

Setting Catch Quotas of large whales for Commercial Whaling

1. Catch quotas were set through the following process, in order to ensure sustainable use of whales based on scientific evidence:

- (1) A Japan's RMP Team (JRT) calculated the catch limit for each target whale species (North Pacific sei, Bryde's and common minke whales), in line with the Revised Management Procedure (RMP) developed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC).
- (2) An independent group of international scientists (the Review Panel) reviewed the data, methodology, process, and results of the calculation of catch limits by the JRT.
- (3) The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) determined the catch limit for each species taking into consideration the results of the Review Panel and the counter comments thereon by the JRT.
- (4) The FAJ set the catch quotas of each species by deducting the following numbers from the catch limit: (i) number of whales caught through Japanese scientific research program (only in the case of 2019), (ii) average number of bycatch caught by set nets in the past 5 years, and (iii) number of quota reserved by the FAJ* (See FAJ website: <http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/whale/attach/pdf/index-5.pdf>).

* On allocating the catch quotas, a part of the catch quotas are reserved by the FAJ in order for it to facilitate necessary adjustments, if necessary, such as a transfer of catch quota allocated to different fishery types, and/or to control operation periods during the fishery season. The total catch quotas including FAJ's reserves are set within the catch limits.

2. The details of the calculations of catch limits by the JRT can be seen in Appendix 1 "Catch limits for western North Pacific sei, Bryde's and common minke whales calculated in line with the IWC's Revised Management Procedure (RMP)"

3. The report of the scientific review conducted by the group of international scientists on the calculation methods and results of catch limits by the JRT can be seen in Appendix 2 “Report from the group of independent scientists requested to review the proposal from Japanese scientists for catch limits for Japanese commercial whaling”.
4. The comments provided by the JRT on the scientific review by the Review Panel can be seen in Appendix 3 “Comments on the Report from the group of independent scientists requested to review the proposal from JRT for catch limits for Japanese commercial whaling”. As stated therein, the JRT considered that the review produced by the international scientists was fair and balanced in general.
5. The FAJ recognized that part of the recommendations provided by the group of international scientists were based on hypotheses or assumptions with low plausibility, as explained in Appendix 3. However, as a precautionary approach, the FAJ accepted such recommendations from the group of international scientists. Taking into account the relevant technical recommendations provided, Japan will further promote relevant scientific research in order to ensure sustainable use of whales based on scientific evidence.