NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Agenda: Regular Meeting No. RM 001-2011

Baffin Room, Frobisher Inn, Iqaluit, March 23, 2011

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1	Call to Order and Opening Prayer		Chairperson
2	Opening Remarks		Chairperson
3	Agenda: Review and Approval	1	Chairperson
4	Environment Canada (EC): Issues/Decisions		
5	Parks Canada (PC):Issues/Decisions		
6	Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Issues/Decisions		DFO
	a) Atlantic Walrus Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Update	2	
	b) Proposed Changes for Shrimp Fishery Management in the North	3	
	c) Modification of Longline hook size NQLs in Cumberland Sound	4	
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7	Department of Environment (DOE Nunavut): Issues/Decisions		DOE
8	NTI Wildlife Division (NTI): Issues/Decisions		
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12	Adjournment and Closing Prayer		Chairperson

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X **Decision:**

Issue:
Atlantic Walrus Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Update.

Background:
In 2007, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) initiated the development of an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for walrus, starting with the North Foxe Basin stock. In 2010, plan development has also begun for the Baffin Bay stock.

Current Situation:
Development of an IFMP for Atlantic walrus in the eastern Arctic is ongoing.

The IFMP will ensure the sustainable harvest of walrus consistent with the principles of conservation set out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Individual chapters of the walrus IFMP are being developed by co-management Working Groups (WGs). The WGs are comprised of representatives from the local Hunter & Trapper Organizations (HTOs), the Regional Wildlife Organization (RWO), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and DFO (Resource Management, Conservation & Protection, and Science). Others may be invited to attend meetings as requested or required (e.g. Elders, Industry representatives, or other government departments). NWMB technical staff is unable to attend WG meetings; however their input is requested on WG documents and decisions. The WGs are developing Terms of References (ToR) to guide the development of the IFMP chapters. Two WGs have been established to date.

The Foxe Basin Walrus Working Group (FBWWG) - mandate includes the North and Central Foxe Basin Walrus Stocks:
The FBWWG met in Igloolik in June 2009 and in Iqaluit in February and December 2010. The HTOs that are represented on the FBWWG are Hall Beach and Igloolik. A Terms of Reference (ToR) has been finalized and the approval process will be initiated. A traditional ecological knowledge map is being produced that identifies important biological and ecologically significant areas for walrus in Foxe Basin. At the meeting in December 2010, the working group began the identification of management goals and measures for walrus in Foxe Basin. The resulting IFMP will be based on the best available knowledge, including scientific, local and Inuit and will follow the national DFO IFMP

template. The next meetings will take place in February 2011, in both Igloolik and Hall Beach, where delegates will continue working on management goals, measures, and recommendations for the duration of the plan. These meetings will also provide the opportunity to update the public on the progress of the plan's development. It is anticipated that a draft Foxe Basin chapter of the IFMP will be completed within 6-12 months.

*Baffin Bay Walrus Working Group (BBWWG) - mandate includes the West Jones Sound, Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound, and Baffin Bay Walrus Stocks (high Arctic)***:**
The BBWWG held two meetings in Iqaluit in 2010, the first in February and a second November 30-December 1. The HTOs represented on the BBWWG are Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay. The BBWWG agreed to develop a Management Plan for walrus in the high Arctic based on the best available knowledge, including scientific, local and Inuit, and will follow the national DFO IFMP template. The next meetings for the BBWWG will take place in each of the high Arctic communities in February and March 2011. The meetings are intended to continue with the collection of local and Inuit knowledge, and the finalization and prioritization of management goals, measures, and recommendations for the duration of the plan. These meetings will also provide the opportunity to inform the public on the purpose of the plan and progress that has been made to date. It is anticipated that a draft high Arctic chapter of the IFMP will be completed within 6-12 months.

DFO-Science, as a Working Group member, will collaborate with the HTOs to develop estimates of Atlantic walrus abundance and distribution. In 2008 DFO advised the NWMB that it was not possible to recommend sustainable harvest levels for walrus in Nunavut until more recent estimates of walrus population size and better harvest reporting were provided. It is anticipated that information provided through the IFMP process will assist in filling these gaps.

Consultations:
DFO Central & Arctic Region

Prepared by: S. Frame, Fishery Management Coordinator, DFO Winnipeg.

Date: February 14, 2011

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: **Decision: X**

Issue: Proposed Changes for Shrimp Fishery Management in the North for Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*Pandalus montagui*) Shrimp

Currently, shrimp fishery management in the north is complicated with many overlapping management units and quotas for both shrimp species (Figures 1 and 2). Of particular note, the *P. montagui* fishery takes place in Shrimp Fishing Areas 2, 3 and 4 west of 63^{o}W which includes parts of the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA), the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR) and the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA). All existing quotas for this species can be taken in the Resolution Island area resulting in a potential exploitation (i.e. harvest) rate of 47%, a rate over three times higher than that applied for healthy shrimp stocks in the rest of eastern Canada. In 2010 DFO Science recommended the quotas be reduced since such a potential exploitation rate posed a high risk for stock decline. Additionally, industry has encountered difficulties in pursuing Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the offshore shrimp fisheries in this area due to overlapping management units and quotas of the *P. montagui* fishery and high potential exploitation rate which do not meet the standards for sustainable fishing.

As a result, stakeholders including Nunavut industry representatives and staff from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), the Government of Nunavut (GN) and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) as well as Nunavik interests have convened over the past several months to consider options to address these issues. At the latest face to face meeting in November 2010, a new shrimp fishery management regime was proposed and supported in principle by all stakeholders. Existing quotas were kept the same as much as possible and new/increased quotas were introduced in Hudson Strait. There was consensus to have DFO further develop the proposal and submit the proposal to co-management boards and the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee for recommendations/decision.

Under this proposal, overlapping management units would be eliminated for both *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* by aligning Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) boundaries with settlement area boundaries and creating new management units within these SFAs (Figures 3 and 4). Each management unit would have only one quota for each species. To address conservation concerns of potential over harvest, the combined *P. montagui* Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 6,300t (as shown in Figure 2) would be reduced to 2,250t based on a precautionary exploitation rate of 15%. This is a drop from the current potential exploitation rate

of 47%. Implementation of these and other changes would make shrimp fishery management in the north more straight forward, provide sustainable TACs and also support MSC certification which benefits all stakeholders. To be noted, to reach a sustainable exploitation rate, the offshore fleet is willing to change their directed *P. montagui* quota outside the NSA (DS –W) to a bycatch quota and reduce their harvest from a directed 3,300t quota to a 1,100t by catch quota.

The following tables summarize the proposed changes to Nunavut and Nunavik quotas within their land claim settlement areas under the proposal and based on 2010 Science advice:

Table 1. Current and proposed quotas for *Pandalus borealis* within the Nunavut and Nunavik settlement areas by sector and management unit.

Sector	Current Regime			Proposed Regime				
	Quota(t) by Management Unit			Quota(t) by Management Unit				
	SFA3	SFA2 W of 63°W	Total	Nunavut-West (NU-W)	Nunavik-West (NK-W)	Nunavut-East (NU-E)	Nunavik-East) NK-E	Total
Nunavut	400[1]		400	1500[2]		250[2]		1750
Nunavik								
[1] 400t bycatch allowed in SFA3 and SFA2 inside the NSA when fishing for *P. montagui*				[2] Split to be determined.				

Table 2. Current and proposed quotas for *P. montagui* within the Nunavut and Nunavik settlement areas by sector and management unit.

Sector	Current Regime				Proposed Regime				
	Quota(t) by Management Unit				Quota(t) by Management Unit				
	2,3,4 W of 63°W	SFA3	SFA2 inside the NSA	Total	NU-W	NK-W	NU-E	NK-E	Total
Nunavut	0	1000[1]		3000	5000[2]		1150[2]		6150[2]
			2000						
Nunavik	0	0	0	0					
[1] 1000t allowed in SFA3 and SFA2 inside the NSA of which a maximum of 500t can be fished in SFA2					[2] Split to be determined.				

In Davis Strait-East (DS-E) (i.e. old SFA2EX) quotas would remain unchanged.

As noted in the above tables, a sharing arrangement between Nunavut and Nunavik for the available quotas in Hudson Strait is required. DFO recognizes sharing arrangements are best negotiated between NTI and Makivik. However, to address immediate conservation and management concerns as well as expedite implementation of the proposal, an interim one year allocation plan is recommended while discussions ensue between NTI and Makivik. This one year

interim plan would allow fishing operations to continue unimpeded for this season but is not intended to affect future sharing arrangements.

DFO suggests the following interim allocation plan for the 2011/12 season:

Table 3. Proposed interim quotas within Nunavut and Nunavik settlement areas by species and management unit.

Species	Quota(t) by Management Unit			
	Nunavut-West	Nunavik-West	Nunavut-East	Nunavik-East
P. montagui	2000	3000	1150	0
P. borealis	625	875	250*	0
*A bycatch protocol will be developed in consultation with affected stakeholders however, for the interim allocation period 2011/12, the bycatch quotas in Nunavut-East (250t *P. borealis*) and Davis Strait-West (1,100t *P. montagui*) will operate as fixed amounts.				

Total proposed quotas per species within Hudson Strait are compared with the existing quotas in the following table:

Table 4. Current versus proposed interim quotas for each species within Hudson Strait by land claim settlement area.

	Total Current Quota(t)		Total Proposed Interim Quota(t)	
Species	Nunavut	Nunavik	Nunavut	Nunavik
P. montagui	3000	0	3150	3000
P. borealis	0	0	875	875

A quota sharing arrangement between Nunavut and Nunavik is an important part of the shrimp fishery management regime. DFO encourages NTI and Makivik to seek a timely resolution.

In summary, DFO is seeking the Board's decision on the proposed Shrimp Fishing Areas and management unit boundary changes and the associated quotas within the NSA as well as the Board's recommendations on the proposed management changes in Davis Strait-West outside the NSA (i.e. boundary and quota change form 3300t directed to 1100t by catch). DFO is also seeking the Board's decision on the interim allocation plan for the 2011/12 season. Given the timing of the opening of the fishery a response as soon as possible would be appreciated.

Prepared by: Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Central & Arctic and National Capital Regions

Date: February 23, 2011

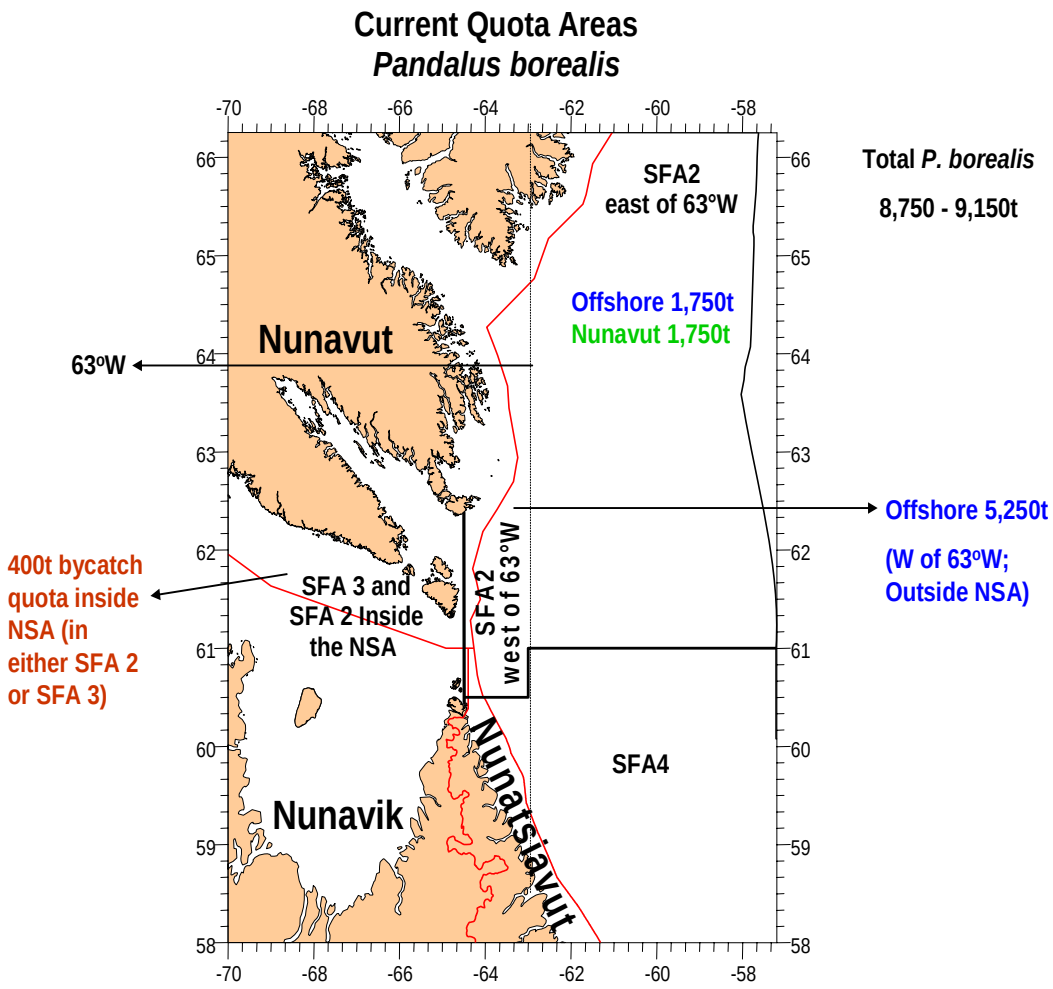

Figure 1. Current Quota Areas for *Pandalus borealis*.

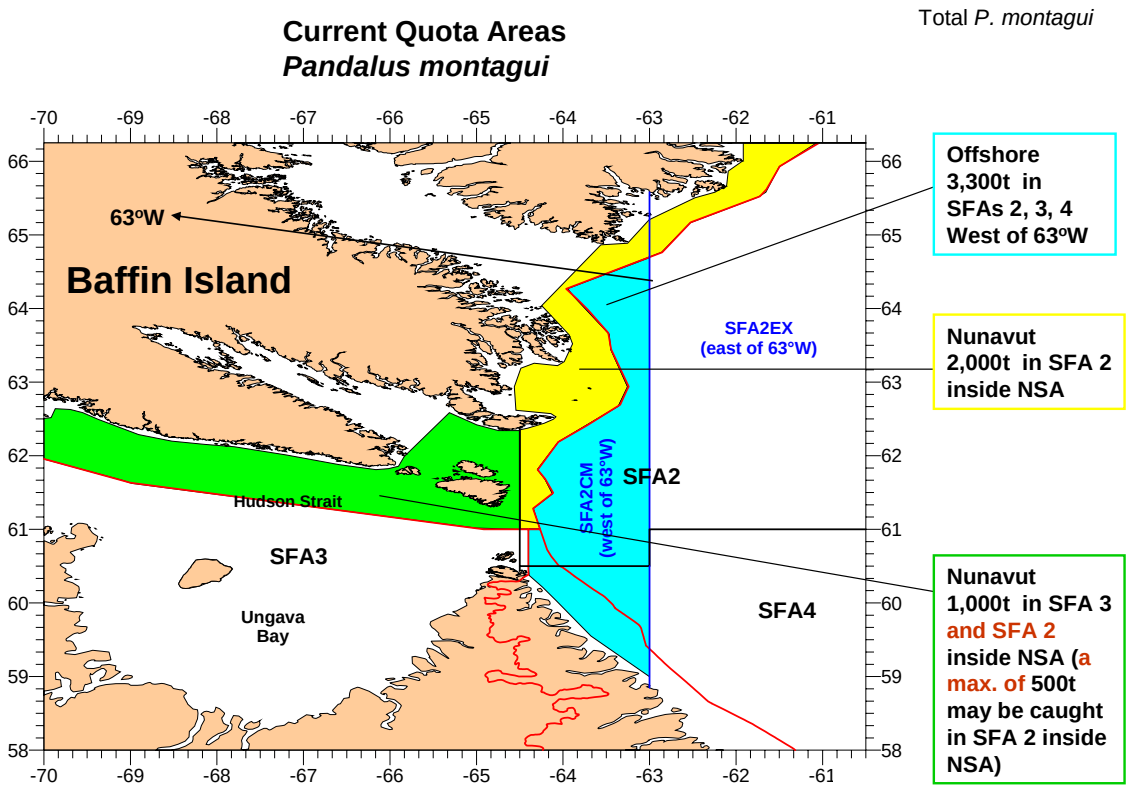

Figure 2. Current Quota Areas for *Pandalus montagui*.

Proposed Shrimp Fishing Areas

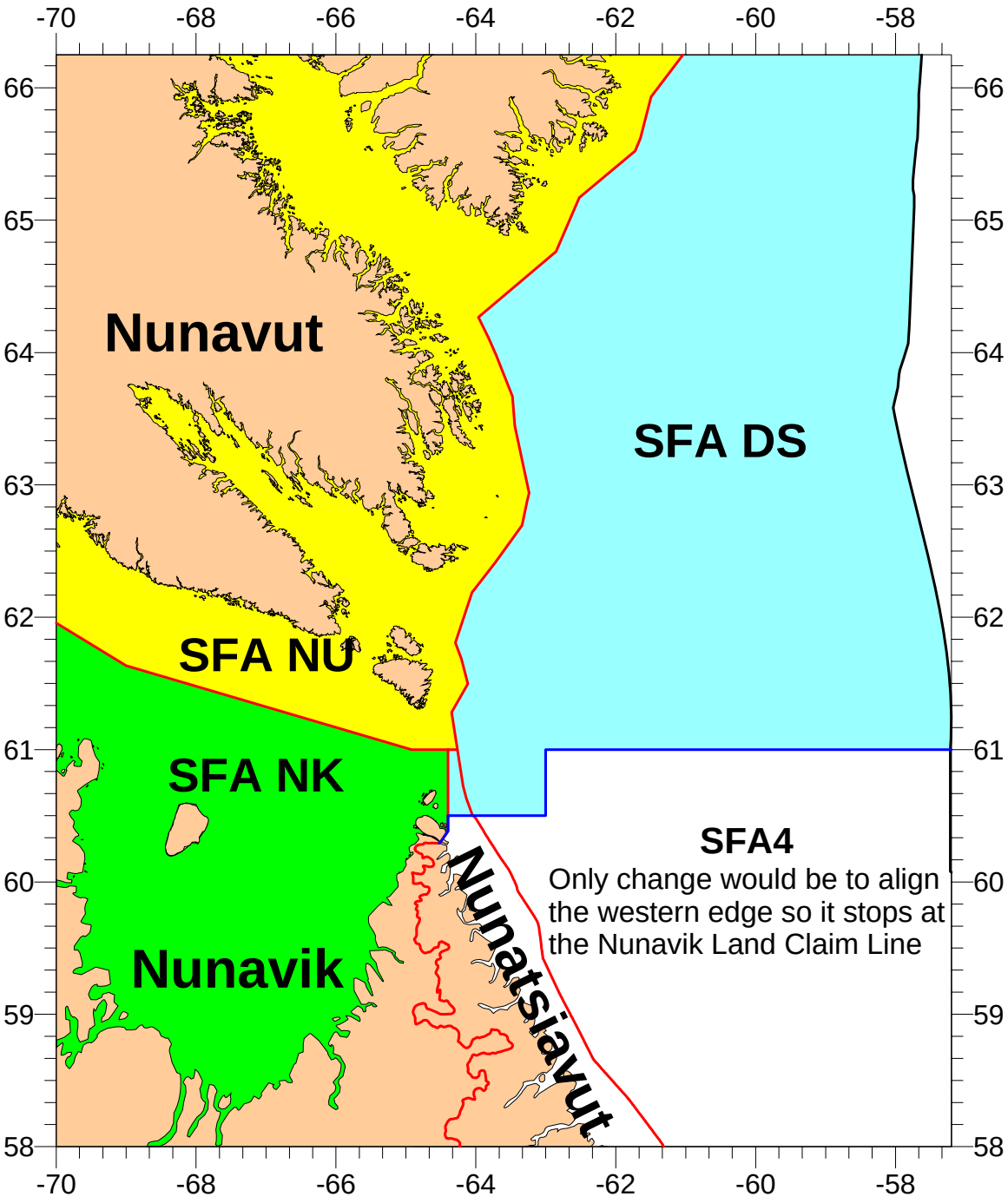

Figure 3. Proposed Shrimp Fishing Areas.

