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Tammaqtailinahuarnirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujima-jatuqangit and scientific knowledge

20, 2017

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² በዚህ ለሥራዊቱ ለኑ ልዩ ምርጫ ስርጭት ነው፡፡ ለዚህም ምሳሌ ለጋራ ምርጫ ስርጭት ሲሆን፡፡

³ ԳՐԸՆԵՆ ԱՆՆԱԳՈՐ ԻՇԽԱՆՆԻՔԻ ՎԵՐԱԳՆԱԾՈՒՄԸ ՈՐԴԻՆԵ ԿՕՏԵԼԻՔԻ:

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⁷ ጋህጽፍኛ 3 ሐዲሞ፣ ሲከበረ ልዩ፣ 2011/12 ዓ.ም. 2015/16.

ሥርዓት
Daniel Shubert

ርዕሰ ሥልጣን

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Interim NWMB Policy for Walrus Sport Hunts

In deciding the number of sport hunts to approve for a particular community, it is recommended that the NWMB's policy be to ensure, to the extent reasonably possible, that sport hunting in the community develops in such a manner that the following 4 conditions are met:

- (i) no conservation concern arises;
- (ii) hunter and public safety are maintained;
- (iii) humane harvesting takes place and the whole animal is used; and
- (iv) the developing industry is healthy and will continue to deliver a quality product, thus serving and promoting the long-term economic, social and cultural interests of Inuit harvesters (See *NLCA* Sub-section 5.1.3 (b) (iii))

Accordingly, until the Walrus Working Group offers a more detailed analysis and recommendations, it is recommended that the NWMB apply the following 3 criteria in deciding upon the number of sport hunts for a community:

1. In a community that is not subject to a quota (beyond the individual limit of 4), attempt to ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous 5 years (condition i);
2. Ensure that a hunt plan is in place that meets the safety, humane and other requirements necessary under the *NLCA*, the *Fisheries Act* and the Regulations (conditions ii and iii); and
3. Ensure that the community or enterprise starts with a relatively small and closely monitored number of hunts (the "pilot" stage), prior to permitting an expanded sport hunting effort (condition iv).

In addition, the NWMB may wish to consider what percentage of the overall quota or average harvest for the last 5 years should be allocated to sport hunts.

- [illegible]

January 20th 2017

Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on 2017 walrus sport hunt applications

On September 9th 2016, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) issued a call for walrus sport hunt applications for the 2017 season with a deadline for applications of October 31st 2016. The NWMB annually requests applications for walrus sport hunts for approval by the Board, according to its *Interim Policy for Walrus Sport Hunts* (Interim Policy; attached), and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, prior to the issuance of sport hunt licences.

The NWMB reviewed walrus sport hunt applications for the 2017 season at its December 2016 quarterly meeting in Pond Inlet, Nu¹. There were a total of seven applications received from four communities. Six applications were to conduct walrus sport hunts within the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock² and one application was to conduct sport hunts in the North and Central Foxe Basin stocks³. The Board carefully considered each application, and in accordance with Sections 5.2.34(d)(i) and 5.6.48 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the NWMB made the following decision:

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Aaron Emiktowt of Siku Tours in Coral Harbour (4 walrus), Luke Eetuk of E and E Outfitting in Coral Harbour (4 walrus), Jake Netser of JJ Outfitting in Coral Harbour (8 walrus), and Darcy Nakoolak of Coral Harbour (8 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

¹ One of the applications, provided by Alex Flaherty of Polar Outfitting in Iqaluit, was further considered during an NWMB teleconference (INT017-2017) on January 17th 2017 in response to revisions to the application after discussion with the Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Organization. The NWMB decision concerning this application provided in this letter is the revised NWMB decision resulting from that teleconference.

² Four applications received from outfitters located in Coral Harbour, one from Nauyasat, and one from Iqaluit.

³ One application from the Hunters and Trappers Organization in Hall Beach.

1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Iqaluit;
2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;
4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease; and
5. That Aaron Emiktowt, Luke Eetuk, Jake Netser, and Darcy Nakoolak obtain written support from the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization for the requested sport hunts.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Alex Flaherty of Polar Outfitting in Iqaluit (6 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Iqaluit;
2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;
4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease; and
5. That Alex Flaherty obtain written support from the Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Organization for the requested sport hunts.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (4 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Iqaluit;
2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing; and
4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization (15 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Iqaluit;

2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing; and
4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.

