

**Summary of Community Consultations conducted on March 21-22, 2012 about the
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area**
Prepared by: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Staff

Management Unit: East Baffin
Host Community: Pangnirtung
HTO Representatives: Pangnirtung
Other Organizations: Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Government of Nunavut,
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Administration / Logistics:

- The fact that the community's input and concerns with the proposed guidelines and their potential effect on the hunts was appreciated.
- However, some participants felt that the process was rushed and that not all of the material in the presentation was covered. They were concerned about the implications for hunters, who ultimately will be affected by the management plan.
- Many hunters were fishing and a problem with the local radio likely prevented larger attendance at the meeting.

CITES / Exporting of Tusks Outside of Canada:

- Some participants felt the management plan and consultations were rushed by the CITES meeting deadline.
- Some felt that the hunt overall is hampered by the sale of byproducts (tusks).
- There was concern over how the new rules would apply to carvings from narwhal tusks. DFO indicated that all full tusks, carved or not, must have a tag. However, smaller pieces of tusk do not require tags for each piece.
- It was noted that the certification of tusks will aid in information recording and reporting.

Harvest Limits / Total Allowable Harvest / Quotas:

- Numerous community members expressed that the current system for managing narwhal in Pangnirtung is working well and the quota is being respected. There was concern that new proposed tag and reporting measures would create new problems.
- There was some concern that catch can be affected by environmental conditions, and that this could affect harvest statistics. DFO reassured participants that catch was not used in determining quotas.
- Hunting behaviour changed in the community after quotas were implemented; there is now a scramble for narwhal until all of the quota is used.
- The risk of going over quota is stressful for harvesters because they can be charged. DFO indicated that the proposed tag transfer policy will help to deal with this.
- With respect to the regulations surrounding discarding and kill times, Inuit law promotes minimizing suffering, wounding, and unnecessary killing. Sometimes, however conditions do not allow for the animal to die right away.
- Lack of DFO presence in the community makes monitoring the hunt and enforcing the quota difficult.

Population Size / Factors Affecting Population Size:

- There was a lot of interest in what the population numbers and Total Allowable Landed Catch numbers were based on, as well as survey data, and population trends. There was also concern that making decisions before new survey data is available is premature.
- In 2008 and 2010 narwhals were plentiful in the area and many were harvested.

Tagging / Reporting:

- There were many comments and questions from the community on tags and the issue of a hunter needing to have a tag with them on the hunt in order to legally harvest a narwhal.
 - When narwhal arrive in Pangnirtung, anyone can go out and hunt. Currently, the HTA keeps track of the number of tags that are left, and the hunt is stopped when the quota (40 whales) is reached. Hunters pick up tags after they harvest a narwhal. However, some attendees felt that the community needs to better communicate how many tags are left during the hunt.
 - If hunter is required to have a tag before landing a whale, this could cause problems because of the opportunistic nature of the hunt. For example, there may be situations where a hunter without a tag catches a whale instead of a hunter with a tag, and charges could be laid. Hunters won't necessarily share tags, and the system may not be practical.
 - QWB suggested that perhaps hunters could take just the tag number, instead of the whole tag when they go out hunting.
 - DFO indicated that if all hunters took tags with them hunting, that would be preferable.
 - However, DFO is willing to work with NTI and other organizations to see if a better system can be developed that helps prevent overharvesting and prove diligence in management to the international community.
- Some participants were concerned with how long a hunter can keep a tag, and if he would need to return it if it is not used on a trip. DFO indicated that the HTO can set these rules.
- Many felt that issuing of tags should be done locally and the HTO should have full control of harvesting.
- It was noted that there was a potential mistranslation in Inuktitut of the sex (male/female) terminology on the narwhal tags, and that the current wording is not appropriate for a marine mammal. DFO indicated they would follow up on providing the correct terminology.
- Many communities saw that enforcement is and will be an issue with a new management plan. There are no fisheries or wildlife officers in some communities. This may contribute to some tags not being filled out properly. If the HTA will be responsible for enforcement of some of the hunting rules under the new management plan, there was concern about its role, authority, and compensation. DFO clarified that RWOs and HTOs can only establish bylaws and practices, not enforce them (that is the fishery or wildlife officer's responsibility). To help promote greater awareness and understanding of local hunting rules, one participant suggested announcing them on the radio periodically, but others felt that funding should be available for this.
- Some community members agreed that the management plan is not necessarily directed at telling hunters how to hunt, but to show others (e.g. CITES) what management measures are in place. For this purpose, showing consistent use of tags, etc. is important.

Distribution / Stock Boundaries / Migration:

- Community members requested clarification regarding management units and the move from managing two populations to managing six summering stocks and management units. DFO

indicated that the best available current science indicated that managing the six stocks is the best precautionary approach to consider when making decisions.

- Narwhal calving areas do not exist near Pangnirtung; the whales only pass through. Since the community does not have a summering population some felt that it should be treated differently.
- Participants felt that HTOs need to be more involved in surveys, and the surveys should preferably be done all in one season. Perhaps a winter survey should be considered, as weather conditions are not always poor. Changes to the surveys are needed and are important for population estimates and harvest decisions.

Community Management:

- The community does not have hunting rules for narwhal (only for beluga).
- Community members were in favour of more local input and control over harvesting, and are concerned that the new management plan will cause arguments between the four communities in the East Baffin Management Unit.
- Some community members were very opposed to DFO management of the narwhal hunt, as opposed to strictly community based management.
- Some attendees were frustrated that DFO decisions do not reflect community decisions (e.g. from community AGMs).

Other Comments and Concerns:

- Some hunters from Pangnirtung use nets to hunt both narwhal and beluga. This hunting method is not currently covered under DFO's proposed narwhal management plan or DFO's Marine Mammal Regulations. DFO was not aware that this hunting method was used and indicated that they would need to consider including this new information in the management plan.
- Inuit Qaujimaqatungit (IQ) must be considered in regulations and legislation, and in future documents. There were questions about who was monitoring and enforcing the inclusion of IQ this. NTI and NWMB indicated that the information shared at the consultations was being recorded, and the IQ would be considered in any subsequent NWMB hearings on the proposed management plan.
- There was an issue with a number of tusks from one of the hunts being seized and the promise of return after 6-7 years (after the case went to court). Some community members wanted to know whether the tusks would be returned.

