

# **SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

## **FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Walrus Sport Hunt Reporting for 2012

### **Background:**

The NWMB has requested that all Hunters and Trappers' Organizations (HTOs) and other interested organizations apply to the NWMB for allocation of walrus sport hunts. The NWMB sent a letter on January 25, 2012, advising of their approvals and decisions on the allocations of 2012 walrus sport hunts. The NWMB and the Minister of DFO approved all 2012 walrus sport hunt applications.

### **Current Situation:**

The NWMB approved the following Walrus Sport Hunt allocations for 2012:

- Hall Beach HTO – 15 walrus
- Igloolik HTO – 25 walrus
- Adamie Keatainak, Salluit, Quebec (Nunavik) – 8 walrus
- Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour – 8 walrus
- Luke Eetuk, E & E Outfitters, Coral Harbour – 6 walrus
- Aiviq HTO, Cape Dorset – 5 walrus

During the 2012 walrus sport hunt season a total of 18 licences were issued.

In Coral Harbor, seven (7) walrus sport hunt licences were issued; two (2) to E & E Outfitters (Luke Eetuk) and five (5) to Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt). A total of three (3) walrus were harvested.

In Hall Beach, seven (7) licences were issued, and one (1) walrus was harvested, and one (1) hunt did not occur due to bad weather.

In Igloolik, four (4) licences were issued. Harvest information has not yet been received from Igloolik HTO.

No licences were issued for sport hunts in Salluit, Quebec and no licences were issued for Aiviq HTO (Cape Dorset).

In 2008, DFO advised the NWMB that it was not possible to recommend sustainable harvest levels for walrus in Nunavut until more up to date estimates of walrus population size were available and hunters provided better harvest reporting. In response to this, walrus sport hunt reporting cards were developed in 2010 by DFO Eastern Arctic Area staff.

For the 2012 Walrus Sport Hunt, sport hunt reporting cards were utilized for the third season. The sport hunt reporting cards were used to collect information on landings, biology, and struck/loss.

In 2012, DFO obtained a 78% return rate on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards (14 out of 18 walrus sport hunt reporting cards returned) and 100% return rate of biological information. In total, four (4) Walrus were harvested during sport hunts in 2012. The number of strikes ranged from 1-3 strikes per Walrus. All Walrus harvested were Males. No Walrus were reported as struck and lost.

Note, Walrus Sport Hunt data and reporting cards have not yet been received from Igloolik HTO. Biological information has not yet been received from those three (3) successful harvests in Coral Harbor, but is on route. The collection of sport hunt reporting cards and biological information is an ongoing task for DFO in Iqaluit and will vary the 2012 statistics after remaining data has been collected and entered.

In 2011, DFO obtained a 100% return rate on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards and 91% return rate of biological information; it was reported that the cards were easy to use and responses came in to DFO in a timely manner. The hunt report cards were successful in reporting all struck, lost and landed information. The number of strikes reported ranged from 1 to 5 strikes per walrus, 1 walrus was lost.

In 2010, DFO obtained a 100% return rate on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards. Biological information was not requested at that time. The hunt report cards were successful in reporting all struck, lost and landed information. The number of strikes reported ranged from 2 to 15 per walrus, no walrus were lost.

**Consultations:**

DFO Central & Arctic Region and Eastern Arctic Area

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**Date:** October 19, 2012