

**1. NWRT Project Number:** 2-13-19

**2. Project Title:**

The knowledge of the Public, Inuit and Inuit Elders and Hunters of Baffin Bay Polar Bears and Wildlife Management

**3. Project Leader:**

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- 4. Summary:** This project aims to document economic and social-cultural information about Baffin Bay polar bears and wildlife management in a format that is readily useful for decision making and invites representative public participation early in decision making processes. Interviews are to be held with the general public, particularly Inuit, and Inuit elders and hunters.

Two interview approaches are used for this research. The first approach is to conduct a public opinion poll of the communities of Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River and Pond Inlet. The second approach is to conduct on-on-one interviews with Inuit elders and hunters about the Baffin Bay polar bear population.

- 5. Project Objectives:** The objectives of the project have not yet been achieved, but they remain unchanged. The primary objective of this research is to randomly survey the public in the affected communities of Clyde River, Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq, allowing us to measure and document

- Public and Inuit interests overall and for wildlife management specifically
- Public and Inuit perspectives on the Baffin Bay polar bear population
- Public and Inuit confidence and perceptions of the wildlife management systems performance
- Public and Inuit perception of their participation in the wildlife management system.

A secondary objective of this research is to speak with elders and hunters in affected communities, allowing us to document

- their interests overall and for wildlife management specifically
- their perspectives on the Baffin Bay polar bear population in terms of historical population trends and the possible future trends
- their confidence in the wildlife management system and perceptions of its performance, particularly with the creation of Nunavut and areas for improvement

- their perception of their participation in the wildlife management system particularly with the creation of Nunavut and areas for improvement.

## **6. Materials and Methods**

There are no major changes in the materials and methods from the approved project proposal.

Two interview approaches are being used for this research. The first approach is to conduct a public opinion poll of the communities of Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River and Pond Inlet. The second approach is to conduct on-on-one interviews with Inuit elders and hunters in those communities about the Baffin Bay polar bear population.

For the public opinion poll, the following steps occur:

1. A draft sampling frame will be constructed from community maps that depict the houses in the communities.
2. The sampling frames will be verified upon arrival to the communities. Houses will be randomly selected for interviews.
3. A short survey will gather information from randomly selected residents 18 years of age or over from random households. Information about the perspective of the respondent will be gathered about the polar bear population size, environmental issues and their participation in the wildlife management system, and their confidence in the wildlife management system and its components. Basic demographic information about the respondent and the household will also be gathered.
4. The results will be compile in a database and descriptive statistics will be used to describe the results. A statistician with social scientific expertise will be consulted with to determine other statistical analyses that may be useful.

For the elder/hunter interviews, the following steps will occur:

1. Hunters and Trappers Organizations will be consulted with to identify key informants.
2. The key informants will be asked to participate.
3. Interviews will be conducted to gain their knowledge on:
  - their economic, social and cultural interests overall and for wildlife management specifically
  - their perspectives on the Baffin Bay polar bear population in terms of historical population trends and the possible future trends.
  - their confidence in the wildlife management system and perceptions of its performance, particularly with the creation of Nunavut and areas for improvement
  - their perception of their participation in the wildlife management system particularly with the creation of Nunavut and areas for improvement.

## **7. Project schedule**

## 2013-2014 Interim Project Report

A revised project schedule is displayed below. The start of the project was delayed and will result in delays in the analysis and reporting back to communities of the results.

<b>Output or step</b>	<b>Revised start date (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	<b>Revised end date (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	<b>Person days</b>
Research Work	3/02/2014	10/03/2014	58 (29 days*2 people)
Analysis and compiling	03/04/2014	11/04/2014	30
Reporting Back	01/08/2014	31/08/2014	21

### 8. Preliminary results/discussion:

The field research has been delayed, so results have not yet been gathered. However, it is expected that this research can assist the NWMB in fulfilling its mandate (5.1.3(b)(vi) by informing it about

- public and Inuit economic, social and cultural interests and perspectives for Baffin Bay polar bears
- wildlife management system performance and public confidence
- public participation in the wildlife management system

This research is also a mechanism of inviting and increasing public participation/community involvement in wildlife management.

### 9. Reporting to communities/resource users:

<b>Community / HTO</b>	<b>Before research</b>	<b>During research</b>	<b>Completion of research</b>
Clyde River	Completed HTO Meeting October 23, 2012	in-community updates on progress. February/March 2014	August 2014 HTO Presentation
Pond Inlet	Completed HTO Meeting October 22, 2012	in-community updates on progress. February/March 2014	August 2014 HTO Presentation
Qikiqtarjuaq	Completed HTO Meeting November 5, 2012	in-community updates on progress. February/March 2014	August 2014 HTO Presentation