Proposed Management Units within the New SFAs

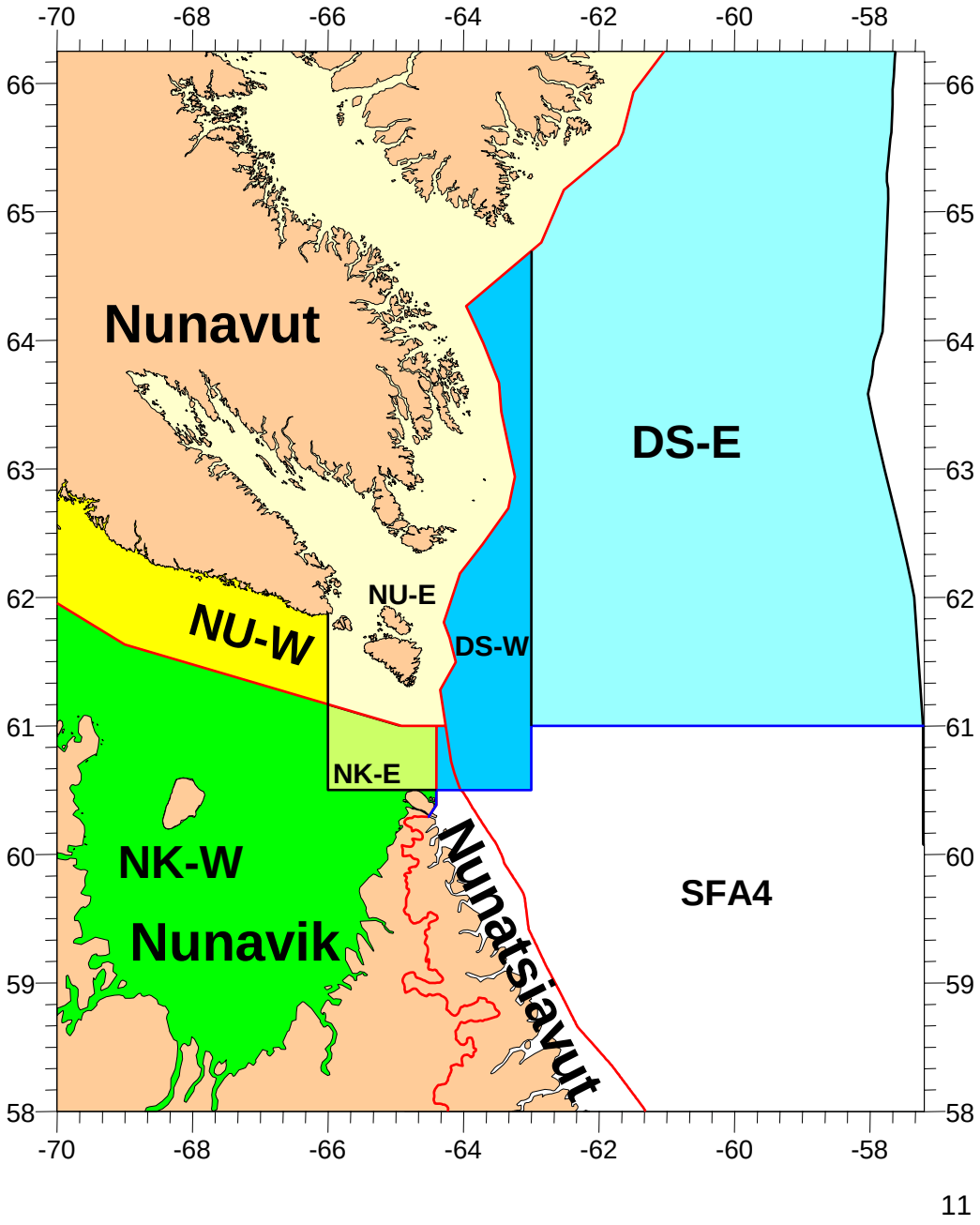

Figure 4. Proposed Management Units within the New SFAs.

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: **Decision: X**

Issue: Modification of Non-Quota Limitation for approved range of longline hook sizes in the Greenland Halibut (turbot) fishery in the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound

Background: In August 2007, the NWMB approved the Greenland Halibut Fishery Management Plan and associated Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) for NAFO Subarea 0 within the Nunavut Settlement Area. In August 2009, the NWMB modified the NQLs for the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound, so that fishing gear was restricted to longline gear only. This was to minimize potential negative impacts of fishing gear to marine mammals using the Cumberland Sound.

There are two separate management areas in Cumberland Sound for Greenland Halibut: the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound and the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA).

In March 2010, Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited (PFL) made a request to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for approval to use a range of circle hook sizes in the winter and summer longline fisheries in Cumberland Sound. Directed Greenland Halibut fishing within Cumberland Sound had been yielding significant bycatch of Greenland Shark, which negatively impacts fishing efficiency and potentially the conservation status of the bycatch species. Consultation with both the fishing industry and DFO Science suggested that a change in hook size may limit shark bycatch.

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) Regular Meeting #64, DFO presented a briefing note for decision on use of a range of longline hook sizes in the Greenland Halibut fisheries in Cumberland Sound. The NWMB decided to modify the NQL for hook size to accommodate requested changes in the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA), for both ice and open water Greenland Halibut fisheries. Thus, the current licence condition for hook sizes in the CSTMA permits the use of #11 through #16 hooks.

The NWMB's decision as it was worded was for the CSTMA only, and did not encompass the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound. Thus, the current NQL for the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound has not been modified, and is restricted to a gape size of 15.4 mm (#14 circle hook).

In February of 2011, DFO met with local fish harvesters in Pangnirtung. The Chair of the PFL board, the Chair of the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, and the Government of Nunavut were also present at the meeting. Hook sizes were discussed and

all parties were in support of having an approved range of hook sizes for the NAFO 0B portion of Cumberland Sound, of #11 through #16 circle hooks.

To facilitate continued sustainable development of the longline turbot fishery in Cumberland Sound, DFO requests that the NWMB considers a modification of the hook size NQL for the NAFO 0B portion of Cumberland Sound so that the approved range of hook sizes would include #11 through #16 circle hooks.

Consultations: Charlotte Sharkey, DFO – Iqaluit; Beth Hiltz, DFO – Winnipeg; Chris Lewis, DFO – Iqaluit

Recommendation: That the NWMB modify the Non-Quota Limitation with respect to the approved range of longline hook sizes permitted in the NAFO 0B portion of Cumberland Sound, so that the approved range of hook sizes would include #11 through #16 circle hooks.

Prepared by: Rory MacDonald, DFO – Iqaluit

Date: February 21, 2011

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: **Decision: X**

Issue: Request for approval of Non-Quota Limitations for an exploratory Greenland halibut (turbot) fishery in Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet near Clyde River

Background: In its 2011 decisions and recommendations on allocations for Commercial Marine Fisheries, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) set aside 100 t of turbot for inshore development in NAFO Division 0A, to be sub-allocated by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB). The allocation is for exploratory purpose and can only be fished within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Nangmautaq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) will be applying to the QWB to receive some of the 100 t inshore allocation. The Nangmautaq HTO has participated in three winter longline turbot fishing projects in the Clyde River area, in 2003, 2006 and 2008 respectively. The 2006 project was funded by the NWMB's Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund. The Nangmautaq HTO has been working with the Government of Nunavut (GN) to organize another project for 2011.

In February 2011, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received an Emerging Fisheries Application that the GN and the HTO had worked together to complete. The HTO is the project proponent and GN is supportive of this project by providing project management support. To oversee the project in the field, and to collect required data, a fisheries technician will be retained. This person will be responsible for the collection of project data from the fish harvesters on a daily basis. Data requirements will include all required information on harvesting location (site, depth), fishing activity (number of hooks, soak time) and results (turbot harvest – number of fish, length and weight), bycatch and Catch per Unit Effort.

Past projects have shown that quantities of turbot can be harvested from several locations in the Scott Inlet and Sam Fiord area (see map). The objectives of the 2011 project are to further investigate the size of the turbot resource, and to explore the viability of a commercial winter fishery for local harvesters. A final project report will be prepared by the GN on the project results.

DFO is requesting that the NWMB approve the following Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) for exploratory turbot fisheries within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) in the Clyde River area:

1. The waterbody to be fished is Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet (area bounded by four coordinates: 71°122' N, 71°00' W; 71°03'N, 71°29' W; 71°00N, 69°39 W; and 70°42'N, 70°38'W).
2. Gear to be used is longlines fitted with circle hooks in the size range of #12s through to #15s;
3. Bycatch such as skates, sharks, eelpout and wolfish, where alive, shall be released at the site of capture if there is a reasonable expectation of survival.
4. Every person who incidentally catches a Northern Wolffish or Spotted Wolffish forthwith returns it to the place from which it was taken, and where alive, in a manner that causes it the least harm.

In addition, DFO is requesting that the NWMB approve the following NQL for a 2011 exploratory turbot fishery within the NSA in the Clyde River area:

1. The fishing period is March 1 to June 30, 2011.

Consultations: Kevin Hedges, DFO Science; Chris Lewis, DFO Resource Management; Angela Young, Government of Nunavut

Recommendations:

1. That the NWMB approve the four NQLs set out above for exploratory turbot fisheries within the NSA in the Clyde River area, as per NLCA s.5.6.48.
2. That the NWMB approve the NQL set out above for a 2011 exploratory turbot fishery in the Clyde River area, as per NLCA s.5.6.48.

Prepared by: **Charlotte Sharkey, DFO – Iqaluit**

Date: **February 28, 2011**

Map 1. Proposed area for Clyde River exploratory Greenland Halibut (turbot) fishery in Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet.

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X **Decision:**

Issue: 2010-2013 Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities for Nunavut

Background:

In September 2010, the Board approved changes to its policy on the "*Identification of NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities for Nunavut"*. As per the policy, the priority lists identify research and management priorities separately. The research priorities allow regions to rank research needs on a priority basis and are used by the NWMB in the evaluation of Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust (NWRT) applications. The identification of management priorities is meant to allow regions to rank management priorities that cannot be addressed specifically by research.

As per the policy, the NWMB is required to hold priority workshops once every three years in each region. NWMB staff completed the workshops in the fall/winter of 2010 and priority lists have been finalized for the Kivalliq and Baffin regions (refer to appendices). To date, the Kitikmeot priority list has not been finalized. Wildlife section staff have attempted on numerous occasions over the past four months to receive an update on the status of the finalization of the list with the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) and the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat (NIWS), however no response has been received.

Recommendation:

The next step in the process as required by the policy is to send a letter to all government departments informing them of the regional priorities. The letter will ask how the departments intend to address the wildlife management priorities identified by communities, and request that the Board be provided a progress report on the issue by July 31st. This process is in place to ensure that regional priorities are being given proper consideration by government departments.

Wildlife section staff will proceed with the drafting and issuance of the letter and will further attempt to contact the KRWB regarding the finalization of the Kitikmeot list.

Consultations: Rebecca Jeppesen, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB; Lesley Farrow, Wildlife Management Biologist;

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Date: March 2nd, 2011

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Baffin Regional Wildlife Priorities 2010-2013

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ᑐᒃᑐᐊᓯᑦ (ᖅᑯᓯᒃᑐᕐᒥᐅᑦ ᑐᒃᑐᖏᑦ): ᑐᒃᑐᑦ ᐅᓄᖅᓂᖏᓐᓄᑦ ᒥᒃᓴᑕᐅᒃᑕᖏᓐᓂᑦ Peary Caribou: Population estimate	ᑐᒃᑐᑦ: ᐱᓴᓱᖅᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ ᐱᐅᖅᓯᐊᖅᓂᖅᓗᑦ ᐅᐸᓗᖏᓐᓇᐃᓴᐅᑎᑦ ᑐᖓᓗᖓᓴᐅᑎᑦ (ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥᓗᑦ ᑐᖅᓱᖏᓚᐅᑦ) Caribou: Complete conservation strategy (Nunavut wide)
ᑐᒃᑐᑦ: ᐊᒻᒪᑭᐅᑦ ᐅᓄᓯᓗᐊᓂᖏᓐᓄᓐᓄᑦ ᑐᑦᑐᓂᔪᖅ Caribou: Wolf predation rates causing decline?	ᓄᓇᓕᒃᑦ ᐃᓕᐅᓂᖅᓴᐅᓕᖅᓯᓗᑎᒃ ᐅᒪᔨᓕᑲᓂᖅᓗᑦ ᐊᐅᓕᑎᓂᐅᔨᒥᐅᒃ Increase community involvement in wildlife management
ᑐᒃᑐᑦ: ᐅᓄᖅᓂᖏᓐᓄᑦ ᒥᒃᓴᐅᓴᒃᑕᐅᓂᖏᓐᓂᑦ (ᖅᑭᑭᖅᑕᓗᖏᒃ) Caribou: Population estimate (Baffin Island)	ᖅᑭᓕᓗᑦᑕ ᖃᐅᔨᖅᑕᑦ: ᒥᐊᓂᓚᕆᐅᓂᖏᓐᓄᓐᓄᑦ ᐸᖅᓇᐅᑎᑦ (ᑎᓄᔪᐅᓇᖏᒥᒃ) Beluga: Management plan (Cumberland Sound)
ᐃᓚᖅᒥᐅᑕᑦ ᓂᖅᑭᑎᓴᐅᕐᒃᑐᑦ ᐃᓚᖅᒥᐅᑕᐅᖅᑐᓄᖅᑐᑦ: ᖃᐅᔨᓴᐃᓗᑎᒃ ᖃᐅᔨᖅᑕᖅᑐᑦᓗᓐᑕ (ᐃᖅᑲᓗᐃᑦ ᒥᐅᑐᑎᑦ ᑐᖅᑭᖅᑕᖅᑕᖏᓚᐅᑦᓗᓐᑕ ᐅᓪᓗᒥᒃ ᐊᒃᑐᐃᓂᖏᓐᓂᑦ ᐃᓚᖅᒥᐅᑕᖅ) ᐊᓚᒪᓗ ᐊᒃᑐᐃᓂᖏᓐᓂᑦ ᐃᓚᖅᒥᐅᑕᑦ ᓂᖅᑭᑲᖅᑕᐅᓂᖏᓐᓂᑦ Marine Ecosystems: Research into cause of die-offs (small fish and invertebrates) and the effects on marine food chain	ᐊᕐᑎᑎᐅᔪᑦ ᓴᓗᒥᖅᓴᐅᕐᓇᖅᑐᑦ ᐅᓄᖅᓯᕐᓂᒪᓕᐊᖅᑕᖅᑐᑦ ᐅᒥᐊᖅᓯᐊᑦ ᐅᓯᖅᑲᖅᑕᖅᑎᐅᔪᑦ ᐊᓚᒪ ᐱᕐᓂᓕᐊᑎᓂᓯᓗᐅᔪᑦ ᐊᖅᑯᓲᖅᑕᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᑭᖅᒥ Environmental protection from increased marine shipping and industrial development
ᐅᓄᐃᑦ: ᐅᓄᖅᓂᖏᓐᓄᑦ ᒥᒃᓴᐅᓴᒃᑕᐅᓂᖏᓐᓂᑦ (ᑕᓗᑭᑎᐅᔪ ᑕᓇᐅᖅᖏᒃ) Polar Bear: Population estimate (Baffin Bay)	ᐅᓄᐃᑦ: ᐅᓐᓄᒃᑕᐅᔪᓐᓇᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᓕᒥᐊᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ (ᑕᓗᑭᑎᐅᔪ ᑕᓇᐅᖅᖏᒃ) Polar Bear: Increase TAH (Baffin Bay)
ᐃᖅᑲᓗᒪᑦ: ᐊᖅᑯᓲᖅᑕᖅᑕᖏᓐᓂᑦ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᖃᖏᖓᒃᑯᑦ ᐊᖅᑯᓲᖅᑎᑕᖅᑕᖏᓐᓂᑦ ᓇᓗᑦ Arctic Char: Migration routes and timing	ᐃᖅᑲᓗᐃᑦ ᑕᓇᐅᒥᐅᑕᑦ: ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓂᓗᑎᒃ ᓂᐅᖅᑭᑎᓇᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᖅᑲᖅᑕᒥᓂᖅᓯᓗᑎᓪᓗᒥ ᐱᘁᒃᖅᑕᐅᔪᓂᒃ Arctic Char: Explore commercial fishing opportunities
ᐃᖅᑲᓗᒃᐃᑦ ᑕᓇᐅᒥᐅᑕᑦ: ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓂᖅ ᐅᑭᐅᖏᓐᑕ ᐊᑦᖃᑯᓯᖅᓯᒪᓂᖏᓐᓂᒃᓂᖅ - ᐊᖏᑎᓱᑕᐅᓂᖅᑕᖅᓂᖅ ᐃᖅᑲᓗᖅᑕᑕᖅᑐᑦ (ᖅᑭᑭᖅᑕᖅᓵᕐᐊᖅ) Arctic Char: Research on age structure - larger fish being caught (Qikiqtarjuaq)	

>Δϧᑦ: ᐊᖅᑐΔσᓂᒃᑲ ᓱᓕᐅᐸ ᐊᓱᑭᖅᐸᑦᓕᐊσᓂᒃᑕ / Δᒪᐅᐸ ᐅᖅᑯᓱᓴᑦᓕᐊσᓂᒃᑲ Marine Mammals: Effects of climate change / warmer waters	
Δᖅᑲᖁᐅᑕᑦ ძᑭᐅᓴᖁᖅᑐᑦ: ᖁᑲᐅᓂᐊΔᓗᑎᒃ Δᖅᑲᑦᓕᐊᖅᑕᐅᔪᓐᓇᕆᓴᖁᒪᓂᒃᑕ ᓄᓕᒃ ᐅᓴᕆᓱᐅᖅᑎᑲᑯᑦ (ᓱძᓱᓪ) Crustaceans: Research required for exploratory fishery (Foxe Basin, Mary River Mining)	
#2 ᓱᐁᑦᓕᐅᑎᖅᑯᓴᑦ Priorities	
ᖃᐅᓂᒪᖅᓂᖅ Research	**ᐊᐅᓪᓱᓂᖅ Management**
ᐊᑦᓪᓚᖓᐊᑦ ᖁᑭᓪᓗᑐᑦ: ᖃᓄᑎᑎ ᐅᓄᖅᑎᒪᒃᑎᑕ (ᖁᑭᖃᓪᓗᓂᒪᓗᑦ)	ᐊᑦᓪᓚᖓᐊᑦ ᖁᑭᓪᓗᑐᑦ: ᒥᐊσᓗᓴᐅσᓂᑭᓚᓄᑦ ᐸᖁᓇᐅᑎᑦ (ᖁᑭᖃᓪᓗᓂᒪᓗᑦ)
Narwhal: Population estimate (Baffin Wide)	Narwhal: Management plan (Baffin Wide)
ᓇᑎᑦ: ᐅᒪᔨᖁᑎᒃᑭᓚᓄ σᖁᑭᑕᐅσᓂᒃᑭᓚᓄ ᐊძᓪΔᵅσᓂᒃᑕ (ᓱᑦᓗ ᓇᓚᖁᓚᑦ) ᐊᒻᒪ ᐊᐅᑐΔσᓂᒃᑕ ᓇᑎᑦ ᐅᓚᖁᓂᒃᑭσᓂᒃ	ᖁᑭᓪᓗᑐΔᑦ ᐊᑦᓪᓚᖓᐊᑦ ᐊᒻᒪ ᖁᑯᖁᑕᑦ: ᖁᑲᐅᓕᑭᖁᐃᑎᓗᑕᑦ ᓄᓇᓕᐅᔨᑦ ᐱᑦᓗᑕᑦ ᐱᓴᓰᖁᓱᒪᔨᑦ ᐅᐅᑐᖁᑎσᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᓕᒃσ ᒪᓕᒃᖃᖁᑎᑕᑎσᖁᔪᒋᑦ ᐊᐅᓪᓕᑎσᖁᑲᓕᐅᖅᑐσᓂᒃ Narwhal and Beluga: Follow-up with communities regarding completion of trial CBM System
ᓇᑎᑦ: ᖁᑲᐅᓂᐊΔσᓂᒃ ᐊᖅᑯᔪᖁᑕᖁᑕᒃᑭᑎᓚᓄ ᐊᒻᒪ ᓄᑲᑕᖁᓕᐅᓴᑎᑭᓚᓄ Ringed Seals: Research on migration and movement	
ᓇᑎᑦ: ᐅᑭᐅᒃᑎᑕ ᐃᖁᑭᓱᖅᓱᒪσᒃᑎᑦ / ᖁᑐᖁᒃᑎᐅᖁσᒃᑎᑦ (ᐅᓄᖁσᓂᖅᓴᑦ ᐊᑲᔅᑎᐅσᓂᖅᓴᑦ ᓇᑎᑦ ᑕძᔪᐅᖁᑲᑦᑕᖅᑐᑦ) Ringed Seals: Age structure / Productivity (more large seals seen)	
ᓇᑎᑦ: ᐅᓄᖁσᒃᑎᓚᓄ ᒥᓴᐅᓴᑲᑕᐅᓱᒪᔨᑦ (ᐅᓄᑭᓚᑦᑐᖅᐸᑦᓕᐊᓱᑎᔪᐅᔨᑦ) Ringed Seals: Population estimates (suspected decline)	
#3 ᓱᐁᑦᓕᐅᑎᖅᑯᓴᑦ Priorities	
ᖃᐅᓂᒪᖅᓂᖅ Research	**ᐊᐅᓪᓱᓂᖅ Management**
ᐃᖁᓗΔᑦ: ᐅᓄᖁσᒃᑎᑎᓚᓄ ᒥᓴᐅᓴᑲᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ Killer whales: Population estimates	ᐊᖁᕕᑦ: ᓄᑦᑭᑐᓕᐊᖁᓗᒍᑦ ᒥᐊσᓕᓴᐅσᒃᑎᑎᓚᓄ ᐸᖁᓇᐅᑎᑦ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐊᖁᐸᓴᑕᐅᔪᓇᖁᑦ
	Bowhead: Update management plan & TAH
ᐃᖁᓗΔᑦ: ᐊᖅᑐΔσᓂᒃᑎᑦ >Δᐅᓄᓄᑦ	ᐅᒥᒃᒪᑦ: ᓇᓗᓇᐃᓴᑲᓱᓗᑎᒃ

