

# Whalers, U.S. reach quota accord

North Slope whalers will be allowed 19 strikes of bow-head whales this year under an agreement worked out by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the U.S. Government.

Whalers will work to make their hunt more efficient and to take only immature whales at the urging of the International Whaling Commission, according to negotiators.

The AEWG met in Anchorage and Barrow last week in discussions kept from the public eye. According to AEWG executive director Marie

Adams, the talks were kept private by a vote of the commission which wanted to iron out private differences between the Barrow whalers and whaler whaling captains from the other North Slope whaling villages.

The commission declined to talk about the differences stating that to air disputes publically would be counter to traditional Inupiat values.

Under terms of the agreement reached this week, Barrow, the largest of the whaling villages, will be allowed five whale strikes; Point Hope

is allowed three, Savoonga, Gambell, Wainwright, and Kaktovik each will be allowed two and Wales, Kivilina and Nuiqsut each will be allowed one strike.

The quotas were established using figures from last year's hunt and IWC quotas. Last year, whalers took 17 whales of the 28 they struck. The IWC in 1980 set a quota of up to 65 whales landed in 1981, 1982 and 1983, which means that the captains can strike 37 and land 28 for the remaining two years of the  
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# Whalers to govern selves

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IWC quota.

Under terms of the agreement, captains will attempt to limit their strikes to sexually immature whales of less than 39 feet in length and will be forbidden from taking bow-head calves or adults accompanied by calves.

Captains will be fined for each whale taken after the limit of 19 strikes is taken but the AEWG will pay the fine instead of the whaling captains.

While the agreement was looked at favorably by AEWG executive director Marie Adams, she said the commission supported a longer term for negotiations.

"We're pleased with it, but we're also well aware of its shortcomings," said Adams.

"It's for a short term — that's one of the major things . . . the whaling villages are still concerned about what will happen when it expires."

Adams said the self-regulating aspect of the agreement, which allows the Eskimos to monitor and regulate the hunts is good.

Bob McVey, Alaska regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, which represented the U.S. Government, said "We are happy with the way (self-monitoring) worked out last year . . . They reached the quota and they stopped when whales were still available. They've convinced us that they sincerely want to retain responsibility for managing their own hunt," said McVey.