**Summary of Community Consultations conducted on March 23-24, 2012 about the
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area**
Prepared by: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Staff

Management Unit: East Baffin
Host Community: Qikiqtarjuaq
HTO Representatives: Qikiqtarjuaq
Other Organizations: Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Government of Nunavut,
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Administration / Logistics:

- Community members were thankful for the DFO consultation tour on the management plan, and stated that even though they did not agree with everything in the plan, discussion and working together could be beneficial. Community members acknowledged DFO's work in developing their presentation and management plan, and acknowledged that DFO was trying to help. They also noted that the community input would be considered in the NWMB's decision on approving the management plan. Some expressed that they felt this was the first time DFO and the community were working together.
- However, there was frustration that the communities and HTOs were not consulted at an earlier stage of management plan development. Some felt that they were being presented with a finished product from DFO. The community felt it could have been better prepared if it had more information on the surveys and management plan before the meeting.
- Some community members felt that it was inappropriate that there were no representatives from DFO Science on the consultation tour to talk about the surveys. It was noted that DFO Science had come to the community previously, but community members indicated that their presentation focused on tusks, not the management plan.
- Community members were also thankful for the NTI lawsuit and the additional consultation by DFO that resulted.
- There was also concern that the discussion only focused on Eastern Baffin whales and provide context about the other stocks (e.g. Northern Hudson Bay, High Arctic, in Greenland). DFO indicated that they had a similar consultation tour in the Northern Hudson Bay and High Arctic regions.

CITES / Exporting of Tusks Outside of Canada:

- The community felt it was not informed about tusk export restrictions in the past.
- Last year, some community members noticed that tusk measurements were wrong on some of the tags, potentially because of changes to the tusks (from breaking, carving). People expressed that they need to know ahead of time if DFO wants to confiscate tusks because of incorrect measurements. DFO indicated that a tusk certification process is being developed and help to address this problem.
- The certification or tag requirements for export of tusks (whole and in pieces) were clarified.
 - Community members were concerned about whether pieces of carved tusks required tags or certificates (for found tusks) for sale. DFO clarified that cut pieces did not require tags or certificates, but entire carved tusks did.

- Sometimes hunters want to keep the tusk and the skull intact. DFO indicated that this could be accommodated and noted on the tag and the certification of tusk. DFO will have to ensure tags and certificates do not impact carving.
- The community expressed concern that CITES would consider only science and not IQ.

Harvest Limits / Total Allowable Harvest / Quotas:

- Qikiqtarjuaq residents harvest in spring, summer and fall.
- There was concern that the number of whales the Qikiqtarjuaq could harvest would be reduced with the new management plan. There was also confusion about what the DFO's Total Allowable Landed Catch number recommendation for the management unit would mean in terms of actual allowed harvest numbers for the community. DFO indicated that the number of whales assigned to each community could in fact increase but would depend on the results of the RWO/HTO allocation model workshops in January, which would account for the migratory and summer harvests in each community. DFO indicated that the complicated harvest allocation model was an attempt to maximize the harvest in each community by taking into account the migratory harvest, while still being precautionary about overharvesting. A simpler alternative would for communities to just harvest in the summer (i.e. no migratory harvest) with only one colour of tag.
- There was also concern that increased harvests of whales in northern Baffin communities could reduce the allowed harvest numbers in more southern communities (e.g. there was concern regarding Pond Inlet, a larger community, taking some of Qikiqtarjuaq's quota). DFO indicated that if northern Baffin communities overharvest, it would not affect the quota of more southern communities. Unused tags could be used to make up for the overharvest, or the communities that overharvested would be penalized in the following hunt season.
- Some community members were concerned that Pangnirtung and Iqaluit rarely reach their quotas, but their quota still affect Qikiqtarjuaq's Total Allowable Landed Catch, and they suggested that perhaps these communities' allocations are too high. DFO indicated that the RWO could make some decisions on allocations to different communities with the allocation model and proposed January workshops.
- There was some confusion over whether DFO had previously instructed residents to only harvest males with tusks. DFO indicated that there is no restriction that specifies harvesting only males, and it encourages harvest of females as well.

Population Size / Factors Affecting Population Size:

- Community members indicated that stocks of narwhal that are harvested locally appear to be increasing, and many new narwhals (i.e. black young) are being observed.
- Narwhals with different colours and markings are being observed around the community.
- The human population in the communities is also increasing.
- There was concern that the science used in the surveys was old. The community was also interested in reviewing where the surveys in the area were flown. DFO has the information on the survey tracks, but did not have it handy at the meeting.
- Killer whale predation on narwhal is on the increase. Killer whales were not seen in the Qikiqtarjuaq area previously. They may kill more narwhal than humans, and community members have seen narwhals killed by killer whales. Non-human predation on narwhals is a threat and a concern.

Tagging / Reporting:

- There was concern about what would happen if tags from one year were not all used by the end of the year. DFO indicated that the Tag Transfer Policy would address carry-overs.
- There were questions on whether tags were required not only for tusks, but also for maqtaa that is sold. DFO indicated that commercial harvest of narwhal is not permitted, but subsistence harvesting is. DFO stated that no tag is required for maqtaa that is sold. The tusks are incidental to the harvest for maqtaa, and therefore the tusks can be sold. Export of maqtaa is banned, but intercommunity trade is permitted. There is demand for maqtaa from other communities.
- DFO clarifies that harvest of both tusked and untusked whales requires a tag.
- There was interest in how long satellite tags stay attached to tagged narwhals. DFO indicated they can stay attached for up to a year.
- There were many questions and confusion about the different colours of tags for harvest in different seasons (migratory and summer), and whether the tags can be transferred between different seasons. Some community members saw the different seasons and colours of tags as an extra complicating burden on the management system which may slow down the administration of the hunt and limit its current opportunistic nature. Many felt they could lose out on harvesting whales because of seasonal limits on the harvests. Many felt that the old management system, or just reporting where and when whales are harvested, should be sufficient. DFO indicated that the new management system was proposed to address the CITES export ban concerns, as well as to maximize the harvest of each community based on better science on summering stocks and giving more power to the HTOs and RWOs as per the NLCA. DFO indicated that the transfer between seasons cannot happen after the HTO decides on the number of tags for each season.
- However, a Tag Transfer Policy is being proposed. Clyde and Qikiqtarjuaq would be able to exchange summer tags under the first phase of the Tag Transfer Policy. DFO also emphasized that the HTO would propose the dates for each season.
- There were questions about whether the tags could be used all over Nunavut. Baffin Bay tags could only be used in the Baffin Bay management unit. DFO indicated that for Aqvaqtuuq (or Home Bay) summer or migratory tags would be used, depending on the season when the harvest takes place.
- Community members felt that limiting travel and harvest between communities may cause problems. This would only be allowed if the communities were within the same management unit, but enforcement will be an issue.
- Pangnirtung and Iqaluit have asked to come to Qikiqtarjuaq to hunt narwhal, and community members can hear on their CB radios that Clyde River residents are harvesting in other areas.
- Community members noted that travel distances and financial consequences are not necessarily a barrier for Inuit in harvesting food. DFO had concerns that this could lead to overharvest.
- Community members were still concerned that they don't always know when the narwhals will arrive each year. Weather can limit travel for the spring and fall harvest.
- There were also questions about how to account for wounded whales. DFO indicated that if a whale is wounded and not captured, it would be counted as wounded and not require a tag.
- Some community members felt there needed to be a system that would make reporting non-tusked whales more attractive. The HTA meets and talks about who caught the whales. The HTA keeps track of numbers, and puts aside tags for people who have not picked them up. They exchange the tags for whales with tusks later.