Killer Whales: Impacts on other marine mammals	ᒥᐊᓂᓚᐅᐃᔨᐱᑎᐦᒃᖁᖏᓐᓄᑦ ᑐᕃᒍᐦᒃᖁᖏᓐᓂᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᒥᐅᔨᐅᑦ ᐱᖁᑎᑎᓗᑎᑦ (ᖁᑯᓂᐦᑐᖁᒥ) Musk-ox: Identify management objectives with communities (high arctic)
#4 ᓂᐃᖅᓯᐅᑎᖁᓕᑦ Priorities	
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖁᓂᖅ Research	**ᐊᐅᓚᑦᓂᓂᖅ Management**
	ᐱᐅᓂᑎᐊᖅᑎᑦᓗᑎᑦ ᐅᓂᐦᑲᐅᓂᐅᖁᑦᑲᑎᑦᑕᖁᓂᖏᑎᑦ ᖁᑲᐅᔨᓴᐃᑎᑦᓗᑎᑦ ᐱᓕᓚᐊᖅᐱᓗᓄᑦ ᐊᒡᒪᓗ ᖁᑲᐅᔨᐅᐸᑦ ᓄᓇᓕᓐᓄᑦ Improved reporting of research projects and results to communities
#5 ᓂᐃᖅᓯᐅᑎᖁᓕᑦ Priorities	
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖁᓂᖅ Research	**ᐊᐅᓚᑦᓂᓂᖅ Management**
ᐊᔨᐅᐅᖏᑎᑐᑦ ᓂᖁᐸᑎᑎᖏᑎᑕᐅᑦ: ᐊᐦᑐᐃᓂᖏᑎᑦ ᓂᐊᒪᖏᓐᓄᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑎᐢᓂᓄᑦ ᐅᒪᐸᖁᑎᑦᑎᐢᓄᑦ Alien species: Effects of range expansion on local wildlife	
#6 ᓂᐃᖅᓯᐅᑎᖁᓕᑦ Priorities	
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖁᓂᖅ Research	**ᐊᐅᓚᑦᓂᓂᖅ Management**
	ᐊᐃᕆᑦ: ᒥᐊᓂᓚᐅᓂᐢᖏᑎᓄᑦ ᐸᖁᐅᑎᑦ (ᑕᓗᔪᑎ) Walrus: Management plan (Baffin Bay)
	ᐊᐃᕆᑦ: ᒥᐊᓂᓚᐅᓂᐢᖏᑎᓄᑦ ᐸᖁᐅᑎᑦ (ᓯᑯᓯᒐ/ᐊᒥᖁᔭᐸ ᑕᓚᐅᖏᖓ) Walrus: Management plan (Foxe Basin)

ᑭᓪᓕᖅ ᐅᒪᔨᖏᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᑦᓯᒋᑦ ᐊᓚᓗ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᕐᓂᖏᑦᓯᒋᑦ ᓯᕗᓪᓕᐅᑎᖏᑦ 2010-2013
Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Research and Management Priorities 2010-2013

#1 ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᖅ Research	ᐊᐅᓪᓚᕐᓂᖅ Management
ᐱᖓᓐᓇᖓᓂ ᑲᖏᖏᓚᐅᑦᔪᑦ ᐊᓚᓗ ᐊᒥᐅᑎᒥ ᓇᓄᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕆᐅᓂᖏᑦ Western Hudson's Bay and Foxe Basin Polar Bear population assessment	ᑲᒪᒋᔭᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ-ᓇᓄᐃᑦ ᐊᑲᐃᓕᐅᖃᑎᒌᒍᑎᖏᑦ (ᐃᓚᒪᖃ ᓯᖏᑎᑕᐅᓐᓂᖏᑦ ᐱᖕᒪᑎᓂᖅ, ᕿᓘᕐᓴᕐᕕᓐᓂᖏᑦ ᖁᓐᓂᓂᖅ, ᐊᓯᖏᓐᓄᑦ) Address human-bear conflict (i.e. damage to property, disturbance of food caches, etc.)
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅ ᐊᑐᐃᐃᓂᖏᓐᓂᖅ ᐊᖓᑎᓂᖅ-ᓂᕆᐊᖏᓴᒋᑦ ᐊᖓᔪᓯᓐᓄᓂ ᓇᓄᖏᓂᖅ Research the effects of sex-specific selection during harvests on polar bear	ᐊᒥᓱᕈᓕᖏᓄᑦ ᐱᒃᑕᓕᑦ ᐱᓚᖓᓐᓇᖓᓂ ᑲᖏᖏᓚᐅᑦᔪᑦ ᐊᓚᓗ ᐊᒥᐅᖅ ᓇᓄᐃᑦ (ᐱᒃᑕᓕᑦ ᑭᓪᓕᖅ ᐃᓄᐃᑦᓴᖏᓐᓇᖅᑐᑦ ᐊᓯᖏᓐᓂ ᐊᖏᔪᐅᓕᓚᖓᓂ ᓄᓇᕐᑦ) Increase quotas for Western Hudson's Bay and Foxe Basin Polar Bear (quotas in the Kivalliq region are much lower than the other regions in Nunavut)
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓄᑦ ᐊᐅᐃᐃᓂᖏᑦ ᐊᒥᓱᕈᓴᓕᓂᐊᓂᖏᑦ ᐅᒥᐊᒪᐃᑦ ᑐᖅᑐᓄ Assess the impacts of increasing musk ox populations on caribou	ᑭᓪᓕᖅ ᐅᒪᔨᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᖃᒪᔨᑦ ᐱᒪᒪᐅᐅᔨᓂᖅ ᐅᒪᔨᖏᓂᖅ (ᐊᐃᐱᖏᓂᖅ, ᓄᓇᖏᓂᖅ, ᑐᖅᑐᓂᖅ, ᐊᓯᖏᓐᓂᓕᓚᓗ) Kivalliq Region biologists for important species (walrus, polar bear, caribou, etc.)
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓄᑦ ᐊᐅᐃᐃᓂᖏᑦ ᖃᓄᒪᓇᐃᑦ ᐊᒪᒪᓗ ᐱᐅᓐᕈᓄᓄᓂᖏᑦ ᑐᖅᑐᓄ ᓴᓕᓂᓂᖏᑦ ᖁᑭᒋᓕᐊᓂ Assess the impacts of disease and poor health on caribou populations on Southampton Island	ᐊᐅᓕᐅᑐᓄᖅ ᐊᒥᓱᕈᓴᓕᓂᐊᓂᖏᑦ ᐊᖅᓕᐃᑦ (ᐊᒥᓱᕈᓕᖏᓄᑦ ᐊᖏᔪᓕᐸᐅᔪᓇᖓᖏᑦ) Manage growing grizzly bear populations (increase harvesting opportunities)
ᑐᖅᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕆᐅᓕᑎᖅ Caribou population assessments	ᐊᖅᓕᐃᑦ ᐊᐅᓕᐅᓂᖏᓐᓄᓇᑦ ᕿᓴᓘᑦ - ᑯᖏᒪᐊᓕᒍ ᐃᓕᓐᓂ 24 ᐅᑯᐊ ᓇᓄᐃᑦᑎ ᒪᓕᑲᓴᕐᕕᖏᓐ ᐱᐅᓱᒋᐊᓕᓂ ᐊᖅᓕᓂᖅ ᐊᐅᓕᓱᓂᖏᖅ Grizzly bear management plan - amendments to Section 24 of the Nunavut Act needed to improve grizzly bear management
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅ ᓄᑦᓴᓂᖏᓐᓄᖅ ᑐᖅᑐᐃᑦ ᐃᓕᒋᓕᐅᑎᓕᒋᑦ ᐃᓇᓄᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᒪᓕᕆᐃᑦ Research on migration of caribou incorporating IQ	ᐊᒥᓱᕈᓴᐊᓕᒋᑦ ᐱᖕᒪᑎᑦ ᐊᓕᓐᓇᖅᓯᐊᑦ ᑭᖑᓪᓕᖅ Increase quotas for narwhal for the Kivalliq Region
ᐃᓇᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᒪᔭᐃᖏᓂᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᔨᓂᐅᓕᑎᖅ ᐱᓕᓕᒋᑦ ᑐᖅᑐᐃᑦ ᖃᓇᓇᕐᓂᖏᑦ IQ studies on caribou population status	ᐊᑯᓂᐅᓕᒋᐊᓕᒍ ᑭᓇᐅᔭᕆᔨᑎᑎᒋᓕᒋᑦ ᐱᒻᓱᓂᐊᓕᐃᑦ ᐃᖃᓗᐊᓂᖅ Increase the length of the commercial harvesting season for arctic char
ᐊᐃᐃᓂᖏᑦ ᐱᓕᓕᓚᐅᑦ ᑐᖅᑐᓄ The impact of development on caribou populations	ᐊᐅᓕᐅᑐᓄᖅ ᐊᒥᓱᕈᓴᓕᓂᐊᓕᑦ ᐊᒪᖃᐃᑦ (ᐊᒥᓱᕈᓕᖏᓄᑦ ᐊᖏᔪᓕᐸᐅᔪᓂᖏᑦ) Manage growing wolf populations (increase harvesting opportunities)
ᐅᐊᓂᓚᖓᓂ ᑲᖏᖏᓚᐅᑦᔪᑦ ᐃᓗᐊᑕ ᐊᓂᓕᓐᓇᐊᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕆᐅᓗᑎᖅ Northern Hudson's Bay narwhal population assessment	

#2 ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᖅ Research	ᐊᐅᓪᓚᕐᓂᖅ Management
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᓄᑦ ᐃᖃᓗᐊᖃᖏᑐᑦ ᑯᑦ ᐊᒥᓚᓗ ᑕᓯᑦ Studies on arctic char river and lake populations	ᑲᓚᖃᐅᔪᓂᖏᐅᓗᑎᖅ ᐃᓇᓄᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕆᓂᒥ Greater involvement of Inuit in research

ᑲᒪᑭᓗᑦ ᐃᓱᒍᓗᔪᑎᑦ ᐱᓪᓗᔪ ᐊᖏᑐᐃᓂᖅᓴᒃ ᑕᓯᐅᕗᖅᓴᒃ ᒥᖅᓯᑯ ᐅᖅᓯᐊᓗᒃ ᑯᕐᓴᐅᕐᖏᖅ ᑐᓴᕈᕐᖏᓂᖅ ᑎᒍᒥᐊᖏᓂᒃ (ᑲᖅᔪᖏᓂᒃ) Address concerns about the impacts of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill on migratory birds (snow geese)	ᑲᒪᑭᓗᑦ ᐊᑕᐅᓯᐅᖅᑕᖏᖏᑐᓂ-ᐊᐅᓪᓚᓯᓱᕆᐊᐅᔪᓂ ᐱᕐᔪᑎᓪᓕᑦ ᐱᖅᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ ᓄᓇᕆᒥᐅᑦ
ᐊᐃᐃᓴᑦ ᖃᐅᓕᒍᖏᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ Walrus population assessment	ᓯᓪᓚᐊᖏᒥ ᐃᓱᒍᓗᔪᑎᑦ ᐱᓪᓗᑦ ᑕᐅᖏᔪᔭᑕᐅᓪᓕᖏᑦ ᐊᐃᐃᓴᑦ ᑐᐃᖏᑕ ᐊᖃᔨᑕᐅᓗᓂ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᓯᓂᔪᓕᑦ ᕿᖏᓄᑦ (ᐃᒪᓕᖃ ᑐᐃᓪᑦ)
	ᐊᐅᓪᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ ᐊᒥᓯᖏᕿᓪᓕᐊᔪᑦ ᐅᒥᖅᓪᓕᐅᑦ Manage growing musk ox populations
	ᐱᑕᖃᓕᕆᑕᐅᓗᓂ ᓇᓄᓪᓗᓴᐅᐸ ᐃᓂᓪᓚ ᖃᓕᓂᐊᕐᓂᖅ ᑭᓪᓕᓪᒥ Establish a polar bear biologist position dedicated to the Kivalliq Region
	ᐱᓪᓚᓪᓕᐊᐅᐅᓗᑎᒃ ᑭᓇᐅᔨᓕᕆᔨᑐᑎᒋᓗᒋᑦ ᐃᖃᓗᒃᐱᓪᓂᐊᖏᓂᖅ Develop commercial arctic char fisheries

#3 ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᖅ Research ᐊᐅᓪᓚᖏᖅ Management

ᐊᒃᓪᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ Grizzly bear population assessment	ᑕᑯᓵᓕᕆᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᔪᓇᓕᒃᐃᐃᓂᖏᓪᓕᑦ ᐱᕕᑦᓕᕆᓂ ᐊᒃᓪᓚᓂᒃ Sport hunting opportunities for grizzly bear
ᐅᒥᒃᓕᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᑕᐅᓗᑎᒃ Musk ox population assessment	
ᐱᓵᓪᓕᐊᔾᐅᓗᓂ ᐃᓪᒋᓪᐅᑎᓗᒋᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕐᔪᖅᓯᓕᓱᑦ ᐅᒪᔪᓂᒃ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᖏᓪᓂᖏᑦ ᐊᖏᓪᓚ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᓪᓚ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓂᖏᓪᓕᑦ Develop ways to incorporate IQ and science into wildlife management and research	ᐱᓵᓪᓕᐊᔾᐅᓗᓂ ᐱᕕᑦᓕᕆᓂ ᑕᑯᓵᓕᕆᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᓪᓚᓂ Develop opportunities for sport hunts for musk ox
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓗᒋᑦ ᐊᖏᓪᓚᐅᖅᑕᖏᑦ ᖃᖅᑎᑦᓯᓚᖅᑐᑦ ᐅᒪᔪᓂᒃ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᓯᓂᖅᓴᓪᓕᑦ ᐊᖏᓪᓚ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓂᓪᓕᑦ Assess impacts of aerial surveys and air traffic on wildlife	ᑐᓴᐅᒪᖃᓕᕆᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᓪᓚᐅᑎᓗᒋᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᓪᓚᓂ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᓂᖅᓴᓪᓕᑦ Greater communication and cooperation between communities and co-management partners
	ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓗᒃᑐᖏᓪᓚᐅᓗᑎᒃ ᐊᖏᓪᓚᓂ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᑎᑦᓯᓪᓚᐅᓗᑎᒃ ᓄᓇᓵᑦ ᐊᖏᓪᓚ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᓯᖃᑎᒃᓯᓪᓚᐅᓗᑎᒃ ᑲᒪᖃᑕᐅᓴᑦ More studies involving elder knowledge and IQ
ᐊᖏᐃᓄᖏᑦ ᐱᓪᓚᓪᓕᐊᔾᑦ ᖃᓄᐃᓐᓂᖏᓐᓂᒃ ᐅᒪᔪᑦ The impact of development on health of wildlife	ᑭᓇᐅᔨᑎᒍᑦ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᑕᐅᓂᖏᑦ ᐊᖏᔪᓇᓕᒃᐃᖏᑕᓂᔭᑦ ᐃᓕᓐᓂᐊᕐᑎᑦᓯᓗᒃ ᐅᕙᖅᖃᓐᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᔪᓇᓕᒃᑎᓂᒃ ᓵᒪᒡᒍᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᔪᓇᓗᔨᓴᒃ Funding assistance for HTOs to educate younger hunters on proper hunting techniques

#4 ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖏᖅ Research ᐊᐅᓪᓚᖏᖅ Management

ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓯᒪᓕᒃ ᐊᖏᑐᐃᓂᖅᑐᒃ ᐊᒥᓱᑦᓴᓕᓪᓚᐅᔪᓕᒃ ᐊᓚᖓᐃᓕᒃ ᑐᖏᑐᓂᒃ Assess the impact of growing wolf populations on caribou	

#5 ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓂᖅ Research ᐊᐅᓪᓚᕐᓂᖅ Management

	ᐊᖏᔪᓇᐱᑕᐅᔪᓇᖅᓂᒃᑐᒃ ᑲᖏᐃᐃᓕᒃ Harvesting opportunities for snow geese

#6 ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓂᖅ Research ᐊᐅᓪᓚᕐᓂᖅ Management

ᐊᓚᐅᓪᓗᔪᐊᓕ ᒥᑎᒃ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᑕᐅᓪᓗᑎᑦ (ᐃᓱᒪᓚᓄᑎᒃ ᐱᓪᓗᑎᒃ ᓇᓇᐃᒃ ᓂᕆᖃᖅᓯᓂᒃᑐᒃ ᐊᒥᓱᐊᓗᓐᓂᒃ ᓚᐸᓂᒃ) Eider duck population assessment (concerns about polar bears consuming large numbers of eggs)	ᐃᑲᔪᓯᓗᒃ ᓇᓇᓕᒃ ᐱᓕᕆᓪᓚᐊᑎᑦᓱᑎᓪᓗᒃ ᑕᑯᕐᓴᖅᓂᒃ ᐊᖏᔪᓇᐱᖅᑲᐃᓂᖅᓯᒪ ᐊᐃᐲᖅᓂᒃ Assist communities with developing sport hunting opportunities for walrus
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓯᒪᓕᒃ ᓄᓵᕐᓂᓕᕆᓪᓚᑎᒃ ᐊᖕᓄᑎᖓᑦ ᐊᓪᓕᓐᓂᒃ Research on migration routes of narwhal	
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓯᒪᓕᒃ ᐊᖏᑐᐃᓂᖅᑐᑦ ᑕᓪᓕᐅᖅᓄᑦ ᐃᖏᕐᓇᖅᓯᒪᔪᑦ ᑕᓪᓕᐅᕙᒥ ᐅᒪᓕᕐᓂᐅᕐᓴᖅᓂᒃ Assess the impacts of marine traffic on marine mammals	
ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᓯᒪᓕᒃ ᐊᖏᑐᐃᓂᖅᑐᑦ ᑕᑯᑯᓚᖓᒃ ᐊᖏᔪᓇᐱᖅᑲᐃᓄᑦ, ᑕᕐᓄᐊ ᐱᓚᓯᐊᕐᓴᒪᒐᑦ ᐸᖓᓂᐸᐅᓴᖅᓂᒃ, ᑐᖏᑐᖃᖅᑐᓂ	
Assess the impact of sport hunts, which target large bulls, on caribou populations	

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: **Decision: X**

Issue: Request for Decision on Davis Strait Polar Bear Subpopulation Total Allowable Harvest

Background:

The Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation straddles Quebec, Nunavut, and Newfoundland-Labrador (refer to Appendix 1). Together, the three Provincial and Territorial governments share the responsibility for the management of this subpopulation. There is a concern from some jurisdictions, however that the subpopulation is disproportionally allocated, Quebec (*Guaranteed Harvest Level of 62 for all populations; 5-year mean harvest of 11*), Nunavut (*46*) and Nunatsiavut (*6*) across the three jurisdictions[1].

