

Inuvialuit Inupiat Beaufort Sea Beluga Whale Agreement

Whereas the Inuvialuit of Canada's Western Arctic and the Inupiat of Northern Alaska have for generations depended upon the beluga whale for subsistence and cultural needs,

And whereas the hunting, taking and subsistence use of beluga whales have been a central part of their tradition and lifestyle for centuries past,

And whereas both groups wish to provide that same opportunity to their children and their children's children, for generations to come,

And whereas studies have shown that the group of beluga whales identified as the Beaufort Sea Stock are important to subsistence users in both Canada and the United States,

And whereas the subsistence users of the stock in Canada's Western Arctic are the Inuvialuit of Aklavik, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Holman Island and Sachs Harbour, and in Northern Alaska are the Inupiat of Kaktovik, Barrow, Point Hope, Kivalina and Little Diomede,

And whereas the Inuvialuit have agreed to manage their use of beluga whales in the manner described in their Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan,

And whereas the Inupiat have agreed to manage their use for beluga whales in the manner described in the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee Management Plan,

The Parties to this agreement hereby agree to:

1. Establish an Inuvialuit and Inupiat Beluga Commission consisting of four appointees of the Inuvialuit Game Council, three appointees of the North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee and one appointee from the Kivalina Whaling Captains Association, to oversee the terms of this agreement.
2. Facilitate, within the limitations of funding, meetings of the Commission as required, to meet at least once every two years. Whenever possible, the meetings of the Commission will alternate between countries. The Chair of each meeting shall be a Commissioner from the host country.
3. Exchange, on or before the 31st of December of each year, their best estimate for their respective areas of the number of beluga whales struck and landed, the locations of the hunts and the sex composition of the landed beluga whales. This information will not be shared outside the Commission without prior consent of all parties.

4. Exchange, on or before the 15th of May of each year, information regarding the nature of research on the stock that is being planned for that year.
5. Plan and conduct, where desirable, joint research projects for the betterment of the stock and those who depend upon it.
6. Establish, as necessary, technical committees whose task will be to guide such joint research identified in Clause 5, and to report to the Parties on that research.
7. Exchange information of traditional ecological knowledge, hunting methods and uses of beluga whales.
8. Changes to this agreement can be made at anytime with the agreement of all parties.

Signed on this _____ day of _____ at _____,

Chairman, Inuvialuit Game Council

Chairman, North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee

Chairman, Kivalina Whaling Captains Association

Witnesses

Inuvialuit

Inupiat