- There were questions about what happens if a dead narwhal with a tusk is found and if a tag is needed to show legal possession. DFO indicated that they are looking to establish a new system where a certificate is issued instead of a tag, and that this certificate could be used for trade.
- The community was concerned if whales entrapped in the ice required tags. DFO indicated that for entrapments, if the decision was to go ahead and humanely harvest the whales, DFO would work with local HTO to manage that local harvest with either tags or an authorization to hunt and tusk possession letter. Whales harvested from entrapments would not reduce communities' harvests. These situations would need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Distribution / Stock Boundaries / Migration:

- HTA members indicated that the migratory paths of narwhals presented by DFO were pretty accurate, but there was concern that whales from East Baffin have not been tagged with satellite tags that help to show where all of the whales in the area are coming from and going to.
- The concept of different summering stocks was pretty clear.
- A summering stock in an area called Aqvaqtuuq (or Home Bay) between Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River appears to be a different stock according to the hunters' observations. Whales appear to stay in that area, but there is migration from the area in the fall (perhaps from whales heading to the high Arctic). The whales in that area are increasing based on observations. Only a few narwhals are harvested in the area, and Qikiqtarjuaq harvests there in the spring and summer. There is concern that Aqvaqtuuq (Home Bay) is not currently considered a summering stock in the narwhal management plan with a separate Total Allowable Landed Catch Recommendation; it is part of the larger Baffin Baffin management unit. The community would like it recognized as a separate summering stock or management unit, even if the science is not currently available to support this. DFO Science recorded the community's observation regarding Aqvaqtuuq (Home Bay) on the last consultation tour. DFO indicated that a separate management area would not be created unless survey work supported it.
- There is no reason to believe narwhals are decreasing in the area.
- There was also concern about movement of whales between Canada and Greenland. Some satellite tagged whales have recently been found to move from the high Arctic to Greenland. However, Canada's official position is currently that they are separate stocks.
- Some community members were concerned that survey times were too short and did not accurately represent narwhal movements. Narwhals do not have specific calving areas like belugas; they can calve anywhere.
- Migratory season may start in August in Qikiqtarjuaq. Hunters are not always sure what whales they are harvesting at that time.
- There was also concern that the tagging data indicating summering stock areas and migratory paths may be inaccurate on the coloured maps that DFO presented. Many people were uncomfortable with the concept of animals staying within boundaries.

Community Management:

- The community was unclear about whether it was still operating under the Community Based Management System. Some said that Community Based Management was no longer working. DFO indicated that they are trying to bring management more in line with the NLCA, which would better respect community powers and turn more of the harvest regulation over to the RWOs and HTOs.
- Qikiqtarjuaq is still using the community harvest rules established under Community Based Management. Harpoons can be used to reduce struck and loss as part of the community rules.

Hunters try to minimize losses. Whales sometimes sink quickly and are lost, especially in the summer. No young can be harvested under the community rules. A copy of the community rules are in the HTO office.

- There were concerns about the community's ability to enforce rules and regulations (e.g. quotas or harvest limits), either from DFO or the HTO.
- It was also noted that methods for hunting and reducing hunting losses differ a lot between communities.
- Some community members were very much of favour of only community based management and minimal involvement from DFO, and were frustrated with the level of community knowledge and involvement in the current management plan, but were willing to work together on the management plan if necessary.

Other Comments and Concerns:

- DFO noted that on samples that are submitted for testing, narwhals appear to be healthy (i.e. no disease issues).
- Community members noted that the Marine Mammal Regulation bullet and muzzle force specifications are not practical or easy to interpret (e.g. foot pound specification). A soft tipped bullet will just get stuck in the narwhal's skin. You cannot kill a narwhal with the specified strength.
- It was noted that last summer there few whales in the fiords in the area where they are usually abundant.
- Community members commented that there is room to improve stuck and lost reporting. Whales are often difficult to kill (especially the big bulls; younger ones are easier). Whales are often reported as struck and lost, but often they do not die and are harvested later by another boat.
- Younger whales are often preferable for eating.
- Qikiqtarjuaq did not traditionally harvest narwhals.
- The community had questions about how IQ would be incorporated into the management plan.
- HTA members would like honoraria. They have raised their own money for honoraria.

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Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area**
Prepared by: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Staff

Management Unit: East Baffin
Host Community: Clyde River
HTO Representatives: Clyde River
Other Organizations: Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Government of Nunavut,
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Administration / Logistics:

- Some community members thanked DFO for coming to the community to meet and felt that the efforts were intended to help. Some noted that this was the first time this sort of collaboration was happening. Some community members were also positive about what they were learning from the DFO science on narwhal movements and summering and wintering areas.

CITES / Exporting of Tusks Outside of Canada:

- Community members noted that the money from selling tusks is used to buy tools, but it is not a big profit margin.
- Community members also indicated that tusks were not traditionally sold, but used to make tools (e.g. harpoons) or carvings. Narwhals were harvested for subsistence. That changed when Qallunaat arrived.
- Some community members noted that if Inuit or the community do not feel the international tusk trade and providing information CITES is important, then perhaps the new management plan is not needed.
- There was concern that CITES does not consider IQ and that efforts need to be made to encourage CITES take it in to account. DFO emphasized that CITES cannot prevent hunting, but they can prevent the international export of tusks.

