



NDF WORKSHOP
WG 5 – Mammals
CASE STUDY 7 SUMMARY
Monodon monoceros
Country – **Greenland**
Original language – English

GREENLAND, NARWHAL (*MONODON MONOCEROS*)

AUTHORS

Lars Witting, Fernando Ugarte, Mads Peter and Heide-Jørgensen

Narwhals are distributed in the North Atlantic Arctic, with the largest populations in Arctic Canada and Greenland. Subsistence hunting takes place in Greenland, with the meat and skin being consumed locally or distributed within Greenland. Tusks are generally sold and resold by a number of intermediaries. Tusks reach the final consumer both as whole tusks and pieces used for artwork. Export of narwhal products was banned in 2006 due to a negative NDF, but products are legally traded within Greenland.

Before 2005 there was an unregulated hunt on narwhals in West and East Greenland with approximately 700 narwhals taken per year. Continuing from 2005 a quota system came in place with a current annual quota of 385 narwhals in West Greenland. No quota system is in place in East Greenland, with an average reported take of 95 narwhals per year from 1997 to 2006.

The procedure used for the NDF of narwhal and other species in Greenland is not based on the IUCN checklist. It follows instead a protocol that was developed by the Greenland Scientific Authority in 2005. Many of the species that require NDFs in Greenland are subject to scientific recommendations on sustainable harvest levels through international bodies like the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) and the Canada/Greenland Joint Commission on the Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga (JCNB). The Greenland protocol provides guidelines to make NDFs relatively easily and consistently with basis in the scientific recommendations from the relevant international bodies. For narwhals we were unable to provide a positive NDF because the catches in the west are larger than what was recommended by the Scientific Working Group of the JCNB. A limitation of our method is that NDFs are based entirely on available knowledge about the sustainability of the catches, and do not consider the effects of international trade on the harvest.