Reasons for the NWMB's Decisions

Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Stock

The NWMB received six applications to conduct walrus sport hunts from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Atlantic walrus stock. These applications, requesting a total of 34 walrus sport hunts, were submitted by outfitters from the communities of Coral Harbour, Naujaat and Iqaluit. Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60 walrus (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 26), while the individual quota of 4 walrus per Inuk per year (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 6(1)(c)) applies in Naujaat and Iqaluit. Over the past five years⁴, the average annual harvest of walrus in these three communities through sport hunts and subsistence hunts has been as follows:

Community	Sport Hunt Average	Subsistence Hunt Average
Coral Harbour	6	14
Naujaat	0	3
Iqaluit	0	10

The requested number of walrus sport hunts is within the community or individual quotas⁵ and should not interfere with subsistence harvests. As well, the hunt plans submitted addressed the Interim Policy's conditions regarding humane harvesting and hunter and public safety.

North and Central Foxe Basin Stocks

The NWMB reviewed one application to conduct walrus sport hunts within the North and Central Foxe Basin Atlantic walrus stocks. The hunt plan adequately addressed the Interim Policy's conditions regarding humane harvesting and hunter and public safety. Over the past five years, the average annual harvest of walrus from the North and central Foxe Basin stocks was 7 through sport hunts⁶ and 148⁷ through subsistence hunts, for a

⁴ Five-year averages for the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock are based on 5 years of data from 2011/12 to 2015/16.

⁵ As an individual Inuk in Iqaluit, Alex Flaherty is restricted to 4 walrus per year by the current harvesting limitation in the *Marine Mammal Regulations*. However, Mr. Flaherty has indicated that the additional 2 walrus requested will be assigned to sport hunters by another Inuk.

⁶ Based on 5 years of data from 2011/12 to 2015/16.

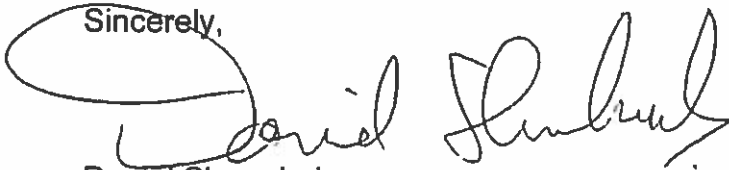
⁷ Based on 3 years of data from 2011/12 to 2015/16.

total of 155. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's most recent analysis of aerial survey data has indicated a Potential Biological Removal of between 211 and 422 walrus, with an estimated average annual removal of 243 if a struck and loss rate of 30% is applied. This analysis also concluded that the reported harvests do not appear to be having an impact on the population, as it appears to have remained stable over the last 60 years. The NWMB is confident that the number of walrus sport hunts requested by the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization is consistent with current quantitative limits on walrus harvesting and does not pose a conservation concern for the stocks.

Conclusion

Mr. Minister, the NWMB hereby forwards its decisions to you for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Should you accept the decisions of the NWMB with regards to the 2017 walrus sport hunts, the Board anticipates that implementation of the decisions by your department will include appropriate notification to the applicants. Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns with respect to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Shewchuk', written over a large, loopy initial 'D'.

Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (1)



Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

MAR 16 2017

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

I am writing with respect to the Board's letter dated January 20, 2017, conveying the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) decisions regarding the walrus sport hunts for 2017. Pursuant to section 5.3.18 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), I provide the following written reply.

This letter is to confirm that I accept the NWMB's decision to approve four walrus sport hunts for Aaron Emiktoot of Coral Harbour, four walrus sport hunts for Luke Eetuk of Coral Harbour, eight walrus sport hunts for Jake Netser of Coral Harbour, eight walrus sport hunts for Darcy Nakoolak of Coral Harbour, six walrus sport hunts for Alex Flaherty of Iqaluit, four walrus sport hunts for the Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization, and fifteen sport hunts for the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization for the 2017 season, subject to the conditions set out in the Board's letter of January 20, 2017.

It is important to note that timely and accurate harvest reporting is required under the *Fisheries Act*, the Marine Mammal Regulations, and the NLCA, and I strongly encourage co-management organizations to continue emphasizing the importance of harvest reporting and monitoring.

Department officials in Iqaluit will notify the successful applicants. Once the Department's Iqaluit office has received all of the required information to complete a licence for the sport hunt, departmental officials will issue the licence.

I look forward to continued collaboration with the NWMB on walrus co-management issues.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard