

Six whales taken so far

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The National Marine Fisheries Service reports that the spring bowhead whale harvest on the Arctic coast is progressing smoothly. The harvest is being done under applicable federal law and the terms of a new cooperative agreement signed in March between the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) and the federal government.

The harvest quota established

by law and reflected in the agreement is a coastwide total of 17 whales landed within a total of 32 struck.

May 4, Point Hope whalers struck and successfully landed three bowhead whales raising this year's totals to six whales landed and six whales struck/lost.

The first whale taken this year was by Savoonga whaling crews. The Savoonga crews also landed another whale and struck and lost one whale. The Gambell whaling crews also landed one bowhead while striking and losing two whales. These St. Lawrence Island whaling villages have closed their bowhead hunt for the year in compliance with an AEWc management plan implemented under the new agreement with the federal government.

Two whales were struck and lost in Kivalina and the hunters there also have ceased whaling

in conformity with the AEWc plan.

One whale was struck and lost in Barrow. Barrow has an allocation of 10 animals.

No whaling reports have been received from Wainwright or Wales.

The villages of Kaktovik and Nuiqsut harvest whales during the fall whale hunts and were reported to have no whaling activity.

Some 75 whaling captains are registered with the AEWc for this year's whale harvest.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the AEWc is monitoring the whaling very closely this year and is receiving outstanding community support from the whaling villages in controlling the harvest.

Eleven more whales may possibly be taken by whaling crews from the twenty whales remaining on the strike list.