Environment Canada was asked by the jurisdictions to assist in the establishment of a process that would provide recommendations to address this issue. Representatives of all concerned jurisdictions and organizations met in Montreal on February 4th 2010, to initiate this process. It was decided that in order to determine the appropriate allocation of harvest, it was necessary to provide advice on the establishment of a population management objective based on conservation principles, and to appropriately allocated the harvest between the three jurisdictions. It was determined that this advice should be based on the best available western science and traditional ecological knowledge, and should also include input from users that harvest polar bear from the Davis Strait subpopulation. As such, it was felt that user advice would most appropriately be sought via a user-to-user workshop. Upon receiving advice from all jurisdictions, the Montréal Group would then review the information and provide recommendations to the various authorities for their consideration.

A two-and-a half day user-to-user workshop was held in Kuujjuaq, Quebec on September 13th-16th, 2010. At this meeting, Inuit representatives from Nunatsiavut, Nunavik and Nunavut presented traditional ecological knowledge and participants heard presentations from jurisdiction representatives on their respective polar bear management processes. The most recent western science population analysis was also presented. Inuit representatives from Nunatsiavut, Nunavik and Nunavut decided on two resolutions (refer to attached) at the user-to-user meeting for consideration. It was identified that the current population should be reduced to reduce human-bear conflict, which would allow for an increase in harvest.

In brief summary the main outcomes of the workshop was the following:

[1] Greenland also is believed to harvest 2 from the Davis Strait population; however Greenland did not participate in the interjurisidctional meetings.

- The Nunatsiavut Government requested that their TAH be increased from 6 to 12 bears, which was supported by all parties at the workshop at the time[2];
- The users from Nunavut passed a motion to eliminate the TAH or increase the TAH by 100 which would be allocated to the 3 Nunavut communities

The most recent population inventory (2005-2007) estimates the population to be 2,158 (95% CI 1978-2338), which is a significant increase from the inventory conducted between 1974-1979 which estimated the population to be approximately 900 and the 1995 estimate of 1,400 based on population modeling. However, the scientific information suggests that the subpopulation will decline in the future due to being at carry capacity, and the bears showing relatively poor reproduction performance. Inuit representatives provided information on increased numbers being encountered near communities and on the land.

On March 3rd 2011, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received a request for decision on the Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation total allowable harvest (TAH) from the Government of Nunavut's (GN) Minister of Environment (refer to Appendix 3). The request is being made as a Ministerial Management Initiative[3] as per S 5.3.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and the Minister has requested that the Board make a decision by June 1st, 2011 so that any modifications can be implemented for the next harvest season starting July 1st 2011.

In addition the NWMB has received requests for TAH increases from the Amarok HTO (October 15th 2010), Pangnirtung HTO (November 13th 2008) and Mayukalik HTO (October 12th 2010). As per direction provided by the Board at Regular Meeting No.66 to staff, the NWMB responded to the requests by indicating that the NWMB would reconsider the TAH once recommendations are provided to the NWMB by GN.

On March 4th 2011, the NWMB received the finalized package of information for management authorities of the Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation from the Interjurisdictional Davis Strait Committee. The package included a letter summarizing the information and providing recommendations, minutes from the meeting in Kuujjuaq, PowerPoint presentation on the 2005-2007 population inventory and the user resolutions. The user resolutions are attached in Appendix 2.

Recommendation:

As per S 5.3.4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NWMB and the Minister are required to take into account the harvesting activities outside the Nunavut Settlement Area and the terms of any domestic interjurisdictional agreements or international agreements.
NWMB staff are providing the following options to proceed with a reconsideration of the TAH for the Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation:

---

[2]The Newfoundland Government has since indicated that they do not support an increase in harvesting levels in Davis Strait, rather they believe that the existing TAH be reallocated amongst jurisdictions such that a portion of Nunavut's TAH is reallocated to Newfoundland;

[3] S 5.3.25 "*Nothing in this Article will prevent a Minister, on the Minister's own initiative, from referring a management matter to the NWMB. Where a matter is referred, the NWMB shall deal expeditiously with it. The NWMB will respond to Ministerial initiatives with decisions in time to permit Ministers to meet their national and international obligations."*

OPTION 1:

1. Hold a public hearing May 17th-18th in Iqaluit[4] and a decision making session during the Board's June Regular Meeting 10th-16th.

OPTION 2:

2. Hold a public hearing during the Board's June Regular Meeting 10th-16th.

Other recommendations:

That the Board pay to cover the costs of two representatives from each of the three communities that harvest from the Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation.

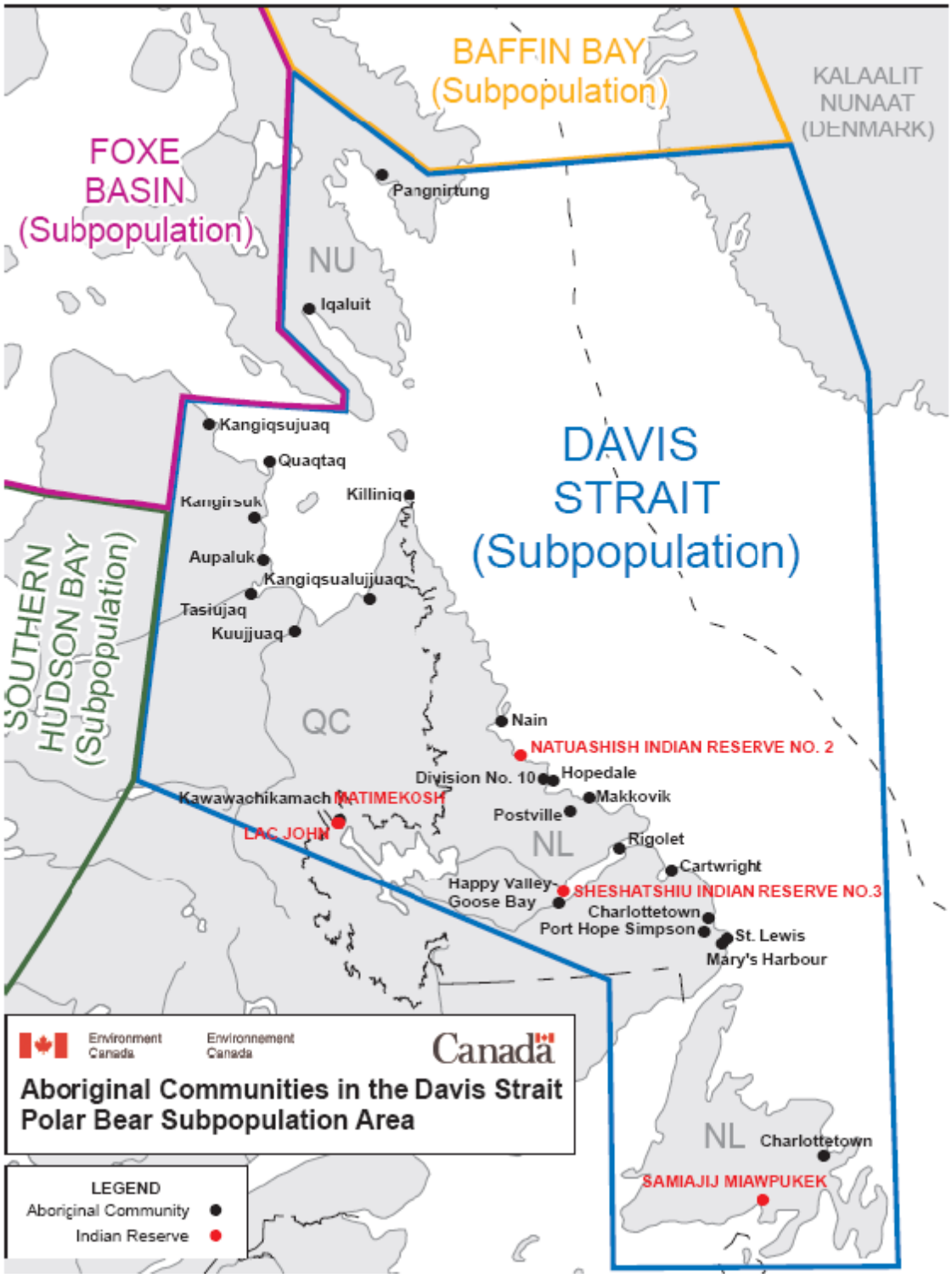
Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management, NWMB;

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Date: March 4th, 2011

[4] If notice of the public hearing is provided on March 30th and the deadline for submissions is May 2nd this would allow 32 days for interested parties to respond.

Appendix 1: Aboriginal Communities in the Davis Strait Polar Bear Subpopulation Area



Appendix 2: User to User Meeting Resolutions

1st Interjurisdictional Davis Strait Polar bear User to User Meeting between User Groups of Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and Nunavut.

Kuujjuak, Québéc

September 13th – 16th, 2010.

WHEREAS the current quota for Nunatsiavut is based on an estimate of approximately 900 animals in 1979,

WHEREAS Inuit knowledge has indicated a substantial increase in the Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation for some time,

WHEREAS the most recent scientific survey provides an estimate of 2,142 animals in 2007,

WHEREAS the polar bear density for the Davis Strait subpopulation (5.6 per 1000 square kilometers) is one of the highest known for any polar bear subpopulation,

WHEREAS nesting areas of birds are being depleted by polar bears,

WHEREAS other wildlife such as seals are being depleted by polar bears,

WHEREAS cabins and other personal items are being damaged by polar bears,

WHEREAS there are human safety concerns because of increased polar bear encounters,

THEREFORE be it resolved that

"Representatives of the Inuit user groups of Nunavik and Nunavut support the request by Nunatsiavut to increase their quota by 6".

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

In favor: _____ Against: _____ Abstained: _____

Passed: _____ Defeated: _____

Resolution # 1
Date: September 15, 2010

1st Interjurisdictional Davis Strait Polar bear User to User Meeting between User Groups of Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and Nunavut.

Kuujjuak, Québéc

September 13th – 16th, 2010.

WHEREAS current population estimates for the Davis strait polar bear subpopulation indicate a significant increase from 900 in 1979 to 2142 in 2007,

WHEREAS user representatives from Nunavik, Nunatsiavut and Nunavut attending a meeting in Kuujjuak discussed their respective concerns related to polar bears harvested in the Davis Strait subpopulation

WHEREAS user representatives identified significant concern including but not limited to damage related to property cabins, tents, threat of injury, and death to humans related to this increase in bear numbers and the greater presence in proximity to communities and camps,

WHEREAS the increased number of bears has equally been seen to be negatively impacting on other animal resources important to Inuit for subsistence consumption including but not limited to predation of assorted waterfowl, their eggs, in addition to various seal species; walrus are anticipated to be impacted in the near future

WHEREAS specific concern was voiced by delegates in respect to Inuit not having been involved in the delineation of respective polar bear subpopulation zones,

WHEREAS in light of current population estimate for Davis Strait, and notwithstanding possible impacts from climate change, user representatives attending the meeting believe there is currently no valid biological conservation threat.

WHEREAS in consequence, Nunavut representatives wish to eliminate the current quota system in Nunavut for a 5 year experimental period; failing this, Nunavut delegates wish to increase their quota by 100 bears taken from Davis Strait to be allocated to the 3 Nunavut communities harvesting Davis strait subpopulation

THEREFORE be it resolved:

That adequate monetary compensation be solicited from government to pay for any damages incurred to property, injury, or loss of human life.

That immediate steps are taken to obtain Inuit input in delineation of polar bear subpopulation zones not limited to Davis Strait

That respective governments and relevant land claims organizations are immediately informed of the decisions contained herein

That user representatives deemed this meeting as particularly valuable in bringing users from the different jurisdictions together for the first time to discuss conservation and management of this shared resource and moreover advocate for meetings to be scheduled on a regular basis.

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

In favor: _____ Against: _____ Abstained: _____

Passed: _____ Defeated: _____

Resolution # 2
Date: September 15, 2010

Appendix 3: Government of Nunavut Request for Decision on the TAH for the Davis Strait Polar Bear Subpopulation

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Minister of Environment
Minista Avatiliritjutinut
Ministre de l'Environnement

MAR 0 3 2011

Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
PO Box 1379
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0

Re: Request for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for the Davis Strait Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest

Dear Mr. Akavak;

Attached please find a request for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for the management of the Davis Strait (DS) polar bear population.

This request for a decision of the NWMB is being submitted as a Ministerial Management Initiative as per Article 5.3.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). The next harvest season of the DS will start July 1 2011, and therefore I request that the NWMB deal with this matter expediently and make a decision on this request by June 1, 2011.

In the attached request for decision, the Department respectfully recommends to the NWMB a total harvest increase of 15 bears annually from DS, to be allocated amongst Canadian jurisdictions harvesting from this population. With respect to the allocation of harvest, we support the Nunatsiavut request for a quota increase of 6 and that the remaining 9 bears be allocated to the 3 Nunavut communities. I of course recognize that the NWMB is in no way bound or obligated to decide upon this option, and will make the decision it deems appropriate.

If your staff has any question about this request or require additional information, they should contact Drikus Gissing, Director, Wildlife Management Division.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk
Minister of Environment

Cc. Drikus Gissing, Director, Wildlife Management Division

Box 2410, Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0, Canada
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867-975-5090
867-975-5095

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: **Decision: X**

Issue: Davis Strait Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest and Domestic Inter-jurisdictional Management.

Background:

Within Canada, the Davis Strait (DS) Polar Bear Population is shared by Nunavut, Quebec and Labrador. This population may also be opportunistically harvested by residents of Greenland, although historical harvest levels are believed to be very low at about 2 bears per year.

The population was first inventoried in the 1970s (1974-79) by a mark-capture study conducted during the spring-time. This study did not cover the entire area which is now defined as "Davis Strait" and likely underestimated the population size at approximately 900.

Based on the population estimate derived from the 1970s study, jurisdictions around DS attempted to managed harvesting around a combined maximum of 57 bears annually; informally acknowledging harvest levels in each jurisdiction as follows: Nunavut 34 Quebec 15, Nunatsiavit 6, and Greenland 2.

In 1992 and 1993 surveys found larger densities of bears as well as older bears. Satellite tracking information in 1991-94 also indicated large numbers of bears offshore in pack ice. These indicators suggested a healthy population that was sustaining itself, which was consistent with Traditional Knowledge and hunter observations. Population modeling indicated that the population needed to be at least 1400 to sustain a harvest of 57 animals, and in 1995 the population estimate was increased to 1400.

During the MOU consultations in 2005, Inuit indicated that the DS population had increased and, based on Inuit Knowledge, the NWMB and GN supported an increase in the Nunavut TAH from 34 to 46. This raised the total combined harvest from 55 to 65.

The population was identified as the highest priority for research, and the GN initiated a population inventory mark-recapture study (2005-2007). The results indicated that the population significantly increased from the previous estimate of 1400. Specifically, the results indicated that, as of October 2007, the population estimate was 2158 bears with a 95% confidence interval of 1978 – 2338.

Population growth rate before accounting for harvest was estimated at 3%. The current total combined harvest from DS of approximately 67[1] bears annually represents about 3.1% of the 2007 population estimate. At this level of harvest, the population would remain stable if it is assumed that productivity (i.e., reproduction and survival) remains unchanged in future[2]. However, findings from the study suggest that DS is currently experiencing a decline in productivity that is predicted to result in a population decline in future[3]. This reduced productivity may, in part, be attributable to the effects of high bear densities[4] which came about during a period of population growth from the 1970s to the present. In addition, an observed long-term negative trend in sea-ice (i.e., longer open water periods) has raised concerns that polar bear habitat and access to prey (i.e., seals) are undergoing long-term declines that will affect the status of this population.

Inuit have identified that large numbers of bears create public safety concerns, especially for people going out on the land, and that the bears are having negative impacts on other wildlife by killing large numbers of baby seals and eating bird eggs in bird colonies.

Current Status

Canadian jurisdictions around DS have taken a coordinated approach in responding to the findings of the recent population study. A User-to-User workshop was held in Kuujjuaq, Quebec from 13 to 16 September, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to review study results alongside local knowledge/IQ and to discuss future harvest management. In brief, the outcome of the workshop was as follows:

- The Nunatsiavut Government requested that their TAH be increased from 6 to 12 bears. All parties present at the workshop supported this request recognizing the relatively small size of Nunatsiavut's existing quota relative to the proportion of DS bears using land and sea-ice in, or adjacent to, this jurisdiction.

- The Newfoundland Government indicated they did not support an increase in harvesting levels in DS; instead, they want to see the existing allowable harvest reallocated amongst jurisdictions such that a portion of Nunavut's TAH is reallocated to NL.

- Under the James Bay Agreement, Quebec has a guaranteed minimum harvest of up to 60 bears from the DS, Foxe Basin and Southern Hudson

[1] Based on 5-year average
[2] Given observed trends in sea-ice and the condition and reproductive performance of bears in DS, this assumption is unlikely to remain valid for an extended period.
[3] Body condition and size is also declining
[4] Densities of bears in DS are amongst the highest recorded in a polar bear population.

Bay sub-populations combined. There is no specified or regulated harvest for DS by Quebec. Consequently, it was determined that there is presently no means to reallocate harvesting between Quebec and other jurisdictions.

- A motion was passed by user groups represented at the workshop to eliminate the TAH in Nunavut completely for a set period of time, and permit unlimited harvesting.

Recommendations:

Having evaluated the scientific evidence and available traditional knowledge as well as taking into account the outcome of the Kujuuaq workshop, the GN recommends a management objective for DS of a modest population reduction in the medium term (5-10 years). Recognizing the current status of the population and the potential for future decline, the primary cause of which is unrelated to harvest (but to which harvest will contribute), this management objective also takes into account;

(a) concerns over public safety resulting from high bear numbers; and

(b) the need to ensure on-going hunting opportunities for communities.

A modest increase in annual harvest levels will contribute to achieving this objective and may address concerns about public safety and the impacts of bear over-abundance on other wildlife. This conservative approach also takes into account uncertainty about future changes in productivity of DS resulting from things such as climate change.

The Department of Environment (DOE) recommends to the NWMB a total harvest increase of 15 bears from DS. As per discussions at the Kujuuaq workshop, DOE recommends that 9 of these 15 bears be allocated to the 3 Nunavut communities, and that the remaining 6 be made available to Nunatsiavut, in response to their request for an increase of 6 bears.

If the total combined harvest is increased by 15 bears from 67 to 82 annually, it is projected that the DS population would decline to approximately 1900 bears in 10 years, if productivity remains constant. Recognizing the significant uncertainty surrounding this prediction[5], the proposed increase in harvest must be accompanied by a commitment for more frequent monitoring. DOE, therefore recommends that a follow-up study, which cost effectively capitalizes on the high proportion of marked bears still present in DS, be conducted 7 years after the increase to estimate population size and status and reassess harvest levels. If a study cannot be done after 7 years it is recommended that the TAH revert back

[5] If demographic changes and environmental trends revealed during the recent population study continue, this projection probably underestimates rate of population decline.

to the 2010/11 levels in-order to manage risk of over harvest and exercise the precautionary principle.

In February 2011 DOE conducted consultations with the three DS communities, providing them with the updated population estimate and the recommended TAH increase of 15. There was no opposition to the recommendation, nor was their outright support, and the HTO's did not suggest any alternative recommendations or approaches. The HTO's were reminded that they can forward their own harvest recommendations to the NWMB and that the NWMB may choose to conduct a public hearing on the matter.

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: ____ **Decision: X**

Issue: Update on Narwhal Management and DFO Consultations

Background: On January 11th, 2011 NWMB staff (RK, LF) met with DFO, NTI and GN Fisheries and Sealing to discuss future narwhal management in Nunavut. Pierre Richard with DFO Science provided the science rational behind DFO's recommendation to manage narwhal based on summering stocks. NTI expressed concern that to date there has been a lack of meaningful community consultations with regards to DFO's recommendation to manage narwhal based on summering stocks. NWMB staff stated that the Board will not consider the decision on the management system for narwhal until DFO has provided recommendations on the management of narwhal based on both summering stocks and populations, including recommended non-quota limitations (NQLs), formally requested by the NWMB in a January 19th, 2011 letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Co-management partners committed to meet in early February to discuss a co-operative way forward on this issue.

On February 4th, 2011 NWMB staff (RK, LF and AS) met with DFO, NTI and GN Fisheries and Sealing to develop a co-operative way forward for the management and establishment of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) levels for narwhal in Nunavut. All parties were in agreement that there is a need for community consultations on how to manage narwhal in 2011 and into the future. It was also recognized that there is a parallel process that has to take place with the establishment of narwhal TAH levels – the decision on the basic needs level (BNL) for narwhal, as per NLCA S 5.6.25.

DFO proposed that the Co-management organizations form a working group in the near future to explore management considerations with regards to narwhal management based on both summering stocks and populations. The purpose of this working group would be to discuss management recommendations, including recommended non-quota limitations (NQLs), for community consideration during proposed consultations. The meeting of this working group has been proposed by NWMB staff to take place during the week of March 28th – 31st. Both the NWMB and NTI agreed that participation in the DFO consultations is conditional on this working group meeting prior to the community consultations; without this, the NWMB and NTI will not be prepared for meaningful consultations with Inuit.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Proposed Narwhal Consultations

On February 11th, 2011 Bob Lambe, DFO Regional Director General of the Central & Arctic Region provided the NWMB and NTI with a draft plan for DFO community consultations. The draft plan reports that DFO is planning to conduct consultations with HTOs, RWOs, communities, and other co-management partners that share responsibility for narwhal. The primary purpose of these consultations will be to share information and seek Inuit views on narwhal management in 2011 and future years, focusing on three main areas:

- The development of a collective understanding of narwhal populations, using both Inuit and scientific information. DFO Science advice on narwhal will be discussed, including the recent recommendation to manage narwhals based on summering stocks.

- The management recommendations associated with the two approaches (summering stocks and population level), recognizing the need for co-managers to work together to more fully develop management recommendations under the summering stock approach.
- The process related to DFO's responsibilities under CITES with respect to issuing export permits for narwhal tusks and other narwhal products.

Participating community HTOs, RWOs, Elders and other residents will be encouraged to provide local and traditional information for consideration on how co-managers should manage narwhal. The information gathered during these consultations will be incorporated into information DFO will provide to the NWMB for consideration on which management approach to take (i.e. populations or summering stocks).

The proposal for community consultations includes six central meetings (Repulse Bay, Kugaaruk, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and Qikiqtarjuaq) from April 27th to May 5th, 2011, and will include representatives from 22 Nunavut communities that currently harvest narwhal in the NSA. DFO will cover the travel and honorarium costs for the RWO and HTO delegates, and meeting logistics in each of the six host communities. DFO also strongly encourages representatives from NTI and the NWMB to participate, in order to ensure all organizations are represented in the discussions.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Consultation Plan Review

NTI reviewed the DFO consultation plan to determine if the level of community consultation, as planned, is adequate to address the consultation needs of narwhal management in Nunavut; on March 2nd, 2011 they provide a response.

NTI staff contacted a number of RWOs and HTOs for comments on both the narwhal issues and the planned consultations. The following comments were made by HTOs:

- HTOs are only aware of DFO identifying two populations of narwhal, and are not aware of the science advice to consider TAH levels for narwhal based on summering stocks;
- HTOs request that DFO consult with each community that harvests narwhal;
- The recent restriction on trade in narwhal tusks was unexpected by HTOs, who have been harvesting narwhal under a quota system – they are not clear what has changed.

In addition to the comments from HTOs, NTI has recommended that:

- The current consultation plan to meet in only six communities for one day is not considered to be adequate consultations by the affected HTOs and RWOs;
- Meetings take place in every community affected by the proposed changes to narwhal management in Nunavut;
- All relevant information pertaining to the management of narwhals and to the trade in narwhal parts be provided to the HTOs and RWOs in translated documents prior to the community meetings; and
- Sufficient time be provided following the consultations for Inuit, HTOs and RWOS to prepare a response to the management options and trade considerations presented;

Recommendations: NWMB staff recommends that wildlife staff participate in the planned community consultations as observers in order to interact with HTO and community members, and to hear directly their views and concerns on the future management of narwhal in Nunavut. This participation should be conditional on DFO, NTI, and NWMB staff meeting prior to the community consultations to discuss management recommendations with regards to NQLs for the proposed management systems (proposed for the week of March 28th – 31st), or DFO providing the requested information on DFO's management recommendations requested in two

separate letters to DFO on January 19th, 2011 and March 4th, 2011. NWMB staff are of the opinion that without an opportunity to discuss or review DFO recommendations, the NWMB will not be in a position to participate in meaningful consultations with Inuit.

Draft Resolution: ***"****RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the participation of NWMB wildlife staff in community consultations on narwhal management, conditional on DFO agreeing to a two-day working group meeting with NWMB and NTI staff to discuss management recommendations, or providing a report with DFO's recommendations, prior to the consultations."*

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife; Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

Prepared By: Lesley Farrow, Wildlife Management Biologist

Date: March 4th, 2011

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: __X__ **Decision:** ____

Issue: Update on the Revision of the NWMB Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries

Background: From February 23rd - 25th, NWMB staff (RK, LF; Michael was unable to attend due to personal circumstances) met with the members of the Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC or Committee) to discuss the revision of the *NWMB Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries*. Over the course of the two-day workshop, the Committee completed a comprehensive review of the Allocation Policy. Revisions to the document include:

- Substantial effort was made to reduce redundancies throughout the document, and to update the content to better reflect the current context of Nunavut's commercial marine fisheries;
- The Guiding Principles of the document were revised to better reflect the importance of responsible stewardship, and adding principles regarding the rights of Inuit to harvest (NLCA S.5.1.2(b)), and the importance of reinvestment of revenues into fisheries development;
- Under the section 'Determination by the NWMB of Commercial Allocations within the NSA', text was added to better describe the allocation of resources in situations where the NWMB has not established a TAH, as is the case with most of Nunavut's inshore fisheries;
- A process of verification was built into the allocation process, whereby the FAC may request a report on the performance of Nunavut fishers from DFO to verify compliance with the *Mandatory Requirements for Responsible Stewardship*, and to balance with the *Governance, Business, Benefits and Stewardship Plan* provided during the application process, to ensure that allocation holders are delivering on their commitments;
- Improved clarification of terms is provided, both with regards to the Allocations Guidelines, and to the definitions of inshore and small boat fisheries development;
- A provision that applicants must register with the Inuit Firm Registry was added, so that ownership and business structure can be independently assessed by NTI;
- A section on the transfer of Nunavut sub-allocations to non-Inuit owned fishing ventures was added to ensure maximum benefits of Nunavut allocations to Nunavut.

In reviewing the issues discussed at the Allocation Policy Workshop in October 2011, it is the opinion of the FAC and NWMB staff that the NWMB is not in a good position to consider moving to multiyear allocations at this time for two main reasons: 1) there was no consensus among the industry on this issue (there was a 50/50 split); and 2) the outstanding final decision on the inclusion of commercial harvests in the basic needs level has the potential to significantly impact the allocation of commercial

fisheries resources within the NSA. It was decided that the NWMB and the FAC should review the issue of multiyear allocations in two years.

The revisions discussed at the February NWMB/FAC meeting were made by NWMB wildlife staff (LF), and forwarded to the FAC and NWMB legal advisor for review on March 4th, 2011. Once a response is provided, the draft Allocation Policy will be further revised as necessary, and forwarded on to Industry and Co-management partners for review prior to the March Regular Meeting in Iqaluit.

At the time of this briefing note it was anticipated that NWMB staff would be in a position to provide a draft of the revised and reviewed Allocation Policy to the Board at the March Regular Meeting. Board members will be given the opportunity to review the document, after which staff will request approval of the document by conference call, likely in April.

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife; Fisheries Advisory Committee

Prepared By: Lesley Farrow, Wildlife Management Biologist

Date: March 8th, 2011

BRIEFING TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: **Decision: X**

Issue: Request for support of the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy for Canada

Background:

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting No. 63, the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment (GN-DoE) requested comments or input into the drafting process and conditional approval regarding the development of a "National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy for Canada". Upon consideration of the request, the Board directed NWMB Wildlife Section staff to review the Strategy and provide the requested comments or input on the draft "National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy." NWMB staff reviewed the Strategy and sent comments in August 2010 and a majority of the comments have been addressed. GN-DoE has requested again support for the Strategy and the Strategy is included in Appendix 1.

The main purpose and goal of the Strategy is to *"…contribute to the long-term maintenance of subpopulations of polar bear in Canada taking into account all of the threats that face the species, and to increase the level of coordination between jurisdictions for the management of polar bear*." The Strategy outlines how polar bears are managed in Canada and the Strategy does not place any required actions on the signatories of the agreement nor does it change the current management of polar bear. The Strategy would be used to support Canada's management system to the international community, including international forums such as CITES.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) has provided comments on the Strategy (refer to Appendix 2) and the major points made by NTI based on a review by NWMB staff are the following[1]:

- The strategy in the current form is unacceptable as it focuses entirely on biological characteristics of polar bears and lacks major components identified by the NLCA such as Conservation Principles and Social objectives;
- There should be reference to specific Land Claim Agreements and Constitutional obligations;
- The strategy requires the government to consult and NTI does not consider the current approach by GN-DoE or the Government of Canada as adequate consultation and the signatories of the strategy will need to respond to the comments of both NTI and RWOs as part of the consultation process;

In brief summary, NWMB staff believe that the strategy in the current form is acceptable and does not require detailed references to Land Claims Agreements and Constitutional obligations as it serves the purpose of demonstrating how polar bear is managed in Canada and is not meant to

[1] NTI should be provided an opportunity at the Regular Meeting to elaborate or correct any points indicated by NWMB staff in the summary

provide the major components of Land Claim Agreements and Constitutional obligations. As the Strategy indicates the Strategy "…does not supersede provisions identified under domestic laws, land claims agreements, and international obligations, but jurisdictional agreement with the advice contained within this Strategy will strengthen overall coordination of conservation actions for polar bear in Canada." Pertaining to consultation, GN has responded by indicating that they believe that there is not a need for consultation as the document simply outlines the current management system. However, GN has indicated that they are currently planning extensive consultations with communities in Nunavut over the next two years towards the development of a Nunavut Management plan or the re-negotiating of the Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs).

Although changes to the Strategy have addressed most of NWMB staff's concern there is still a remaining concern with the Strategy, as illustrated by the following:

> "9.4 *This Strategy, including annexes, will remain in effect for five years. After five years the Strategy will be reviewed by the PBAC, and will be amended as necessary. In the absence of PBAC-directed changes, the Strategy will remain in effect"*
>
> *"9.5 This Strategy can be amended at any time by agreement in writing of all PBAC members, on behalf of all signatories."*

As the Board is aware NWMB staff no longer participate as a member of the PBAC and would not be involved in any such changes to the NWMB endorsed Strategy. Furthermore and more importantly, any such changes to an NWMB endorsed Strategy would require the NWMB to have "…a role in the negotiation or amendment of domestic interjuridictional agreements…" (S 5.9.5 NLCA).

GN-DoE has responded by indicating that GN-DoE and NTI are part of the PBAC and that prior to agreeing to any amendments to the strategy they would ensure that the appropriate review process is followed in Nunavut as per the NLCA. GN-DoE has also again reiterated that they hope that the Board reconsiders its participation in the PBAC in future so that the Board is adequately informed on the discussions and activities of the Committee.

Recommendation:

What is being requested is support for the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy (as per S 5.9.5) and not a request for approval of the Strategy (as per S 5.2.34(d) of the NLCA). NWMB staff believe that the Strategy is best viewed and reflected as an interjurisdictional agreement and the NWMB's NLCA responsibilities is that the NWMB is to have *"…a role in the negotiation or amendment of domestic interjurisdictional agreements…"* as per S 5.9.5 of the NLCA. The Strategy as written does not change nor suggest changes to how polar bear is managed within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) and does not affect the NWMB's powers, duties or functions (S 5.2.33 to 5.2.34) nor the decision making responsibilities of the NWMB and the Minister (S 5.3.7 to 5.3.15 of the NLCA).

As indicated above, NWMB staff still have a remaining concern regarding the Strategy being able to be modified by the PBAC members on behalf of the signatories. NWMB staff has considered GN's response and feel that there is an approach to ensure that the NWMB's interests are maintained. NWMB staff would recommend that the NWMB participate as a member of the PBAC. This participation would not only ensure that any modifications to the Strategy followed the NWMB and NLCA required processes but would also ensure that the Board is aware of the work and developments pertaining to polar bear management. NWMB staff believe that since the NWMB's

withdrawal from the PBAC a number of recent developments have occurred regarding polar bear management that are of interest to the NWMB such as CITES, SARA, subpopulation boundaries and human-bear conflict. Participation in the PBAC would ensure that the Board is aware of all developments regarding polar bear management.

NWMB staff therefore recommends that the Board support the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy and re-engage as a member of the PBAC.

Draft Resolution:

> "MOVED that that NWMB support the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy and re-engage as a member of the Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC)."

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management, NWMB;

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Date: March 10th, 2011

Draft National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy for Canada

February 2011

1. Summary:

The central goal of the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy is to contribute to the long-term maintenance of subpopulations of polar bear in Canada by taking into account all of the threats that face the species, and to increase the level of coordination between jurisdictions for the management of polar bear.

The threats and challenges associated with polar bear conservation are complex and wide-ranging. To address these in a meaningful manner, this Strategy is divided into two main parts: first, an over-arching strategy; and second, a series of annexes that provide an overview of how key conservation threats and challenges will be managed.

2. Background:

The polar bear (*Ursus maritimus), nanuq* in Inuktitut, has a special significance for northern Aboriginal people in Canada who have been harvesting the species for thousands of years. The polar bear is a top predator in the Arctic marine environment, sharing this role with humans, and it has played a key role in Inuit cosmology and symbolism. The polar bear, like all the wildlife harvested in the North, is considered a renewable resource that provides nourishment and clothing, and that contributes to a deep respect for the land that is woven throughout their culture. In the spirit of this relationship, the role of Aboriginal people in the management of polar bears has also evolved over time, and with changing pressures.

Prior to European arrival, Aboriginal peoples hunted the polar bear for subsistence purposes, with up to 200kg of meat being provided from a single large animal, and with clothes from the skins providing protection from the extreme low temperatures. By the 1940's, interest in the hides of polar bears increased given expansion of the Hudson's Bay Company fur trade operations. At this point, the hunting of polar bears became an important economic by-product of the food hunt, and thereby became one of few traditional resources that provided reliable money to hunters and communities.

Canada has a special obligation with respect to the conservation of polar bear because an estimated two-thirds of the global population occurs in subpopulations that are within, or shared with, Canada. Furthermore, Canada is signatory to the 1973 *Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears* (Appendix 1) and Canada's *Letter of Interpretation* upon ratification of the Agreement (Appendix 2). The 1973 international Agreement stipulates that polar bear will be managed *"… in accordance with sound conservation practices…".* A cooperative approach to research and management is necessary because nine of Canada's thirteen polar bear

subpopulations (Annex 2, Figure 1) are shared between domestic and/or international jurisdictions.

Canada's commitment to a cooperative approach to polar bear research and management began over 40 years ago with the establishment of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC) and the Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC). These bodies represent a successful cooperative effort for the management and monitoring of polar bear, respectively, and have been instrumental in facilitating collaborative research and coordinated conservation initiatives. To further support the efforts of these bodies, as well as those of jurisdictions, this Strategy will serve as guidelines for the conservation of polar bear in Canada by all jurisdictions and co-management partners through workplans developed by the PBAC and the PBTC.

Management authority for polar bear lies largely with provincial and territorial governments, in conjunction with wildlife co-management boards established under land claims agreements in much of the species' range. This Strategy does not supersede provisions identified under domestic laws, land claims agreements, and international obligations, but jurisdictional agreement with the advice contained within this Strategy will strengthen overall coordination of conservation actions for polar bear in Canada.

3. Status and Conservation in Canada:

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), established in 1977, is the independent body responsible for identifying and assessing species considered to be at risk in Canada. COSEWIC uses the best available information, including science, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and community knowledge. The assessments made by COSEWIC are the basis for consideration of legal listing under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

Polar bear were originally designated as Not at Risk by COSEWIC in 1986. This was changed to a designation of Special Concern in 1991, and this conservation status was reviewed and confirmed in 1999, 2002 and 2008. Consultations concerning listing the polar bear as a species of Special Concern under SARA are underway. As a legislated requirement, COSEWIC reviews species assessments at least every 10 years.

Assessments by the General Status of Species in Canada (a program that operates under the auspices of the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council, created in 1997 under the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk* and *Framework for the Conservation of Species at Risk in Canada*) are completed every five years. Assessments done under the General Status framework in 2000, 2005 and 2010 all designated the polar bear as a Sensitive species. In addition, the PBTC assesses the status of polar bear subpopulations on an annual basis.

Provinces and territories have a variety of processes and legislation for conserving species at risk.

Province/Territory	Legislation	Designation	Effective Date
Newfoundland & Labrador	*Endangered Species Act*	Vulnerable	2002
Manitoba	*Endangered Species Act*	Threatened	2008
Ontario	*Endangered Species Act, 2007*	Threatened*	2009
Québec	*Loi sur les Espèces Menacées ou Vulnérable*	Vulnérable**	2009
Northwest Territories	*Species At (NWT) Risk*	*No listing****	-
Nunavut	*Nunavut Wildlife Act*	*No listing*	-
Yukon	Yukon Wildlife Act	*No listing*	-

* = up-listed from Special Concern in 2009

** = equivalent to Special Concern under SARA

*** = Assessment expected in October 2012

The Federal/Provincial/Territorial systems provide for flexibility and create allowances for attention to be focused where it is most needed.

4. Objectives:

The purpose of the Strategy is to confirm commitment from the jurisdictions regarding polar bear management and conservation, and to ensure adequate coordination of actions across jurisdictions within Canada. By doing this, the Strategy will provide the framework to accomplish the following objectives:

4.1 Promote actions towards ensuring that polar bear subpopulations, both within Canada and shared with other countries, remain healthy and abundant in perpetuity.

4.2 Minimize threats to polar bear and their habitat resulting from human activities.

4.3 Ensure that best practice standards for polar bear management and research are adopted and respected, including the continued development of non-invasive methodologies, and the incorporation of Aboriginal traditional knowledge.

5. Threats to Polar Bear Conservation:

The following is a list of current threats facing polar bear. It is recognized that the relative impact of these threats on polar bear subpopulations may change, and that new threats may be identified in the future.

5.1 **Climate change:** Environmental change is the most critical long-term threat to polar bear and their habitat. Projected warming over much of the range and the associated reductions in the extent and thickness of multi-year sea ice, and the duration and thickness of annual sea ice will have both direct and indirect effects on polar bear. Direct effects include loss of habitat (i.e. extent and composition of sea ice), while indirect effects include ecosystem level changes on availability in prey species such as seal, separation from terrestrial denning areas and refugia, contaminant transfer, and expansion of human activities. Climate change will be an underlying driver of many of the other threats listed below. As such, there is a need for focused research to understand the ecological conditions that are important to polar bear, and that inform conservation and management actions. Effects of climate change have been observed in some subpopulations (e.g. Southern Beaufort Sea,), and others are expected in coming decades.

5.2 **Contaminants:** Polar bear are exposed to environmental contaminants including both organic (e.g., organochlorines and brominated flame retardants) and inorganic (e.g., mercury) substances that have effects at both the individual and possibly at the population level. Additional contaminants from marine spills could seriously impact local populations. Emerging contaminants are also a concern. Environmental change may alter contaminant pathways. For example, transport and delivery of contaminants to Arctic ecosystems are likely to be enhanced as contaminants that are currently sequestered in glaciers and permafrost are released. Although the effects of pollutants on polar bear are only partially understood, recent studies suggest that contaminants are likely to have physiological effects, including altered hormone levels, as well as immune system and reproductive effects.

5.3 **Resource industry activities:** Exploration and development for resource extraction (e.g., metals, minerals, oil and gas) has the potential for direct mortality and disturbance, including habitat alteration and disturbance of bears in maternity dens. Environmental change will likely provide greater industrial access to resources, and together with an increase in industrial activities, the frequency of human-bear conflicts may increase (see point *5.6* below).

5.4 **Shipping:** Disturbance and the potential for shipping accidents (e.g., spills) associated with increasing levels of shipping activity in the Arctic, including community re-supply, industrial shipping and tourism, present increasing threats to polar bear. Environmental change will likely increase the duration of shipping seasons and open up additional, previously unnavigable, routes.

5.5 **Inappropriate Harvest Level:** In most jurisdictions, and in the majority of cases in Canada, harvest is well-managed under a quota system. In Québec, there is no formal quota system, on account of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA). However, Aboriginal nations of Nunavik are responsible for the long-term preservation of resources on the land, and the JBNQA includes mechanisms toward the conservation of polar bear in this province. Coordinated harvest management, including the assignment of Total Allowable Harvest levels for each subpopulation (or acceptable equivalent mechanisms in Québec), should reduce or remove the threat of unsustainable harvest. In situations where harvest does

not permit the ongoing presence of polar bear, coordinated harvest management between jurisdictions needs to be strengthened.

5.6 **Human-bear conflicts:** Increased interaction between humans and polar bear is already occurring in northern communities; further human-bear conflicts are likely to arise in the future as tourism and other anthropogenic activities increase and sea ice continues to change. Human-bear conflicts may result in the destruction of property, danger to people and danger to bears due to human-caused harassment, or mortality in defense of life or property.

6. Challenges to Polar Bear Conservation:

6.1 **Broad nature of threats:** There are a variety of challenges to polar bear conservation. In some cases, action to address threats goes beyond polar bear and their habitats and will require national and international cooperation by players beyond those traditionally involved in polar bear management. For example, global action is essential to reduce greenhouse gases in order to address climate change. Similarly, contaminant emissions, shipping and industrial activities are intertwined with global economic markets and involve a variety of international players.

6.2 **Difficulty in obtaining information:** Effectiveness of polar bear conservation initiatives can only be assessed when there is reliable scientific, traditional and local knowledge on which to determine status, threats, trends, and identify important habitat. Limited capacity, limited funding or inconsistent support for certain research activities all pose challenges to polar bear conservation.

6.3 **Habitat conservation:** The primary habitat for polar bear is sea ice, because it provides the platform from which bears hunt, travel, mate, and, in some areas, den. Loss of sea ice is already impacting some polar bear subpopulations (e.g., Southern Beaufort Sea), and this trend is expected to continue in coming years. In addition, throughout many parts of the polar bear range, terrestrial habitat is of critical importance for maternal denning, or as a summer refuge and migration corridor. However, while some important habitat areas receive varying degrees of protection as national, provincial or territorial parks or wildlife areas, the vast majority of polar bear habitat currently receives no legal protection, although various initiatives are currently being explored by jurisdictions.

6.4 **Interaction of threats:** The identified threats cannot be considered as impacting polar bear in isolation from each other, and are not mutually exclusive. For example, in subpopulations where climate-induced habitat loss is causing declines, the concept of a sustainable harvest no longer applies (as *any* harvest would contribute to further declines). As such, one of the biggest challenges will be to manage the harvest and other human influences (e.g. industrial activities, shipping) in declining populations.

6.5 **Allocation of harvest:** Given a complex jurisdictional environment, challenges may result to consensus building among stakeholders regarding the allocation of Total Allowable Harvest between jurisdictions. This may be the result of differences of opinion and communication challenges in a Northern environment.

7. Guiding Principles:

The following principles guide conservation and management decisions, within their respective legislative frameworks.

7.1 The goal of conserving polar bear for future generations is of paramount importance and will underlie decision making processes, given that this species is of significant social and cultural value, globally, to all Canadians, and particularly to northern Aboriginal peoples.

7.2 Harvesting of polar bear is a vital cultural activity for many northern Aboriginal peoples. Ensuring that the harvest of polar bear continues in a coordinated manner that follows conservation principles is an integral component of the collective Canadian management system.

7.3 Polar bear will be managed at the subpopulation level, and will be assessed regularly to ensure that information is available for timely conservation, and towards long-term sustainability.

7.4 The best available scientific data, along with local and traditional knowledge, will be used to inform conservation and management decisions and actions.

7.5 Conservation and management decisions and actions will take global climate change into account.

7.6 Where there are threats of serious or irreparable damage to polar bear subpopulations, lack of certainty will not be a reason for postponing reasonable or precautionary conservation measures.

7.7 Management frameworks within jurisdictions will be respected; these include co-management regimes, federal, provincial and territorial legislation, land claim agreements, and inter-jurisdictional agreements.

7.8 Research and management of shared subpopulations is a joint responsibility, with accommodation for consultation requirements and legislative processes for the partnering jurisdictions, co-management boards, and agencies,.

7.9 Management actions will be developed and implemented with appropriate collaboration and consultation with Aboriginal governments and communities. These will be based on effective conservation practices and will reflect any relevant Aboriginal land claim or Aboriginal treaty rights.

8. Framework:

8.1 The PBAC is recognized as the advisory body concerning polar bear conservation on matters requiring national coordination in Canada. The PBAC Terms of Reference are included in this document as Appendix 3. As per the PBAC Terms of Reference, the PBTC will provide technical advice to the PBAC. The PBTC Terms of Reference are included in this document as Appendix 4.

8.2 For shared populations, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) or user-to-user agreements will be developed in accordance with land claim agreements and respective of jurisdictional protocols or inter-jurisdictional agreements. Such agreements will acts as mechanisms to reach concurrence on management objectives, Total Allowable Harvest and allocation. Some such agreements are already in place (e.g. Inuvialuit-Inupiat Agreement for the shared Southern Beaufort Sea subpopulation – 1988; MOU between Greenland, Nunavut and Canada for the shared Kane Basin and Baffin Bay subpopulations - 2009). Jurisdictions will work together through MOUs or equivalents.

8.3 Subpopulations are delineated based on the best available scientific and traditional knowledge related to the movements and genetics of polar bear, as well as management considerations (Annex 2, Figure 1). The term "subpopulation", as used in this document, is consistent with its use by the PBTC, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)/Species Survival Commission (SSC) Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG), and the international community. All jurisdictions affected by subpopulation changes will be involved in the decision process related to boundary changes (Annex 3). In the case of disputes, the matter will be forwarded to the PBAC for advice. Environment Canada may act as a facilitator.

8.4 To assess both the potential risk of given threats to polar bear and the effectiveness of any conservation actions, monitoring data are required. Repeated, long-term monitoring of specific subpopulations is required for detection and understanding of changes in status of polar bear. Jurisdictions and co-management boards, where appropriate, will coordinate efforts to ensure that population inventories of each subpopulation are completed, and will commit to conducting the necessary monitoring. Timelines for inventories and other subpopulation monitoring will take changing threats to polar bear into account, and will be completed on a priority basis, as informed by the PBAC and under advice from the PBTC. This monitoring will be considered an integral part of Canada's subpopulation inventory cycle.

8.5 The jurisdictions will make every reasonable effort to agree on the interpretation and application of this Strategy. Differences of opinion in the interpretation and application of the Strategy will be resolved, to the extent practicable, at a working level, through reasonable efforts taken in good faith. However, if the difference is not resolved, the relevant jurisdictions may refer the matter to the PBAC for advice. Advice from the PBAC is not binding on the parties.

8.6 Jurisdictions will continue to improve methods of collecting scientific data that minimize the impacts on polar bear and enhance incorporation of traditional knowledge into management decisions.

8.7 Appropriate action will be taken to protect polar bear habitat with special attention given to denning and feeding sites.

9. Implementation:

9.1 Although climate change is the most critical threat facing polar bear and their habitat, mitigation of climate change is beyond the scope of a polar bear conservation strategy. Large-scale climate change actions will instead be pursued through the appropriate regional, national and international fora. Of importance for jurisdictions, is to ensure that polar bear related issues are being addressed at such fora, and that effects of climate change on polar bear are acknowledged and addressed. For the long-term persistence of polar bear, action on climate change is required.

Annexes will focus on the changing threats and challenges to polar bear conservation that can be managed at a national or sub-national level. The format of annexes will be an overview of current practices, current status and rationale, and paths forward. Four annexes have been developed to date. Additional annexes will be developed as soon as possible.

9.1 Specific workplans guiding conservation actions – as outlined in the annexes - will be developed by the PBTC, reviewed by the PBAC, and will be provided to the jurisdictions.

9.2 Jurisdictions will undertake the necessary monitoring and science activities needed for polar bear conservation.

*9.*3 The implementation of this Strategy is subject to the availability of funding within each jurisdiction.

9.4 This Strategy, including annexes, will remain in effect for five years. After five years the Strategy will be reviewed by the PBAC, and will be amended as necessary. In the absence of PBAC-directed changes, the Strategy will remain in effect.

9.5 This Strategy can be amended at any time by agreement in writing of all PBAC members, on behalf of all signatories.

9.6 This Strategy creates no binding legal obligations on the parties. It is meant as a statement of the intent of the parties to co-operate and is not enforceable in Canadian law.

10. List of Annexes:

10.1 Annex 1: Monitoring: polar bear and their habitat

10.2 Annex 2: Harvest Management

10.3 Annex 3: Subpopulation Boundary Definition and Process for Change

10.4 Annex 4: Glossary of Terms

11. List of Appendices:

11.1 Appendix 1: Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears

11.2 Appendix 2: Canada's letter of interpretation of the Agreement

11.3 Appendix 3: Terms of Reference for the Polar Bear Administrative Committee

11.4 Appendix 4: Terms of Reference for the Polar Bear Technical Committee

Signature Blocks:

_____
Hon. Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment, Government of Canada

_____
Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut

_____
Hon J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories

_____
Hon.John Edzerza, Minister of the Environment, Government of Yukon

_____
Hon. Bill Blaikie, Minister of Conservation, Government of Manitoba

_____
Hon. Charlene Johnson, Minister of Environment and Conservation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

_____
Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Ontario

_____
Hon. Dave Denine, Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs, Newfoundland and Labrador

_____
Hon. Nathalie Normandeau, Ministre des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Gouvernement du Québec

_____
Hon. Claude Béchard, Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation et Ministre responsable des Affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes

_____
Larry Carpenter, Chairperson, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

_____
Willie Nakoolak, A/Chairperson, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

_____
Johnny Oovaut, Chairperson, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

_____
Lindsay Staples, Chairperson, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

_____
Jamie Snook, Executive Director, Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board

ANNEX 1.

MONITORING: POLAR BEAR AND THEIR HABITAT

1. Overview:

The objective of polar bear population and habitat monitoring is to obtain the key information needed to assess the population status of polar bear within Canadian subpopulations.

2. Current practices:

Current subpopulation inventories provide quantitative estimates of population sizes and demographic parameters as well as other information used in population viability analyses.

Monitoring within subpopulations is conducted by provincial and territorial governments because they have the primary responsibility for polar bear management, including harvest. In some subpopulations, the federal government (Environment Canada) carries out inventory monitoring in cooperation with provincial and territorial governments.

Research to address broader ecological questions that apply across polar bear populations (e.g., climate change effects, genetic studies, movement patterns, contaminants) are undertaken by various provincial, territorial, and federal governments, as well as academic researchers and other specialists.

In several jurisdictions, particularly those in which co-management processes have been established, traditional and user knowledge is beginning to be formally collected by user groups, co-management boards and jurisdictional governments, and incorporated into management decision making.

3. Current status and rationale:

The frequency of each subpopulation inventory has largely been determined independently by each jurisdiction/agency. While the various jurisdictions have been working towards a unified approach, there is currently not consistent, integrated approach to either the timing or financing of monitoring studies across the various jurisdictions in Canada.

The types of information and samples collected in conjunction with monitoring inventories can vary among studies depending upon the specific questions of interest in each study. Comparisons both within and across populations may be improved by the adoption of standardized sampling and data collection protocols.

The incorporation of traditional and user knowledge into management decisions would be improved by consistent approaches to the collection and documentation of such knowledge.

While studies are ongoing, there is currently limited information on sea ice, habitat, and other environmental characteristics with which to build adequate models at a polar bear-relevant scale in Canada.

4. Path forward: Co-coordinated monitoring:

While progress has been made towards developing coordinated monitoring through Memoranda of Understanding and user-to-user agreements, continued improvement is necessary. For example, coordinated monitoring will provide better population estimates for the 13 polar bear subpopulations in Canada.

The PBTC will recommend the frequency of monitoring for each subpopulation, taking into account current population size, population status (i.e. rate of population change), current and future threats, and acknowledging that these variables will change over time. For shared subpopulations, monitoring actions will be done at the inter-jurisdictional level and will benefit from national coordination and planning.

The following principles will provide for a coordinated timeline, monitoring and sampling protocols for baseline monitoring, using both scientific and traditional user knowledge.

1) Various, systematic approaches can be used to inventory the subpopulations. Monitoring surveys will be done using a risk-based approach (i.e. high priority subpopulations will be surveyed more frequently than low priority subpopulations), as advised by the PBTC, reviewed by the PBAC and approved by the jurisdictions.

2) As part of monitoring inventories, jurisdictions will collect information in a standardized way that will allow for comparisons within and among subpopulations. The standard methods will be developed by the PBTC, reviewed by the PBAC and will be provided to the jurisdictions.

3) From all human-caused bear mortalities, jurisdictions will collect biological samples and information that will be reported annually to the PBTC. The PBTC will develop recommendations regarding harvest data collection including a list of minimum requirements for population monitoring and assessment.

4) Jurisdictions and co-management partners will encourage the collection and documentation of relevant traditional and user knowledge about polar bear and their environment to inform management decisions. Such information could include:
    - ***a.*** Location and dates of polar bear sightings
    - ***b.*** Observations of body condition, and sex and age class of bears
    - ***c.*** Location of denning sites and other important bear areas
    - ***d.*** Aspects of polar bear behaviour
    - ***e.*** Polar bear – environment interactions (e.g. information about seals or sea ice)
    - ***f.*** Historical and traditional perspectives on each of these information sources
    - ***g.*** Cultural perspectives and traditional values for managing polar bear

h. Other relevant information.

5) Annually, jurisdictions will provide information, as suggested by the PBTC, for each subpopulation to the PBTC in order to provide an updated assessment of population status. The PBTC will develop the protocol for information exchange, to be reviewed by the PBAC and provided to the jurisdictions.

6) Important denning habitat will be identified, and measures will be taken to work with the appropriate authorities to protect or manage such areas.

7) Methods of collecting data that minimize impacts on polar bear, while providing the information that is required to compare and assess subpopulation status, will continue to be developed.

8) Information on relevant environmental factors or environmental impacts that have caused (or could cause) changes in subpopulation status over time will be collected.

9) All harvest and bear capture data will be archived by Canada through the PBTC. Recognizing intellectual property rights and Access to Information legislation, data will be protected and ownership respected.

ANNEX 2.

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

1. Overview

The objective of harvest management is to ensure that harvest does not unduly impact subpopulations of polar bear in Canada, and that they remain healthy and abundant in perpetuity.

2. Current practices:

The management of polar bear is the responsibility of the provinces/territories, co-management boards, and Aboriginal communities, guided in many regions by various land claims agreements. Harvest occurs in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, and the Yukon. No harvest occurs in Manitoba.

In jurisdictions with a harvest of polar bear, the harvest is largely limited to Aboriginal people in accordance with the 1973 *Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears* (Appendix 1) and Canada's *Letter of Interpretation* upon ratification of the *Agreement* (Appendix 2) and land claim agreements. In some jurisdictions, Aboriginal people may choose to allocate their hunting tags to non-resident hunters (guided by Aboriginal people on foot or by dog teams).

The harvest of polar bear that occurs in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the Yukon is controlled through a quota system (Total Allowable Harvest, TAH). In Ontario, only First Nations hunters who are Treaty 9 members residing along the Hudson Bay and James Bay coast can legally harvest polar bear. There is a permissible kill of no more than 30 bears per year that is controlled by restricting the annual sale of hides under a trapper's licence to those hides with an official seal attached by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. In Québec, the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (1975) restricts the taking of polar bear to Aboriginal peoples and ensures that they have exclusive access to a Guaranteed Harvest Level (GHL) of 62 bears per year, subject to the principles of conservation, before any sport or commercial activity would be permitted.

In jurisdictions with quotas, the TAH levels are set according to jurisdictional processes; in most instances these procedures are laid out in relevant land claims agreements. A general summary is provided below:

- In **Nunavut**, the TAH levels for the Nunavut Settlement Area are set by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), subject to the final acceptance of the Minister of Environment (Nunavut). Hunting tags are allocated by the Regional Wildlife Organizations.
    - The NWMB considers both scientific information and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. This process is the same for subpopulations exclusively within Nunavut (GB, LS, MC, NW) and for the Nunavut portions of the shared subpopulations (BB, DS, FB, KB, NB, SH, WH, VM; Figure 1).

- In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (**NWT/Yukon**) TAH is determined by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council Northwest Territories [WMAC(NWT)] and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council North Slope [WMAC (NS)], subject to final acceptance of the Government of NWT and the Yukon. Hunting tags are allocated by the Inuvialuit Game Council. All harvest of polar bear within the Yukon and the Northwest Territories occurs in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.
    - For SB (shared with the Alaska), the WMAC (NWT) and WMAC (NS) consider TAH recommendations developed through the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Agreement. The distribution of tags between Canada and Alaska is achieved through the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Agreement.
    - For NB and VM (shared with Nunavut), the WMAC (NWT) considers TAH recommendations with input from the Inuvialuit-Kitikmeot agreement.
- In **Newfoundland and Labrador**, the provincial Wildlife Act and regulations and the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement provides the legislative framework for polar bear management. Within this framework, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (GNL) is responsible for the management of polar bears within the Province. Within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board (TWPCB), in consultation with the Nunatsiavut Government, establishes, modifies and eliminates the TAH for polar bears. This decision of the TWPCB is subject to disallowance or variance by the provincial Minister. Pursuant to provincial legislation and regulations and the annual Polar Bear Hunting Order, the Province issues licenses, establishes the final TAH, seasons and management areas. Within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area Inuit have the exclusive right to harvest the TAH and the Nunatsiavut Government is responsible for the allocation of licenses.
    - DS is shared with Nunavut, Québec, and Greenland.
- In **Québec**, harvest is allocated exclusively to the Nunavik Inuit, Crees and Naskapis in respect of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA), which guarantees an annual harvest level of 62 bears. Harvest in Québec is subsistence-based, and Nunavik Aboriginal communities are obligated, under the JBNQA, to ensure the long-term preservation of resources on the land. Co-management between the Québec Government, Environment Canada and Aboriginal nations is realized under the authority of the Joint Committee on Hunting, Fishing and Trapping. Additionally, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board is responsible, through co-management with appropriate jurisdictions, for polar bear management in the offshore area immediately surrounding Québec (as described in the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement).

The identification of sustainable harvest levels relates to target population sizes. For most subpopulations, target population sizes correspond to the scientific estimates of the subpopulation size. In Nunavut, the target population sizes are identified in a series of MOUs between Nunavut communities sharing a given subpopulation. In some instances, the target population has been adjusted based on traditional knowledge and modeling.

Most jurisdictions have protection for females with cubs, bears in dens, and a 2:1 sex-bias in harvesting such that a higher proportion of the harvest is comprised of males.

Jurisdictions report all human-caused mortalities annually to the PBTC. The PBTC uses this information to provide the PBAC with an annual status report for all Canadian subpopulations.

In several jurisdictions, including Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, hunters are required to provide selected information and samples from harvested bears.

3. Current status and rationale:

Although many jurisdictions already have relatively comprehensive harvest management systems, gaps currently remain. In some instances these gaps are directly linked to different provisions identified in specific land claims agreements. These gaps include a lack of formal processes for engaging jurisdictions in harvest management decisions concerning shared subpopulations, different jurisdictional processes for determining TAH and target population sizes, a lack of coordinated timelines for updating TAH, apparent incompatibilities between the systems set up in various land claim agreements, and an absence of dispute resolution mechanisms, particularly for shared subpopulations.

4. Path forward: co-coordinated harvest management:

This Strategy does not supersede the provisions identified under domestic legislation, various land claims agreements, and international obligations. However, adherence to advice contained within this Strategy will strengthen the overall conservation of polar bear.

Some jurisdictions are developing inter-jurisdictional agreements that will provide further details concerning the formal processes for engaging jurisdictions which share subpopulations, including the setting of target population numbers, and the determination and allocation of TAH.

In the event of a dispute concerning a conservation concern, point 8.5 in the "Framework" of the Strategy will apply.

The following principles will improve overall coordination of harvest management in Canada by describing a consistent process and timeline for the determination of TAH.

1) Management objectives, and target population sizes specific to each subpopulation will be identified by the relevant jurisdictional authorities according to established processes, including land claim agreement requirements, and taking into account all known threats to subpopulations.

2) All human-caused mortality (i.e., harvest, accidental, illegal, and defense of life or property kills) should be monitored and accounted for in population management actions.

3) The Acceptable Annual Harvest Rate of both males and females will be identified and allocated between the jurisdictions that share the subpopulation. This will be done in such a manner that the sum of the annual human-caused mortality for all jurisdictions does not exceed the Acceptable Annual Harvest Rate, as established in accordance with processes set up by the appropriate jurisdictions.

4) In the case of subpopulations shared with jurisdictions outside of Canada, international agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) will be pursued. In the absence of an international agreement or MOU, the Canadian jurisdictions in question will adhere to the above practices as if an agreement or MOU were in place.

5) Cubs, and females with cubs that are occupying or constructing a den, or any bear that is part of a family group in general, shall be protected from harvesting unless otherwise authorized by the relevant authorities within the jurisdiction, as appropriate.

Schedule A: Annual Harvest Rate

The following recommendations identify a consistent protocol for developing an Acceptable Annual Harvest Rate to be used by jurisdictions and co-management partners, and considering processes established by the appropriate jurisdictions, where applicable.