Harvest Limits / Total Allowable Harvest / Quotas:

- The community's main concern was that the quota would decrease for East Baffin. The community has been trying to get an increase in quota for a long time.
- Community members felt the narwhal population is not decreasing, the harvest is not endangering the population, and the quota should be increased.
- There was some confusion regarding how Total Allowable Landed Catch would be shared among the East Baffin communities, and how the migratory catch would be accounted for between different management units. DFO explained that the harvest allocation model would help with this.
- HTA members explained that hunters from Clyde River harvest from Aqvaqtuuq (or Home Bay) in the spring and summer. People living in Aqvaqtuuq (Home Bay) moved to Clyde River so there is a connection to this area.
- The HTA expressed concern that the new management system would like harvest rights of Inuit to harvest up to their full social, economic and cultural needs under the NLCA. However, the NWMB also has the right to establish harvest limits and non-quota limitations like seasonal restrictions on harvesting, especially when there is a conservation concern.

- The community emphasized that traditional values promote sustainability in harvesting and discourage overharvesting.
- Clyde River negotiates with Resolute Bay for more quota in some years.

Population Size / Factors Affecting Population Size:

- There was concern about the date of the last East Baffin survey and the schedule for conducting new surveys.
- Community members were interested in different methods for conducting surveys (e.g. in winter at flow edge instead of summering stock surveys). There was also interest in potential NWMB Wildlife Studies Fund monies.
- Community members felt that the number of narwhals was higher than the stated population size.
- Community members felt the narwhal population is increasing.
- Community members were concerned about the impacts of mines, oil and gas exploration on animals.
- Some participants indicated that narwhals can calve at any time of year.
- Clyde River hunters see many narwhal with scars and wounds from the Pond Inlet area. Hunters try to minimize struck and lost animals, but they have seen a lot that were struck.

Tagging / Reporting:

- There was some confusion over the new tag system, with seasonality and colours, and when different tags could be used. Many felt that current management of narwhals in the community is good, and the new proposed system will unnecessarily complicate management, and that harvesters will not obey the seasonal restrictions, which may result in court cases.
- There were questions about when seasonal allocations would be made, and DFO explained that this would happen at the January RWO/HTO allocation model workshop.
- There were questions about carrying over tags to the next year. DFO indicated that there is potential for this, but more science advice is needed to make sure this is sustainable and defensible to outside critics.
- Sometimes hunters travel from Clyde River to Arctic Bay to Hunt narwhal. DFO clarified that under the new system, Clyde River residents would need a tag specifically for the Arctic Bay management unit to hunt there (i.e. they could not use their East Baffin tag), and that this would need to be arranged through the RWO.
- There were questions about whether tags were needed for found tusks. DFO explained that it is proposing a system where a certificate would be issued instead of using a tag for found tusks.
- Sometimes there is overlap of the work of the government renewable resource officers and the HTOs. If new government regulations are put in place with the management plan, the government should administer and enforce them.

Distribution / Stock Boundaries / Migration:

- Some community members did not agree with the management unit and stock boundaries.
- The community asked questions about satellite tagging of whales. DFO discussed how the satellite tags give information on whale movements, and that only limited number of whales were tagged and tracked.
- There was concern about how the movements of whales between Greenland and Canada were considered. Community members proposed that harpoon scars on whales (from Greenland) indicate that the whales move between the two areas. DFO spoke about recent information

from satellite tagging which suggests that narwhals may travel between Canada and Greenland. However, DFO stated that this is new information and Canada maintains that the stocks are separate for the time being.

- Some participants emphasized that new surveys should focus on Home Bay.
- There was also concern about Inuit involvement in surveys. DFO assured that there would be increasing community involvement in surveys.
- Some suggested that IQ was preferable to tagging and survey methods where vehicles (e.g. airplanes) could frighten animals, especially around Pond Inlet.

Community Management:

- The HTO already divides up tags seasonally; some tags are set aside for the spring floe edge hunt, other are set aside for summer. The HTO does not communicate this to DFO currently.
- Some community members felt that external government management was not necessary in the community, and they were in favour of the community managing its own hunt.

Other Comments and Concerns:

- Participants indicated that physical characteristics of the narwhal can vary from year to year. Sometimes there are many young black ones in the area, sometimes there are old narwhal. Two years ago, there were many big ones with tusks.
- New whale species have been noticed recently during the turbot fishery in the area.
- Around Clyde River, there used to be more walrus and killer whales and less narwhals, and now it is the opposite
- Community members were concerned about the inclusion of IQ in the management plan.

**Summary of Community Consultations conducted on March 26-27, 2012 about the
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area**
Prepared by: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Staff

Management Unit: Eclipse Sound
Host Community: Pond Inlet
HTO Representatives: Pond Inlet
Other Organizations: Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Government of Nunavut,
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Administration / Logistics:

- Community members felt that they wanted to contribute to the management plan to make it better because DFO indicated that it was just in a draft stage and would be an evergreen document that would change with community input.
- Some community members felt that it would be useful to have seen the allocation model so the HTO members could see it and understand it. DFO indicated that they did not present the model to the community because of time constraints. Some community members were concerned that this would hurt the community in the end because they were not fully involved and that the process was too rushed.
- Some community members felt that discussion with the community about hunting techniques, how harvest numbers are decided, and how harvests numbers (for maqtaaq and tusks) are allotted is necessary. Teaching the younger generation is important for implementing new management measures at a harvester level.

CITES / Exporting of Tusks Outside of Canada:

- The community had questions about CITES' members, powers and rules and how they can affect the hunts in Nunavut. There was a feeling that the community needed a better understanding of who CITES is and why it is necessary to follow its rules. DFO clarified that CITES only has power to impose restrictions on the international sale of tusks. Hunts for maqtaaq or trade of tusks within Canada are not affected by CITES.
- Community members were concerned about whether CITES would be satisfied with the new management measures or whether there would continue to be restrictions. DFO indicated that they cannot guarantee what CITES will do, but ensuring that the populations are not decreasing and obtaining a Non-Detriment Finding is key.
- DFO emphasized that CITES concerns are driving some of the short term work but the long-term goal is sustainability of narwhal stocks.
- Some community members were interested in whether Greenland was undertaking similar management measures. DFO indicated that Greenland has also been going through a similar process, but it withdrew from CITES and decided to not export tusks until better management systems were in place.
- Community members saw the sale of tusks as an important source of income for hunters.
- Some hunters were also concerned about situations where they wanted to keep the skull and the tusk attached and how that would affect DFO's new proposed certification of the tusk. DFO said that this would not be a problem and it could still be certified.
- Community members also had questions about how found tusks should be report. DFO indicated a possession certificate could be issues instead of using a tag. They did not think that

inspection of found tusks would be necessary, but indicated that the HTO could make this a local hunting rule if they wanted to.

Harvest Limits / Total Allowable Harvest / Quotas:

- It was noted that Pond Inlet residents only harvest narwhal during a 4-month period. Most of the harvest takes place in May-July. There is some harvest in August and September as well, but the autumn harvest is especially difficult. For the rest of the year there are no whales in the area.
- Subsistence hunting and the income from tusks is important to community members. Food is expensive, and resources are limited in the community.
- Current quotas were compared to the new recommended Total Allowable Catches for the management unit. Pond Inlet is the only community that harvests in the Eclipse Sound management unit. There was some confusion and concern about the final numbers that Pond Inlet would be able to hunt under the new management system. DFO emphasized because the migratory hunt numbers needed to be accounted for, this could not be decided until the harvest allocation model workshop in January with the RWO and HTOs.
- There was concern about whether the Total Allowable Landed Catch number was the exact number that Pond Inlet would be permitted to harvest. DFO indicated that no, it was not, and the exact number would depend on the results of the allocation model workshop in January with the HTOs and RWO deciding on seasonal harvest allocations. DFO indicated that the HTA must decide whether this more complicated system and dividing the summer and migratory allocations is worth the possibility of more whales to harvest. It was acknowledged that it was a complicated system to understand, and that the HTA must understand it before making a recommendation on whether or not to accept the proposed management plan.
- There was some discussion of assignment of harvest rights from an Inuk to a Qallunaat. If the new management system is established and Total Allowable Harvests are established, under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, RWOs and HTOS could assign the Inuk right to harvest to a Qallunaat.
- Community members were concerned whether ice entrapment harvests would affect their quota. DFO said they would not.

Population Size / Factors Affecting Population Size:

- The community does not see the local whale numbers are being endangered at this point.
- Community members indicated that in the past, the community lost fewer whales when hunting because they waited until the last minute to strike. Narwhals are difficult to kill, and although better hunting equipment is available now, the community must do its best to limit losses. Some community members indicated that harpooning first can cause problems when hunting from the floe edge, and felt the need for a focused discussion about minimizing loss in hunting.
- The need for training new hunters on effective hunting techniques and how to minimize loss was noted.
- Community members emphasized that killer whale and polar bear predation need to be considered.
- The community did not know whether there were more calves or not.

Tagging / Reporting:

- There was concern over the division of tags between different seasons. DFO clarified that HTOs will decide on the dates of the seasons. The number of tags allocated for each season will be

decided at the January harvest allocation model workshop by the RWOs and HTOs. DFO may give some advice in the first few years of this process.

- The community was also concerned about whether they could use leftover summer tags in the fall. DFO indicated that tags from one season (e.g. summer) cannot be carried over into another season (e.g. fall). However, DFO said they are in the process of working on a flexible quota system and that they would like to work with the HTO on it.
- Pond Inlet already has a system for distributing tags. Currently, the HTO estimates how many whales will be taken on the floe edge hunt when it starts, and it gives out tags accordingly (often about 20). More narwhals are taken in the summer. The fall harvest is smaller – there may or may not be tags left at that point in time. It would be best to check with community members about how many whales they could catch in each season. Some community members noted that the number of whales taken in each season can vary substantially from year to year.
- Community members were concerned that under the new system, the community would not have enough flexibility in moving tags between seasons and could miss opportunities to hunt. A number of people wondered if there was a better system that could be suggested that would work better for hunters.
- There was concern and confusion over the roles of the RWO and HTOs under the proposed new system. The RWO would sub-allocate the basic needs level that the NWMB sets to the HTOs.
- There were questions about attaching tags to untusked narwhals (e.g. should the tag be attached to the maqtaaq? Or the skeleton?). DFO indicated that a portion of the tag should be left with the whale; this is stated in the Marine Mammal Regulations. A separate portion must be returned to the HTO to cancel the tag. DFO acknowledged that this might not be the best system, and that they were open to suggestions about what to do with the tag for untusked narwhals.
- Some community members felt that only science advice and not input from co-management partners was being considered in developing the tag transfer policy.
- Some participants question how good the existing system for exchanging tags between communities was (e.g. between Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay if one community goes over its quota)? DFO indicated that instead of having to go to the NWMB for approval of the transfer, under the new system RWOs and HTOs would decide, which should be quicker.
- There were also questions about using Pond Inlet tags in another community. DFO reemphasized that under the new management system, you would only be able to use a tag in the management unit that was stated on the tag. For example, a hunter from Pond Inlet could not get a tag from Clyde River or Arctic Bay and use it to hunt around Pond Inlet. This is different than the current system. This is a non-quota limitation being proposed to the NWMB.
- The community also wondered how DFO decided which hunt Fisheries Officers would monitor. DFO indicated that this is decided at the Iqaluit office.
- The community has run into problems before where no Fisheries Officer or Conservation Officer is available to take a report or measure a tusk. DFO acknowledged that this is an issue in many communities and that they need to find a solution.
- Some community members felt that there should be reimbursement for hunters for recording harvest data because of the extra work it requires. Some felt that some harvesters might not report that they lost an animal because it might reflect badly on their hunting skills. DFO indicated that they could fill out the hunt reports anonymously.

Distribution / Stock Boundaries / Migration:

- There was interest in the high Arctic stock (e.g. the whales that are seen around Alexander Fiord in the spring and summer) and whether DFO has information on their wintering areas. DFO indicated that there has never been a survey in the high Arctic so this information is not available. However, there have been successful hunts in the area.
- Community members met previously in Clyde River with someone who does tagging work, and would like whales near Grise Fiord to be tagged and the high Arctic area surveyed.
- Community members also indicated that whales from Greenland go up to the high Arctic and summer there.
- A participant who grew up near Grise Fiord indicated that there are whales north of Grise Fiord.
- It was noted that whales from the high Arctic are larger and their tusks are wider and longer than the ones harvested around Pond Inlet. Sometimes these bigger whales are seen near the floe edge, but they generally are not harvested around Pond Inlet.
- There was an indication from community members that the whales that summer around Somerset Island, Eclipse Sound, Admiralty Inlet, and the high Arctic are different stocks. Community members noted that Admiralty Inlet narwhals pass by Eclipse Sound and Pond Inlet residents harvest them periodically. They also noted that whales in Clyde River were different from those in Pond Inlet. There are differences in their tusks.
- Some community members were opposed to the idea that narwhal would stay within boundaries (e.g. management unit boundaries) and belong to a specific community. This was based on IQ.
- It was noted that large migrations (especially in the spring) of narwhals have been observed on the far side of Bylot Island, but not every year.
- Community members were interested in survey techniques. DFO indicated that fixed wing aircraft are used and they try to fly at a height allows for observing the whales but minimizes disturbance.
- Community members were also interested in the summering stock divisions and the suggestion that during migration, Pond Inlet residents may be hunting narwhals from Somerset Island, Admiralty Inlet, and Eclipse Sound. Some community members indicated that they only hunt whales from Low Point Inlet (Nunasiak (sp?)).
- Scientists and IQ suggest that the narwhals travel around either side of Bylot Island.
- It was noted that if narwhals encounter killer whales while migrating, they go into the fiords for a period of time. It was noted the killer whales may be driving narwhals closer to shore.
- It is thought that various influences (noise from mining ship traffic, oil and gas exploration, underwater tracking devices, habitat changes, etc.) have driven narwhals away from their regular habitats. Noise from shipping was thought to be especially harmful to the whales and has driven narwhals away from some areas. Milne Inlet and Lancaster Sound were areas of particular concern. Some residents noted that ships have gone into narwhal calving areas, which reduced the number of whales in these areas. DFO indicated that they cannot address these issues at the moment, but would note the disruption in an Environmental Impact Assessments for the area. Changes in movements and distribution of narwhals away from Milne Inlet would also have to be taken into account in future surveys of the area.
- The past year of harvesting on the floe edge was different from other years. There were more whales, and darker whales that had not been seen in the area previously. They also return more quickly after hearing gunshots (about 15 minutes as opposed to the usual 12 hours). Some thought this was linked to oil and gas exploration off of Greenland. It was also noted that there were less whales in the fiords in the summer, and this was thought to be due to ship traffic (from mining operations). Thus, both the spring and summer hunts were affected in Milne Inlet.

- There are fewer whales observed in the summer now than there was in the past, perhaps because they are going to other areas.

Community Management:

- In 1997 in Pond Inlet, a local management plan was developed and the community has been using that since. The community was interested in whether this management plan would be used or incorporated into the one being proposed by DFO. DFO was interested in obtaining a copy of the management plan but stressed that they were trying to develop a plan for all of Nunavut and for the information of CITES. However, DFO indicated there was an option to tailor the plan to specific communities or management units.
- Currently, the HTO measures tusk length in Pond Inlet.

Other Comments and Concerns:

- Harvest patterns have changed over time. In the past, there were smaller camps in the Eclipse Sound area that harvest the same animals; now there is only one community (Pond Inlet).
- Some residents were concerned about the use of satellite tags, anesthetics and nets for studying narwhal.
- Community members were concerned about how IQ was being incorporated into the management plan and the decision making process. NWMB indicated that it would be considered in the NWMB's decision making process. DFO indicated that they would write a "What we heard" document from the community consultation tour.

**Summary of Community Consultations conducted on March 28-29, 2012 about the
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area**
Prepared by: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Staff

Management Unit: Admiralty Inlet
Host Community: Arctic Bay
HTO Representatives: Arctic Bay
Other Organizations: Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Government of Nunavut,
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Administration / Logistics:

- Some community members were thankful to the consultation team for coming to the community.
- Some communities liked the idea of having a management plan to which they could refer.
- Community members were also thankful for NTI's court case and the additional opportunity to comment on the management plan.

CITES / Exporting of Tusks Outside of Canada:

- Community members did not think the tusk certification scheme proposed by DFO was adequate because the community does not have a Conservation Officer or Fisheries Officer permanently in the community. They suggested that perhaps the HTO could certify the tusk. DFO indicated that they would need to find a solution.
- The HTA described a case where 11 or 12 salvaged tusks were seized by DFO and are still locked up by the Wildlife Office. The HTA has asked for tags, but is still waiting. The HTA Chair had two meetings with DFO in Iqaluit about it, but the community is still waiting for a response about how to deal with salvaged tusks (and this case in particular). DFO indicated that they are working on a certificate system for salvaged tusks to help improve management in these types of situations with salvaged tusks. DFO indicated that the issue will be reviewed with the senior fisheries officer in Iqaluit after the consultation tour, and that they want a resolution of this case soon.
- Tusks have become a source of income in the community (e.g. for buying hunting equipment), and hunters look for tusked narwhal. However, narwhals are also an important food source. Community members wanted this point understood at CITES.
- The community has lost revenue for tusks outside of Canada.
- Community members had questions about how and why the sale of tusks was stopped last year. DFO indicated that CITES can regulate international trade of wildlife products (but not within Canada). Canada is a member of CITES. Only older survey data was available two years ago, and based on that data DFO could not issue a Non-Detriment Finding for the area (i.e. a statement saying that the population levels were healthy and the harvest was sustainable). The new survey information since then has indicated that the harvest is sustainable, and now there is no more ban on international trade.

Harvest Limits / Total Allowable Harvest / Quotas:

- Community members believed that community harvest number increased after the introduction of quotas. After the quota of 130 whales was introduced, the community tried to use all of the

tags each year. Some community members felt that the community would harvest less if there were no tags. Thus, harvest practices changed.

- Some community members expressed that they just want enough narwhals for food, and that an increase in quota might not be beneficial for the community – it might only promote waste.
- Other community members felt that they could harvest more narwhals if the limit was increased, and were happy about the potential for increasing the harvest limit by accounting for the migratory whales. However, they were not happy about other aspects of the plan (e.g. seasonal harvest limits).
- The community is concerned with sustainable harvesting of narwhal; this is a value in harvesting.
- Community members were concerned over the division of tags between different seasons. Sometimes whales do not come early enough and there is no floe edge hunt, and whales are only harvested in the summer and potentially the fall (if there are any tags left). DFO clarified that HTOs will decide on the dates of the seasons. The number of tags allocated for each season will be decided at the January harvest allocation model workshop by the RWOs and HTOs. DFO may give some advice in the first few years of this process. DFO also clarified that a hunter can only use a tag to hunt in the season that the tag specifies (i.e. he can't use a spring (migratory) tag to hunt in the summer).
- In general, there was opposition to the seasonal division of the harvest in the community. Community members and HTO felt that administration and enforcement of the seasonal division of the harvest and two types of tags will be difficult, and that the proposed system will not work well. Predicting when the whales will arrive is difficult, and weather conditions have changed. People preferred the present system and only having one type of tag instead of two.
- There were also questions about using Arctic Bay tags in another community. DFO reemphasized that under the new management system, you would only be able to use a tag in the management unit that was stated on the tag. For example, a hunter from Arctic Bay could not go to Igloodik with an Admiralty Inlet management unit tag and get a tag and use it to hunt around Igloodik. This is different than the current system. This is a non-quota limitation being proposed to the NWMB.
- Current quotas were compared to the new recommended Total Allowable Landed Catches for the management unit. Arctic Bay is the only community that harvests in the Admiralty Inlet management unit. There was some confusion and concern about the final numbers that Arctic Bay would be able to hunt under the new management system. DFO emphasized because the migratory hunt numbers needed to be accounted for, this could not be decided until the harvest allocation model workshop in January with the RWO and HTOs.

Population Size / Factors Affecting Population Size:

- Community wanted narwhal predation (harvest) by polar bears and especially killer whales to also be considered. Some community members even suggested culling killer whales.
- Community members feel that the narwhal population numbers are healthy in the area.
- Some community members questioned whether there were declining numbers in other areas. DFO indicated that this depends on the area.
- Community members also had questions about the population data that was available for the East Baffin management unit. DFO indicated that survey data (population numbers are available), although the numbers are quite old, but there is not satellite tag data from that area.
- Community member felt that the IQ indicated that the population numbers were healthy, but that this information was not believed by outside groups.

Tagging / Reporting:

- Hunters are currently required to bring tusks and tags to the HTO office.

Distribution / Stock Boundaries / Migration:

- Community members were interested in where narwhals were tagged for satellite tracking work. DFO indicated that they did not have the information immediately available but could send it to the HTO.
- Community members were also interested in survey methods. DFO indicated that the surveys were done with fixed-wing aircraft over specific routes (line transects). Some community members felt that the study periods were too short and the survey data was not accurate.
- Community members wanted more input in the satellite tagging and surveys (e.g. timing, employment, location), and for DFO to come back and report on the information after the tagging and surveys were completed. DFO indicated they are working more and more with communities in designing and conducting surveys.
- Community members reported that whales from the high Arctic are bigger and lighter in colour, with long, wide, straight tusks. They have white spots and bellies. There were more of these narwhals in the past and few now. The community determined there were from another area and a different stock or population.
- Many community members did not agree with the idea that narwhals would stay within certain boundaries, as displayed on DFO's map with summering stock locations and migration routes.
- There was concern about how the movements of whales between Greenland and Canada were considered. Many narwhals with harpoon scars are observed, which the community believes is an indication that some whales are traveling between the two countries. There may also be ties to Igloodik. DFO spoke about recent information from satellite tagging which suggests that narwhals may travel between Canada and Greenland. However, DFO stated that this is new information and Canada maintains that the stocks are separate for the time being.

Community Management:

- The HTO has local hunting rules and has a copy of the rules in their office.
- The HTO indicated that the HTO currently divides up the tags in a public meeting before the start of the spring season according to the floe edge (spring) and summer hunts. When the spring hunt is opened, there is uncertainty about how many whales will be harvested – the number really depends on the weather and ice conditions. When the ice conditions become too dangerous, the floe edge hunt is shut down. Then the HTO holds another meeting before the summer harvest opens to decide on summer tag numbers, and the HTO must monitor that the number of tags is not exceeded in the summer hunt. Hunters and the HTO currently communicate over the phone or radio on harvest numbers. When the community gets close to the limit, the HTO stops the hunt and picks names for whom gets the remaining tags. Fall harvests are difficult and dangerous because of stormy weather conditions and waves.
- The HTO does its best during harvest times to monitor the hunts. Sometimes two managers are hired to help out.
- Community members noted that struck and loss is a concern for the HTO and hunters. Younger harvesters are educated on how to minimize loss. They are instructed to use a sufficiently powerful rifle and bring a hook and long rope (especially when hunting on the leads). Narwhals are hard to catch.

Other Comments and Concerns:

- Community members were also concerned about injuries to and deaths of narwhals when satellite tags had been used in the past. They reported that 3-4 narwhals were under distress and died while being netted and tagged. They were also concerned about the effect of satellite tags on whale behaviour.
- Shipping appears to be increasing on the east side of Baffin Island.
- The community was concerned about oil and gas exploration in Lancaster Sound.
- Community members were interested on where oil and gas drilling was happening in the area. DFO said they would check and get back to the community.
- Some feel that marine conservation areas would be useful in this area in the future.
- Community members indicated that narwhals enter the inlet in the spring to feed and calve in shallower water.
- Community members indicated that Admiralty Inlet is deep and that the whales can go to shallow waters, where their tusks and maqtaaq may be chipped or damaged. Ice conditions used to allow hunting of these narwhals in August, but now ice conditions have changed and there are more ice-free areas. Whales can migrate right through these passages instead of just past the flow edge.
- For entrapments, community members suggested that harpoons were the best for harvesting. This is IQ for how to harvest entrapped whales. Rifles could scare the whales, cause them to dive under the ice and drown. Thus, hunting with harpoons in entrapment events maximizes the harvest and minimizes the number of whales lost due to drowning, injury, etc. The community suggested that this could go in the new management plan.
- Community members reported changing ice conditions and increasingly stormy weather in the area.
- The community asked whether nets were an option for harvesting narwhal, since it might reduce the number of struck and lost whales. DFO indicates that nets are not discussed in the Marine Mammal Regulations, but this harvest method will need to be considered in the management plan, and DFO will look into the issue. NTI felt that there was currently no regulation prohibiting narwhals, so it was a possibility.
- Hunts have changed over time – the community members did not used to hunt on the floe edge, only in the open water.

**Summary of Community Consultations conducted on March 30, 2012 about the
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area**
Prepared by: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Staff

Management Unit: East Baffin
Host Community: Iqaluit
HTO Representatives: Amarok HTA (Iqaluit), Pangnirtung HTA, Nattivak HTA (Qikiqtarjuaq), Nangmoutaq HTA (Clyde River), Mittimatalik HTA (Pond Inlet), Ikajutit HTA (Arctic Bay)
Other Organizations: Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Administration / Logistics:

- All of the East Baffin HTAs that harvest narwhal were represented in this regional meeting. Amarok (Iqaluit) HTA had not yet received the DFO presentation on the IFMP, and it was suggested that a shorter version of the presentations would be given for their benefit.
- NTI indicated that even if there was not 100% agreement on the plan, they felt it was beneficial to go ahead so a document is prepared to present to CITES. As well, they suggested there would be a good possibility for increases in the numbers of tags under the new management system. They noted there would also be time for additional review and comments on the plan in June when DFO brings a proposal to the NWMB for decision.
- Some participants emphasized that the discussion could focus on what participants would like to see in the management plan, since it was only a draft.
- Some participants expressed that they were not happy with the consultations in their communities, and felt like they were not given the opportunity to negotiate and provide input to the management plan from the community level as equals. They felt that DFO was pushing through measures that were not wanted.

