Greenland of Products derived from Narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*)

As is required under Article IV, Paragraph 2 of CITES, any export permit shall only be granted when the Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

In determining the extent that harvesting of narwhals in Greenland waters for trade is potentially impacting natural populations, the following have been considered:

Management

- Legislation implemented in March 2004 allows the Home Rule Government to set quotas for narwhals in West Greenland. In 2009, quotas were introduced in East Greenland. The hunting is managed by the municipalities that issue licenses for each narwhal to be taken, including animals that are struck but lost, and monitor when quota limits has been reached.
- Quotas are based on management recommendations from international management organisations. The Canada/Greenland Joint Commission on Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga (JCNB) gives recommendations for stocks of narwhal and beluga that are shared between Greenland and Canada. And the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) gives recommendations for Greenlandic stocks not shared with Canada.
- The scientific advice for JCNB and NAMMCO on harvest sustainability is provided by a Joint Working Group (JWG) of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) of JCNB and a NAMMCO Scientific Committee Working Group. The NAMMCO SC reconsiders the recommendations of the JWG before they are given to the Commission. The JWG meets on a regular basis - approximately every two years - to discuss beluga and narwhal stock status, to perform stock assessments, and to develop joint recommendations for management.

Assessment

- Narwhals occur in four aggregations in West Greenland and only one, the Melville Bay, is considered distinct. The three other aggregations are currently hypothesized to be connected through annual migrations from Inglefield Bredning in summer, to Uummannaq in November and to Disko Bay in winter. Other stocks summering in Northern Canada supply a low number of whales to the hunting during winter in West Greenland.

- A survey of the narwhal wintering ground in eastern Baffin Bay, along West Greenland, in 2006 gave an estimate of 7.000 whales. Surveys conducted in 2007 provided new abundance estimates of 8.000 narwhals in Inglefield Bredning and 6.000 in Melville Bay. Surveys of the hunting grounds in East Greenland in 2008 indicated an abundance of 6.000 whales in this area.
- The level of removals of narwhals in West Greenland increased considerably after the 1950s. The removals apparently peaked in the early 1990s, where after they remained relatively constant at 700 per year until 2004, when quotas were introduced and the catches were substantially reduced. Current reporting of catches show an average take of 85 narwhals in East Greenland.
- Assessment models discussed and agreed upon at the JWG meeting in February 2009 show that catches of 310 narwhals per year in West Greenland and 85 in East Greenland will ensure a 70% probability of a population increase for the next 5 years.

Trade and Export

- Export of narwhal products from Greenland was banned following a negative NDF issued in October 2005.
- Previous to the export ban, export of narwhal products from Greenland was mainly restricted to tusk, tooth and crafted parts of narwhal tusks. These products are also sold locally within Greenland. Because of several confounding factors, the statistics on export of narwhal products cannot be used directly to provide insight into the utilisation of narwhals in Greenland.
- The most valuable hunting product of narwhal in Greenland is the skin, also known as mattak. All mattak can be sold within Greenland and no export occurs. The meat can be sold for much lower prices and also for local consumption only.
- Tusks have a relative low value compared with mattak, and trade in tusks is not the primary incentive for the narwhal hunt in Greenland. However, income from selling of tusks is also part of the subsistence economy, and it cannot be excluded that trade in tusk and crafted parts thereof is not influencing the harvest of narwhals.

Updated conclusion on non-detriment findings for export

- The implemented catch limits for 2009-2012 for narwhals in West and East Greenland are smaller than or equal to the scientific recommendations of the JWG and will at high probability allow for an increase in the stocks. The quotas are dispersed to the communities in agreement with the scientific recommendations to prevent local over-exploitation.
- Based on this, the CITES Scientific Authority in Greenland can issue a positive non-detriment findings declaration for the export of narwhal products. If allowed, the international trade on narwhal products would not have a negative impact on the narwhal stocks of Greenland, provided that the above mentioned quotas are respected.

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