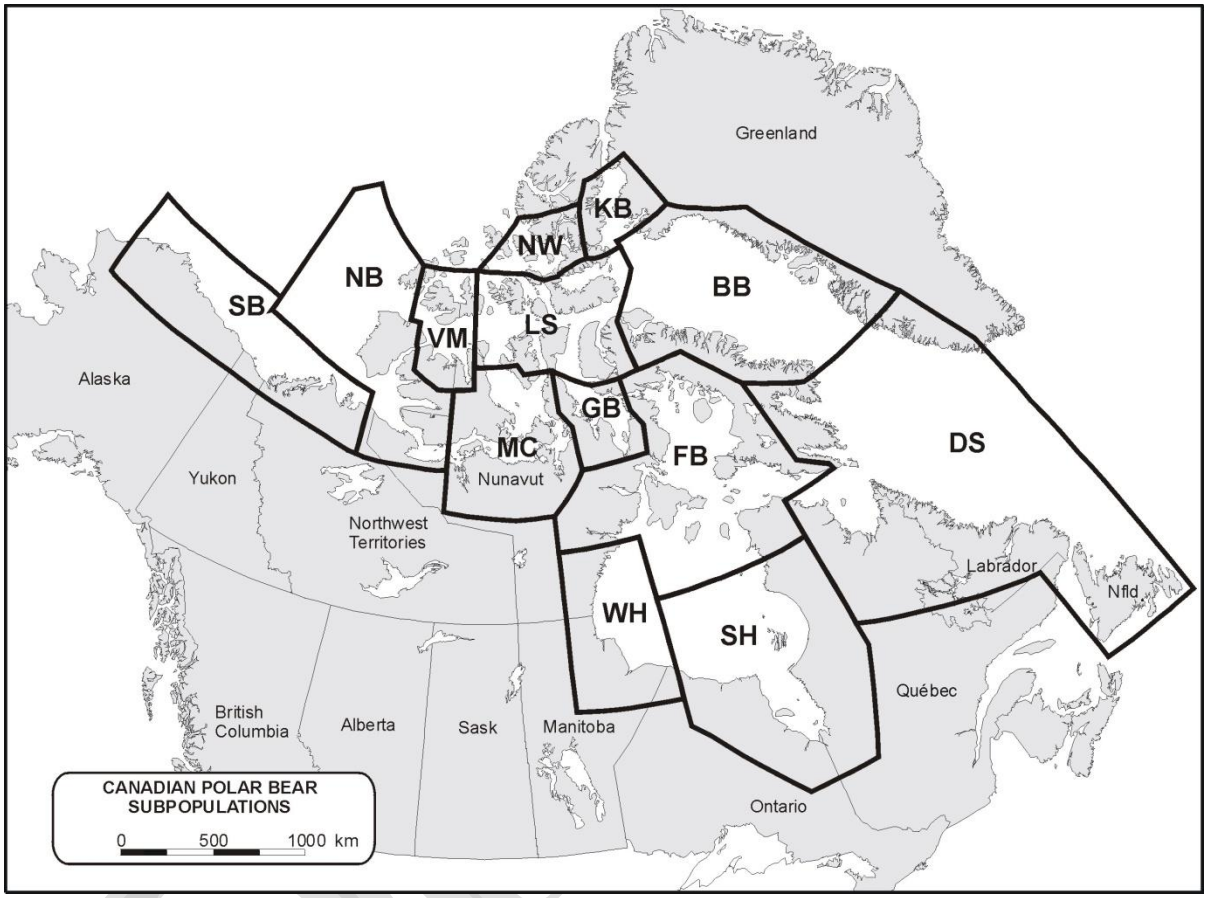
1. The total Acceptable Annual Harvest Rate will be based on population sizes and management goals, using the best available information (western science and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge) and on monitoring information.

2. Recommendations on the Acceptable Annual Harvest Rate for each of Canada's 13 subpopulations will be identified and consolidated annually at the PBTC meeting based on the best available information and as described in Canada's *Letter of Interpretation* (Appendix 2).

3. The recommendations on Acceptable Annual Harvest Rates will consider environmental impacts, environmental change, and the risks posed by the uncertainty of the demographic information.

4. The consolidated recommendations on Acceptable Annual Harvest Rate, the criteria for these recommendations and a comprehensive population status table will be provided annually to the PBAC by the PBTC for use by jurisdictions and co-management partners.

Figure 1. Map of Canadian polar bear subpopulations. Abbreviations are as follows: BB - Baffin Bay; DS – Davis Strait; FB – Foxe Basin; GB – Gulf of Boothia; KB – Kane Basin; LS – Lancaster Sound; MC – M'Clintock Channel; NB – Northern Beaufort Sea; NW – Norwegian Bay; SB – Southern Beaufort Sea; SH – Southern Hudson Bay; WH – Western Hudson Bay.



ANNEX 3.

SUBPOPULATION BOUNDARY DEFINITION AND PROCESS FOR CHANGE

1. Overview

The objective of delineating polar bear subpopulation boundaries is to ensure that subpopulations are biologically meaningful, and to facilitate effective conservation and management practices. Future changes to the current boundaries may be necessary, taking into account new information, and acknowledging that changes to subpopulation boundaries may affect hunting quotas and allocations.

2. Current practices:

There are 13 defined Canadian polar bear subpopulations, of which one is shared with the United States and three with Greenland. Remaining subpopulations (that exist entirely within Canada) are commonly shared between more than one province/territory (Annex 2, Figure 1). The boundaries as outlined on Figure 1 (Annex 2) are accepted as the official subpopulation delineations. Any future changes will use these subpopulations as a baseline from which adjustments are made.

To date, subpopulation delineations have largely been based on movement patterns of radio-collared female polar bears and recapture/harvest of marked bears. Within most subpopulations, population dynamics appear to be determined from internal birth and death rates, rather than through emigration or immigration, suggesting that definitions are based on biologically meaningful information that are sufficient for management purposes.

Results from genetic studies vary, but often show high levels of gene flow between the various subpopulations (not just those in Canada), although recent data do suggest some degree of genetic structuring (e.g. Hudson Bay). Despite the fact that gene flow indicates that the currently-defined subpopulations are not closed populations, they are useful constructs for referencing bears from one region versus another, both within Canada and throughout the world (e.g. these same subpopulations designations are used internationally by the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group). The high degree of gene flow can likely be attributed to high mobility, large home ranges and the ability to respond to variation in sea ice and seal distributions. However, this connectivity between populations may change as sea ice changes.

COSEWIC designated all 13 polar bear subpopulations as one designated unit for conservation actions. This was determined because, while useful for describing local trends in population growth/decline, demographic parameters, behaviours and for managing popular bears, the identified subpopulations cannot be considered distinct designated units based on the COSEWIC guidelines.

3. Current status and rationale:

There is currently no agreed upon, formalized process for changing polar bear subpopulation boundaries. Questions remain regarding on what criteria changes to subpopulation boundary changes should be based (e.g. science, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, harvest management implications). Moreover, there are many implications associated with making changes to subpopulation boundaries, including the loss of ability to make historical comparisons, the need to update inter-jurisdictional agreements, and the implications on the Total Allowable Harvest for a given subpopulation.

4. Path forward: co-coordinated boundary change:

A process will be developed that is based on the following principles:

4.1 Any changes to subpopulation boundaries will be made to improve conservation, and using the best available scientific data and traditional knowledge. Changes will reflect current knowledge of the spatial organization and demographic processes of polar bear.

4.2 Provisions in land claim agreements relating to polar bear management will be followed.

4.3 Consultation with user groups will be undertaken as per land claim agreements.

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ANNEX 4.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

For the purpose of this Strategy, the below terms will require definition:

1. Defense kill
2. Denning habitat
3. Family group
4. Guaranteed Harvest Level
5. Harvest
6. Quota
7. Subpopulation
8. Subpopulation size
9. Target Population Size
10. Total Allowable Harvest

Defense kill

Occurs when a polar bear that has come into contact with humans, their property, or both, and is killed to preserve the life of one or more persons, or when public safety or property are at stake. Bears killed in defense of life or property are counted towards Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for a jurisdiction. In Manitoba, where there is no TAH, defense kills are considered in the models related to TAH and defense kills for Nunavut (given that the Western Hudson subpopulation is shared between Manitoba and Nunavut).

Denning habitat

Habitat throughout the circumpolar Arctic where female polar bears dig maternity dens within which their cubs are birthed. Dens are dug into snowdrifts either on sea ice or land. In the southern portions of the range they may be dug into frozen peat. Females often show fidelity to general areas, but not specific den sites.

Family group

Generally, a group of polar bears that consists of a mother with a cub/cubs of the year, a mother with a yearling/yearlings, or a mother with a two-year old/olds. Generally a cub-of-the-year is a young polar bear less than one year of age and still with its mother; A yearling cub is a young polar bear that is older than one year of age but less than two years of age and still with its mother; and a two-year-old cub is a young polar bear that is older than two years of age but less than three years of age and still with its mother. However, in NWT the definition of a cub depends on the size of the hide.

Guaranteed Harvest Level

As set out in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975), it is the minimum number of individuals of polar bear that are to be allocated for exclusive use of the First Nations Peoples and Inuit, based upon harvest levels by the First Nations Peoples and Inuit from 1973 to 1980.

Harvest

To take or kill a polar bear. Any harvested bear is included in the Total Allowable Harvest for a given subpopulation/jurisdiction and is therefore counted towards the annual total number of kills.

Quota

The maximum number of polar bear that can be legally killed on an annual basis, based on population estimates, subpopulation boundary definitions, and sound management decisions. Quotas are allocated to communities within jurisdictions.

Subpopulation

A subpopulation is typically defined as the number of polar bear within a geographic region delineated based on the best available scientific and Traditional Knowledge related to the movements and genetics of polar bear, as well as management considerations.

Subpopulation size

The estimated number of polar bear residing within a defined area, and considering both scientific data and Traditional Knowledge.

Target Population Size

Population levels that enable polar bear to be sustained across their range providing as much ecological and socio-cultural benefits as possible while minimizing human-bear conflicts.

Total Allowable Harvest

The amount/number of wildlife that can be lawfully harvested from a population or stock within a set period of time (e.g. a hunting season). Synonymous with harvest quota.

Appendix 1. The Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears

THE GOVERNMENTS of Canada, Denmark, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America,

RECOGNIZING the special responsibilities and special interests of the States of the Arctic Region in relation to the protection of the fauna and flora of the Arctic Region;

RECOGNIZING that the polar bear is a significant resource of the Arctic Region which requires additional protection;

HAVING DECIDED that such protection should be achieved through coordinated nation measures taken by the States of the Arctic Region;

DESIRING to take immediate action to bring further conservation and management measures into effect;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

1. The taking of polar bears shall be prohibited except as provided in Article III.

2. For the purpose of this Agreement, the term "taking" includes hunting, killing and capturing.

ARTICLE II

Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate action to protect the ecosystems of which polar bears are a part, with special attention to habitat components such as denning and feeding sites and migration patterns, and shall manage polar bear populations in accordance with sound conservation practices based on the best available scientific data.

ARTICLE III

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles II and IV, any Contracting Party may allow the taking of polar bears when such taking is carried out:

(a) for bona fide scientific purposes; or
(b) by that Party for conservation purposes; or
(c) to prevent serious disturbance of the management of other living resources, subject to forfeiture to that Party of the skins and other items of value resulting from such taking; or
(d) by local people using traditional methods in the exercise of their traditional rights and in accordance with the laws of that Party; or
(e) wherever polar bears have or might have been subject to taking by traditional means by its nationals.

2. The skins and other items of value resulting from taking under subparagraphs (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be available for commercial purposes.

ARTICLE IV

The use of aircraft and large motorized vessels for the purpose of taking polar bears shall be prohibited, except where the application of such prohibition would be inconsistent with domestic laws.

ARTICLE V

A Contracting Party shall prohibit the exportation from, the importation and delivery into, and traffic within, its territory of polar bears or any part or product thereof taken in violation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI

1. Each contracting Party shall enact and enforce such legislation and other measures as may be necessary for the purpose of giving effect to this Agreement.

2. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent a Contracting Party from maintaining or amending existing legislation or other measures or establishing new measures on the taking of polar bears so as to provide more stringent controls that those required under the provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII

The Contracting Parties shall conduct national research programmes on polar bears, particularly research relating to the conservation and management of the species. They shall as appropriate coordinate such research with the research carried out by other Parties, consult with other Parties on the management of migrating polar bear populations, and exchange information on research and management programmes, research results and data on bears taken.

ARTICLE VIII

Each Contracting Party shall take actions as appropriate to promote compliance with the provisions of this Agreement by nationals of States not party to this Agreement.

ARTICLE IX

The Contracting Parties shall continue to consult with one another with the object of giving further protection to polar bears.

ARTICLE X

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature at Oslo by the Governments of Canada,

Denmark, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America until 31st March 1974.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification or approval by the signatory Governments. Instruments of ratification or approval shall be deposited with the Government of Norway as soon as possible.

3. This Agreement shall be open for accession by the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Depository Government.

4. This Agreement shall enter into force ninety days after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification, approval or accession. Thereafter, it shall enter into force for a signatory or acceding Government on the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, approval or accession.

5. This Agreement shall remain in force initially for a period of five years from its date of entry into force, and unless any Contracting Party during that period requests the termination of the Agreement at the end of that period, it shall continue in force thereafter.

6. On the request addressed to the Depository Government by any of the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, consultations shall be conducted with a view to convening a meeting of representatives of the five Governments to consider the revision or amendment of this Agreement.

7. Any Party may denounce this Agreement by written notification to the Depository Government at any time after five years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement. The denunciation shall take effect twelve months after the Depository Government has received this notification.

8. The Depository Government shall notify the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article of the deposit of instruments of ratification, approval or accession, for the entry into force of this Agreement and of the receipt of notifications of denunciation and any other communications from a Contracting Party specially provided for in this Agreement.

9. The original of this Agreement shall be deposited with the Government of Norway which shall deliver certified copies thereof to each of the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

10. The Depository Government shall transmit certified copies of this Agreement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration and publication in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(**Supplementary Note, not part of the Agreement**: The Agreement came into effect in May 1976, three months after the third nation required to ratify did so in February 1976. All five nations ratified by 1978. After the initial period of five years, all five Contracting Parties met in Oslo, Norway, in January 1981, and unanimously reaffirmed the continuation of the Agreement.)

Appendix 2. Canada's letter of interpretation

CANADA
Treaty Series 1976 No. 24 p. 10

CONSERVATION

Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears
Done at Oslo, November 15, 1973.

Canada's Instrument of Ratification deposited December 14, 1974.

Entered into force, May 26, 1976.

In depositing this Instrument of Ratification, the Government of Canada declared as follows:

The Government of Canada interprets the phrase "scientific purposes" in Article III, paragraph 1(a) as including scientific "research" and scientific "management" and considers that the term "taking" in Article III, paragraph 1, includes the capturing and killing of polar bears by use of various means including "aircraft and large motorized vessels" in order to meet the requirements of Article VII, despite the general prohibition of such means contained in Article IV.

2. As regards the hunting rights of local people, protected under Article III, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (d) and (e), Canadian practice is based on the following considerations:

> (a) Research data, compiled annually by the Federal-Provincial Polar Bear Technical Committee, indicate that there is, in Canada, a harvestable quantity of polar bears. On the basis of these biological data the Committee recommends annual management quotas for each management unit.
>
> (b) The polar bear hunt in Canada is an important traditional right and cultural element of the Inuit (Eskimo) and Indian peoples. In certain cases this hunt may extend some distance seaward. Traditional methods are followed in this hunt.
>
> (c) In the exercise of these traditional polar bear hunting rights, and based on the clause "in accordance with the laws of that Party", the local people in a settlement may authorize the selling of a polar bear permit from the management unit quota to a non-Inuit or non-Indian hunter, but with additional restrictions providing that the hunt be conducted under the guidance of a native hunter and by using a dog team and be conducted within Canadian jurisdiction.

The Government of Canada therefore interprets Article III, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) as permitting a token sports hunt based on scientifically sound settlement quotas as an exercise of the traditional rights of the local people.

3. The Government of Canada interprets the requirement to "consult" in Article VII as applying only when any other Party requests such consultation, not as imposing a requirement to hold consultations annually.

Appendix 3. Terms of Reference for the Polar Bear Administrative Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Federal-Provincial Administrative Committee for Polar Bear Research and Management in Canada

BACKGROUND

1.0 ESTABLISHMENT

The International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and Their Habitat was done at Oslo, November 15, 1973; ratified by Canada December 14, 1974 and entered into force May 26, 1976. Article VI of the Agreement states:

1. "Each contracting Party shall enact and enforce such legislation and other measures as may be necessary for the purpose of giving effect to this Agreement.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent a Contracting Party from maintaining or amending existing legislation or other measures or establishing new measures on the taking of polar bears so as to provide more stringent controls than those required under the provisions of this Agreement."

In Canada, the management authority for polar bears lies mainly with the Provinces and Territories although some aspects are also affected by other international agreements (e.g. CITES). Because international agreements are signed by the Government of Canada on behalf of all jurisdictions, it was necessary to have a mechanism through which all interests could be considered and represented by consensus. The Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC) was originally formed in 1969; original guidelines as to function and membership were fairly informal and little was written down..

Formation of the PBAC was probably an outcome of the formation of the IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) in 1968 to facilitate coordination of polar bear research and management internationally and to work toward the development of an international agreement on the conservation of polar bears. As noted above, this agreement was signed by the five polar bear countries (Canada, Denmark, Norway, United States, Soviet Union) in 1973 and came into effect in 1976.

The Federal-Provincial Technical Committee for Polar Bear Research and Management in Canada (hereafter referred to as the Technical Committee) was established in 1970 by the Federal-Provincial Administrative Committee for Polar Bear Research and Management in Canada (hereafter referred to as the Administrative Committee).

The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Technical and Administrative Committees for Polar Bear Research and Management (PBTC and PBAC respectively) meet

annually to discuss research results and to make management recommendations directly to the constituent jurisdictions as well as through the Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee.

The Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee (CWDC) is composed of the wildlife directors representing the 14 jurisdictions with responsibility for wildlife conservation in Canada. Its role is to provide leadership in the development and coordination of policies, strategies, programs and activities that address wildlife issues of national concern and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and to provide advice and support to appropriate Deputies' and Ministers' Councils on these matters.

The CWDC works as a collegial partnership of the jurisdictions and with stakeholders to affect wildlife conservation on the landscape. Working within the CWDC (1) facilitates a harmonized approach to national programs affecting wildlife, (2) provides a forum for development of national policy frameworks, (3) facilitates development of national strategies affecting wildlife, (4) and promotes co-operative management and information sharing among wildlife agencies in Canada.

1.1 Original Guidelines for the Administrative Committee

There were no formal terms of reference for the functions of or membership in the Administrative Committee at the time of inception. Reviews of past minutes of the meetings of Administrative Committee and of published references to this committee suggest that original guidelines were informal and not well documented. The Administrative Committee was broadly directed to:

- to facilitate coordination of polar bear research and management internationally;
- to make coordinated decisions on the management of polar bears in Canada;

The original members were the Wildlife Directors from the Provinces and Territories that had management authority for polar bears. Currently, three territories (Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon Territory), four provinces (Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Québec), as well as the Government of Canada are members of the PBAC. More recently, membership has expanded to include representatives from six co-management boards/resource user groups (Inuvialuit Game Council; Labrador Inuit Association; Makivik Corporation; Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; Nunavut Wildlife Management Board; Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)).

1.2 Development of Terms of Reference

Recently, members of the Technical and Administrative committees have questioned the role and authority of the committees. As a consequence, the issue of adopting formal terms of reference to clarify the functions of, and membership in, the committees was brought before the CWDC.

Therefore, the CWDC has asked that formal *Terms of Reference* be developed for the both the Technical and Administrative Committee, to clarify for all affected jurisdictions the forums and process for management of polar bears in Canada.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Administrative Committee is to:

- provide a forum for provincial, territorial and federal jurisdictions to work together to manage polar bears in Canada,
- ensure that Canada fulfills its obligations as a party to The International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and Their Habitat, as well as any other agreement involving polar bears.

2.0 FUNCTIONS

The Administrative Committee will meet annually to review Technical Committee recommendations and help facilitate close coordination among all Canadian jurisdictions that have polar bears, as well as Alaska and Greenland, in support of Canada's national and international conservation responsibilities under *The International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and Their Habitat*.