CITES / Exporting of Tusks Outside of Canada:

- Participants asked if the most recent survey data would be used for the 2013 CITES meeting? DFO indicated that it will use the numbers that it is presenting now, but will collect new data (and that this is priority for DFO Science). DFO indicated that the TALC recommendation for Northern Hudson Bay will stay at 57 whales; the survey has been done and it is being analyzed.

Harvest Limits / Total Allowable Harvest / Quotas:

- Participants were interested in what percentage of the overall population was being harvested by communities.
- Participants expressed concern that there was serious underestimation by science of narwhals in certain areas.
- Some participants re-enforced that they felt that there was not enough scientific information for the East Baffin area, and notably Home Bay. As a result the suggested harvest limits are too low.
- Some participants felt they might be supportive of the management plan if their harvests would go up. Others felt nervous that their harvests would go down.
- Participants thought it would be useful to have a demonstration of the harvest allocation model in order to clear up confusion about how it worked and potential harvest limits for each community. Participants expressed that they wanted to see how the allocation model works.

Representatives from NTI gave some background information on the model and ran through different harvest level scenarios. They were able to find scenarios where all of the communities would receive more narwhals than they were currently allowed. Many participants found this to be a useful demonstration.

Population Size / Factors Affecting Population Size:

- Participants relayed that they believe that narwhal populations are healthy. DFO indicated that they had heard this in most communities, but there was some concern due to shipping and oil and gas exploration.
- Participants shared that even though there is no survey or tagging information from around Grise Fiord, from their observations of offshore whales and what they hear, that narwhals are not decreasing in that area.
- Some participants noted that the summering stock approach was very dependent on survey numbers.
- There was some concern regarding bycatch of narwhal in shrimp and Greenland halibut (turbot) fisheries off of South Baffin. This information was from IQ, and DFO indicated that there was no tagging information from the Baffin region. DFO also noted that there had been a closed area established in Division OA to help protect narwhal habitat.

Tagging / Reporting:

- Some participants were interested in whether they could still harvest narwhals for food after the quota was used up. There was a suggestion that this has not always been reported.
- Participants wanted to clarify how many whales they would be allowed to harvest under the new system, and whether this would be an increase from their present quota. DFO explained that the tendency is to receive more quota by accounting for the migratory catch. The seasonal and summer tags (two colours) will help to manage this seasonal division of the hunt in some areas. The all-season tags are used in other areas where this division is not needed. Pangnirtung and Iqaluit were given all-season tags because their harvests are very small. Migratory mixing was not taken into account in these cases as a way to simplify the harvest allocation model.
- Some participants wondered what was wrong with the old system. DFO emphasized that the new science suggests a summering stock approach.
- Some participants were confused about how seasons are set for the tags. DFO indicated that HTOs indicate the season dates, then DFO issues the tags. NTI suggested that setting summer dates, and then having the rest of the year as “migratory” may be a useful way to think about it.
- Participants were also concerned about whether hunters from other communities could still harvest in their community. Usually hunters bring tags from their home community into another community to harvest. DFO indicated that under the new system, a hunter would only be able to hunt in the management unit and season that their tags states.

Distribution / Stock Boundaries / Migration:

- Participants relayed that in Pond Inlet on the flow edge, Baffin Bay narwhals had been observed recently.
- Participants were interested in whether East Baffin narwhal stock would be subdivided into smaller stocks once new science data is collected. DFO indicated that this would depend on the science and IQ information that is received, and there would need to be a good reason supporting this change.

- Participants were interested in movements of whales between Admiralty Inlet and Eclipse Sound. Most information indicates that these are two separate summering stocks. However, from satellite tagging data, it appeared that there have been some whales moving between the two areas. These two areas are considered separate management units under the new management plan.
- It was noted that the wide variation was noted in Admiralty Inlet surveys and the resulting Total Allowable Landed Catch recommendations was not helpful for management.
- It was also noted that the area of the Eastern Baffin survey was not the entire East Baffin area. There is a concern that this may have produced a severe underestimate of narwhal numbers in East Baffin. DFO added that the survey area was mainly between Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.
- Members from Arctic Bay expressed that they were not happy with the Admiralty Inlet Boundaries. They think that Admiralty Inlet and Eclipse Sound are almost one population. Admiralty Inlet in the summer, floats that are attached by Pond Inlet harvesters are observed, so there appears to be some exchange of whales between Admiralty Inlet and Eclipse Sound. They felt that the two areas could maybe be combined into one management unit. Some felt that if these were divided into two stocks, harvesters would be fighting over the same whales. They felt there also may be exchange with Foxe Basin and Admiralty Inlet (and potentially Eclipse Sound – this was not clear from the statement in the meeting). Proper assessments of Igloodik and Resolute Bay were suggested.
- It was stressed that the area between Clyde River and Pond Inlet really needs to be re-assessed, and suggested that even temporarily, another subpopulation should be considered for the area. Some participants felt there would be numerous summering stocks identified in East Baffin.

Community Management:

- Participants noted that each community has its own hunting rules. Some communities still use the Community Based Management rules. DFO suggested that there should be an IQ section in the plan on hunting rules, etc. Some participants suggested they have many of the rules written down and could send them to DFO. Some participants noted that local hunting rules are not publicized to other communities, and that this could be a helpful change. Some participants did not like the idea of putting community hunting rules in the IFMP, and argued that it was just directed at CITES. NTI suggested that putting community hunting rules in the IFMP may give the impression that they are enforceable regulations, and this is not the intent. NWMB indicated that if need be, there may be a way to include the rules in an appendix with a disclaimer.

Other Comments and Concerns:

- There was also concern about the lack of research in Lancaster Sound.
- Participants noted that narwhals are an important food source.
- Some participants emphasized that the Polar Bear Technical Committee considers surveys that are over 10 years old to be outdated, and considers IQ in place of harvest numbers. It mainly considered science, but also include IQ information.
- Participants suggested that submerged whale correction factors are severe underestimates (based on their experience with harvesting entrapped whales), and recommended that this be a topic for future discussion.