The Administrative Committee will discharge these functions by:

1) Referring all research needed to conserve polar bears and their habitat in Canada to the Technical Committee;

2) Evaluating the recommendations of the Technical Committee, and, when necessary making recommendations to the Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee;

3) Responding to requests for information from jurisdictions, boards, agencies and the CWDC;

4) Referring all national policy issues to the CWDC; and,

5) Periodically reviewing the *Terms of Reference* and revising them as necessary or as instructed by the CWDC.

Meetings of the Administrative Committee are not open forums for public participation, lobbying by special interest groups, debate of policy issues, or any other agenda not related to the specific functions of the Administrative Committee. Any jurisdiction, group or individual

wishing to raise issues beyond the scope of the Administrative Committee is directed to the CWDC.

3.0 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

3.1 Membership

In compliance with the intent of the Administrative Committee and in order to comply with both the purpose and functions of the Administrative Committee, members represent jurisdictions, boards or agencies that have legal responsibility for polar bear management in Canada.

3.1.1 *Members*

The Administrative Committee shall consist of one [or designate] representative from each of the Provinces and Territories that have the management authority for polar bears (Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, and Yukon); the Canadian Wildlife Service; Parks Canada Agency; and co-management committees or boards that share legal responsibility for polar bears on behalf of aboriginal people. Currently, these include the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Labrador Inuit Association, Makivik Corporation, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

3.1.2 *Invited Guests*

Individuals who have expertise in some aspect of polar bear management or would otherwise inform members on an agenda item, may attend and participate in a given Administrative Committee meeting upon the suggestion of a Member and subsequent invitation by the Chair, in order to provide benefit to the Committee by such participation. Members suggesting the names of potential guests are encouraged to provide contact details and rationale far enough in advance of a scheduled meeting to allow for sufficient time to consult with all members if necessary and extend the invitation.

The Administrative Committee reserves the right to prohibit the attendance of anyone not formally invited by the Chair, after consultation with the members. The CWDC may request permission for a person of their choosing to attend the Administrative Committee meeting.

3.1.3 *Observers*

A limited number of observers may attend an Administrative Committee meeting upon the suggestion of a Member and subsequent invitation by the Chair. Observers cannot actively participate in the meeting unless given permission to do so by the Administrative Committee. Members suggesting the names of potential observers are encouraged to provide contact details and rationale far

enough in advance of a scheduled meeting to allow for sufficient time to consider and extend the invitation. As the Committee has no budget, attendance by all parties is at their own expense or that of the member who invited them.

The Member suggesting an observer, and the Chair extending the invitation, must explain to the observer the intent of the Administrative Committee, and the purpose and functions of the Administrative Committee. In particular, the observer must be made aware that should they wish to make a presentation or question anything to do with the way in which polar bears are managed in Canada that they would normally be expected to do so through their jurisdictional member of the Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee reserves the right to prohibit the attendance of any observer not formally invited by the Chair, in order to facilitate the business of the committee.

3.2 Tenure of Membership

Providing they continue to represent the authority of their jurisdiction, co-management board or committee, there shall be no restriction on the length of tenure of Administrative Committee members.

3.3 Vacancy of Office

Should a Administrative Committee member identified in *Section 3.1.1* resign or cease to be a member for any other reason, the affected agency should notify the current Chair as soon as they have filled the vacancy.

3.4 Chair

The Administrative Committee shall have one (1) Chair who is elected or re-elected by the Administrative Committee from among the members present at the end of each meeting. Duties of the Chair include: chairing the following annual meeting; overseeing such business as needs to be acted upon during the year between meetings; attending the annual meeting of the CWDC to report on the work of the Administrative Committee and oversee planning for and agenda of the next annual meeting. The term of appointment shall be from the beginning [or end?] of one annual meeting until the beginning [or end?] of the next annual meeting.

Although it is desirable that the Chair rotates among Administrative Committee members, there shall be no limits with respect to length of tenure.

3.5 Secretary

The Administrative Committee shall have one (1) Secretary who is selected by the Administrative Committee from among the members present. Selection shall occur at

the beginning [or end?] of the Administrative Committee's annual meeting. The term of appointment shall be from the beginning [or end?] of one annual meeting until the beginning[or end] of the next annual meeting.

Although it is desirable that the Secretary rotates among Administrative Committee members, there shall be no limits with respect to length of tenure. Should a Secretary not be chosen, the Chair will directly appoint an individual to act for that meeting and through the coming year.

4.0 MEETINGS

4.1 Annual Meetings

The Administrative Committee shall meet once each year at a time and location normally chosen to coincide with the spring meeting of the CWDC. The time and location of the next meeting should be made known to the members as far in advance as possible.

4.1.1 *Confidentiality and Minutes of the Meeting*

No information presented or issues discussed at Administrative Committee meetings shall be considered confidential unless agreed to in advance by the Administrative Committee membership. A summary of all information and discussion may appear in the minutes, excluding any agreed-upon confidential matters.

4.1.2 *Technical or Traditional Knowledge Opinion and Support of the Administrative Committee*

Should a member wish to request the formal support or rendering of an opinion by the Administrative Committee that requires extensive review of new material, the member must circulate all necessary information to all Administrative Committee members at least one month in advance of the annual meeting to allow sufficient time for a detailed review by each member. If this requirement is met, the Administrative Committee will be expected to address the request during the annual meeting, within the limits of the capabilities of the members. If necessary, and agreed upon by the members, an administrative, technical or traditional knowledge expert may also be asked to provide review of a document and present his or her findings to the Administrative Committee.

Formal support for issues that do not require extensive review of background material shall be addressed at the meeting.

4.1.3 *Assumption of Support of the Administrative Committee*

Excluding the provisions of *Section 4.1.2*, no member shall promote, suggest, or assume formal Administrative Committee support of any issue discussed or presented at the annual meeting or appearing in the minutes of the meeting.

4.1.1 Formal Voting Process

The intent of the Administrative Committee is to operate by consensus because of the desire that all members work co-operatively for the conservation of polar bears. Therefore, no formal voting will be done. Unresolved issues will be referred to the CWDC for resolution. Should the CWDC not be able to arrive at a consensus, or the gravity of the issue warrant, such an issue may be forwarded to the Deputies' or Ministers' Councils for resolution.

4.2 Other Administrative Committee Business

Administrative Committee business that arises after the annual meeting shall be discussed and addressed by electronic mail, fax, phone, or regular mail.

5.0 RECORD KEEPING

5.1 Agenda

The Chair and Secretary shall prepare a meeting agenda and circulate a copy to all members well in advance of the annual meeting.

5.2 Minutes

The Secretary shall prepare draft minutes of the annual meeting, distribute a copy to all attending members for review, and produce final minutes within two months of the annual meeting. Administrative Committee members are expected to facilitate the production of final minutes of the annual meeting by providing an electronic copy of reports or related material to the Secretary at the meeting and timely reviews of the draft minutes when they are circulated. The Secretary shall give a deadline for comments; after which a lack of response shall be interpreted as concurrence.

The Secretary shall ensure that final minutes are subsequently provided to all members of the Administrative Committee.

Minutes cannot be cited as a reference in publications or reports. If the information in question has not been published or is not in press, the person wishing to cite the

information should seek permission to cite it as a personal communication.

5.3 Membership List

The Secretary shall keep and make available an up-to-date contact list of all Administrative Committee members. The current list of members will be appended to the final minutes of each meeting.

6.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE *TERMS OF REFERENCE*

As per the functions (*Section 2.0*) of the Administrative Committee, the *Terms of Reference* will be reviewed and revised as necessary. The Chair will forward proposed amendments to the Administrative Committee for review and possible approval at least one month before the next annual meeting.

Once approved by the Administrative Committee, the amended *Terms of Reference* will supersede all others.

Appendix 4. Terms of Reference for the Polar Bear Technical Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Technical Committee for Polar Bear Research and Management in Canada

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Technical Committee is to provide technical advice and recommendations to the Polar Bear Administrative Committee ("Administrative Committee"), as required, on:

- design, collaboration, and conduct of polar bear research in Canada,
- harvest and population trends,
- the need for management actions.

2.0 FUNCTIONS

The Technical Committee will meet annually to review research and traditional knowledge necessary to meet defined management needs and help facilitate close coordination of research activities among all Canadian jurisdictions that have polar bears, as well as Alaska and Greenland, in support of Canada's national and international conservation responsibilities under the international *Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and Their Habitat (1973)*.

The Technical Committee will discharge these functions by:

1) Identifying, conducting, collaborating and coordinating research needed to conserve polar bears and their habitat in Canada;

2) Sharing information on polar bear populations that occur wholly within or are shared by Canada;

3) Evaluating the results of this research, exchanging technical information and traditional knowledge, and making recommendations to the Administrative Committee;

4) Responding to requests for technical information and traditional knowledge from the Administrative Committee;

5) Evaluating impacts of management actions, including harvest, and make recommendations to the Administrative Committee or any member agency that requests advice;

6) Referring all policy issues to the Administrative Committee;

7) Periodically reviewing the *Terms of Reference* and revising them as necessary or as instructed by the Administrative Committee; and,

8) Preparing an annual status report on Canadian polar bear populations, including harvest, based on scientific information and traditional knowledge provided by member agencies.

3.0 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

3.1 Membership

To fulfill the purpose and functions of the Technical Committee, members will have recognized scientific or traditional knowledge of polar bear biology and habitat.

3.1.1 *Members*

The Technical Committee shall consist of one representative from each of the Provinces and Territories that have the management authority for polar bears (Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, and Yukon); Environment Canada; Parks Canada Agency; and management committees, councils or boards established by land claim agreements that have management authority for polar bears. As of February 2007, these include the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board, Makivik Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Members may designate an alternate to take their place when they are unable to attend a meeting. Members and alternates must be named by their respective agency.

3.1.2 *Ex-officio Members*

In addition to those members identified in *Section 3.1.1*, representatives from 1) agencies in the United States and Greenland/Denmark that have the management authority for polar bears from populations that are shared with Canadian jurisdictions and 2) other institutions (*e.g.*, universities) may be ex-officio members of the Technical Committee provided that these individuals are active polar bear specialists – subject to agreement by consensus of Committee members.

3.1.3 *Invited Specialists*

Individuals who have expertise in some aspect of polar bear biology may attend and participate in a given Technical Committee meeting upon the suggestion of a Member and subsequent invitation by the Chair, in order to provide benefit to the Committee by such participation. Examples include, but are not limited to, individuals who have expertise in areas such as mathematics, statistics, population modelling, genetics, contaminants, or traditional knowledge. Members suggesting the names of potential specialists must provide contact details and rationale far enough in advance of a scheduled meeting to allow for sufficient time to consult with all members if necessary and extend the invitation.

The Technical Committee reserves the right to prohibit the attendance of anyone not formally invited by the Chair, after consultation with the members. The Administrative Committee may request permission for a person(s) of their choosing to attend the Technical Committee meeting.

3.1.4 *Observers*

A limited number of observers may attend a Technical Committee meeting upon the suggestion of a Member and subsequent invitation by the Chair, provided there would be a recognized benefit to the conservation of polar bears achieved by their attendance. Observers cannot actively participate in the meeting unless given permission to do so by the Technical Committee. Members suggesting the names of potential observers must provide contact details and rationale far enough in advance of a scheduled meeting to allow for sufficient time to consider and extend the invitation. As the Committee has no budget, attendance by all parties is at their own expense or that of the member who invited them.

The Member suggesting an observer, and the Chair extending the invitation, must provide a copy of the Technical Committee Terms of Reference to the observer and explain the intent, purpose and functions of the Technical Committee. In particular, the observer must be made aware that should they wish to make a presentation or question anything to do with the way in which polar bears are managed in Canada that they would normally be expected to do so at the meetings of the Administrative Committee.

The Technical Committee reserves the right to prohibit the attendance of any observer not formally invited by the Chair, after consultation with the members

3.2 Tenure of Membership

Providing they continue to officially represent their jurisdiction, co-management board or committee, there shall be no restriction on the length of tenure of Technical Committee members.

3.3 Vacancy of Office

Should a Technical Committee member identified in *Section 3.1.1* resign or cease to be a member for any other reason, the affected agency should fill the vacancy according to the provisions of *Section 3.1* and notify the current Chair of the new representative.

3.4 Chair

The Technical Committee shall have one (1) Chair who is elected or re-elected by the Technical Committee from among the members present at the beginning of each meeting. Duties of the Chair include: chairing the annual meeting; overseeing such business as needs to be acted upon during the year between meetings; attending the annual meeting of the Administrative Committee to report on the work of the Technical Committee; be the Secretary to the Administrative Committee; and oversee planning for and agenda of the next annual meeting. The term of appointment shall be from the beginning of one annual meeting until the beginning of the next annual meeting.

Although it is desirable that the Chair rotates among Technical Committee members, there shall be no limits with respect to length of tenure.

3.5 Secretary

The Technical Committee shall have one (1) Secretary who is selected by the Technical Committee from among the members present. Selection shall occur at the beginning of the Technical Committee's annual meeting. The term of appointment shall be from the beginning of one annual meeting until the beginning of the next annual meeting.

Although it is desirable that the Secretary rotates among Technical Committee members, there shall be no limits with respect to length of tenure. Should a Secretary not be chosen, the Chair will directly appoint an individual to act for that meeting and through the coming year.

4.0 MEETINGS

4.1 Annual Meetings

The Technical Committee shall meet once each year at a time and location chosen by the members. As far as is possible, the time and location of the next meeting should be chosen at the end of the current meeting.

4.1.1 *Confidentiality and Minutes of the Meeting*

No information presented or issues discussed at Technical Committee meetings shall be considered confidential unless agreed to in advance by the Technical Committee membership. A summary of all information and discussion may appear in the minutes, excluding any agreed-upon confidential matters.

4.1.2 *Technical or Traditional Knowledge Opinion and Support of the Technical Committee*

Should a member wish to request the formal support or rendering of an opinion by the Technical Committee that requires extensive review of new material, the member must circulate all necessary information to all Technical Committee members at least one month in advance of the annual meeting to allow sufficient time for a detailed review by each member. If this requirement is met, the Technical Committee will be expected to address the request during the annual meeting, within the limits of the capabilities of the members. If necessary, and agreed upon by the members, a technical or traditional knowledge expert may also be asked to provide review of a document and present his or her findings to the Technical Committee.

Formal support for issues that do not require extensive review of background material may be addressed at the meeting, as the agenda permits.

4.1.3 *Assumption of Support of the Technical Committee*

Excluding the provisions of *Section 4.1.2*, no member shall promote, suggest, or assume formal Technical Committee support of any issue discussed or presented at the annual meeting or appearing in the minutes of the meeting.

4.1.4 *Consensus Process*

The intent of the Technical Committee is to operate in a consensus manner because of the desire that all members work co-operatively for the conservation of polar bears. Should consensus not be reached by the members defined in 3.1.1 on an issue, it shall be referred to the Administrative Committee along with the reasons why consensus could not be reached.

4.2 Other Technical Committee Business

Technical Committee business that arises after the annual meeting shall be discussed and addressed by electronic mail, fax, phone, or regular mail.

5.0 RECORD KEEPING

5.1 Agenda

The Chair and Secretary shall prepare a meeting agenda and circulate a copy to all members well in advance of the annual meeting.

5.2 Minutes

The Secretary shall prepare draft minutes of the annual meeting, distribute a copy to all attending members as defined in 3.1.1 for review, and produce final minutes within two months of the annual meeting. Technical Committee members, ex-officio members, invited guests or observers are expected to facilitate the production of final minutes of the annual meeting by providing an electronic copy of reports or related material to the Secretary at the meeting and timely reviews of the draft minutes when they are circulated. The Secretary shall give a deadline for comments; after which a lack of response shall be interpreted as concurrence.

The Secretary shall ensure that final minutes are subsequently provided to all members of the Administrative Committee.

Minutes cannot be cited as a reference in publications or reports. If the information in question has not been published or is not in press, the person wishing to cite the information should seek permission to cite it as a personal communication.

5.3 Membership List

The Secretary shall keep and make available an up-to-date contact list of all Technical Committee members. The current contact list of members will be appended to the final minutes of each meeting.

6.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE *TERMS OF REFERENCE*

As per the functions (*Section 2.0*) of the Technical Committee, the *Terms of Reference* will be reviewed and revised as necessary. The Chair will forward proposed amendments to the Administrative Committee for review and possible approval at least one month before the next annual meeting.

Once approved by the Administrative Committee, the amended *Terms of Reference* will supersede all others.

NTI Comments on the "Draft National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy for Canada"

Introduction

Nunavut Inuit have harvested polar bears for thousands of years. Today, polar bears are important to Inuit for at least three reasons: social/cultural, nutritional and economic. Of these reasons, the first priority to Inuit is social-cultural, the second is nutritional and the third is economic. The social-cultural significance of polar bears is mainly the opportunity to hunt the polar bear. Inuit are considered part of the environment, and as such are the one of the few predators that the polar bear has.

The strategy in current form is unacceptable. It focuses entirely on biological characteristics of polar bears and lacks major components identified by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement such as Conservation Principles and Social Objectives.

This strategy requires the government to "adequately consult" with Inuit in a meaningful way. NTI does not consider the current approach by either the Government of Nunavut or the Government of Canada as meaningful or adequate consultation. The following comments from NTI should not be considered as consultation with Inuit. It will be necessary that the signatories to this strategy respond to the comments and concerns of both NTI and the RWOs as part of the consultation process.

The Strategy also minimizes the adaptive co management process. In several sections, the strategy lacks previous knowledge and context such that major considerations relevant to polar bear conservation and management in Nunavut have been ignored. For example, the significance of the polar bear population in Nunavut, the management system in place in Nunavut and how it has evolved through the cooperation of Inuit from the 1960's to present day is not identified. This poses a major concern because of the remote locations of the communities and the high compliance by Inuit to regulations put in place by government. Recognizing the characteristics of the harvest is critical to any national polar bear conservation strategy.

Any reference to Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, Co-Management Boards or Adequate Consultation seems to be at the back of sections or just put in the document in a token fashion.

The tone, structure and approach of the document also present a number of concerns. A balanced perspective is needed to reach consensus and to achieve objectives between the different jurisdictions especially when developing a coordinated framework of management and research. The land claims process has advanced management by acknowledging the role of Inuit as part of the solution rather than the problem. Instead this document regresses these achievements by presenting a perspective that biological information is the single most important feature of the conservation strategy for polar bears.

As such, this document should try to avoid the status designations used by the Polar Bear Technical Committee to classify polar bear sub-populations as either: Stable, Increasing or Decreasing. The use of these designations in mass media without proper context has led to confusion and misunderstanding especially in Inuit communities. It has become a sensitive issue that has caused mistrust and anger in

the communities. It has also caused division and strained the working relationship and trust between communities and researchers. If this Strategy is to be successful there has to be an improvement on how the situation is portrayed and explained to the media. An example is that Davis Strait is portrayed as a "Declining Population" despite that all of the experts agree that the population has increased significantly from 800 to 1000 animals to about 2300 animals over the past few decades.

This also includes taking notice of global environmental change that includes climate change as well as other global processes including biodiversity loss and social and economic change. However, the focus has been exclusively on climate change and the impact on polar bears in a small area has been repeatedly portrayed as catastrophic. The result is that there is a perception that there are only a few polar bears left in the Arctic and those that remain are in danger of drowning or starving. There is little or no awareness by the general public of the management system in place or the role that hunters have in an ecosystem. Therefore, this strategy does not account for the complexity of the social ecological system between hunters and their ecosystem. For example, hunters have been managing for resilience, maintaining natural variation and capacity of the population to absorb disturbance through current regulations such as the flexible quota system. We recognize that the specific management regulations are different between jurisdictions but this should not preclude its relevance in a national document in which the majority of the polar bear populations occur in Nunavut.

This document should also address information at different scales, including user, local and traditional ecological knowledge. The development and support for a Traditional Knowledge committee or framework for consultation and involvement by stakeholders is important and should be more prominent in the Strategy.

Summary

1. In the summary as well as throughout the document, the term "threats" is used. Would it be better to use the term "impacts"? The use of the word "threats" is confrontational, whether you are talking to Industry, Shipping companies, Hunters or Tourism Operators – they will automatically be on the defensive if you characterize them as a threat to Polar Bears.

Background

1. There should be reference to specific Land Claim Agreements and Constitutional obligations.
2. Public Safety is not mentioned, shouldn't there be reference to what will be required if Polar Bears are impacting or threatening human safety?

Status and Conservation in Canada

There needs to be a bit more text and historical perspective on the evolving mechanism to review and list species. This is important in the sense of how listing was done, management actions taken at the time – especially as it relates to Inuit in pre-1999 NWT and post-1999 Nunavut.

1. Not at Risk - COSEWIC 1986
2. Special Concern – 1991

3. Special Concern – confirmed 1999, 2202 and 2008
4. Special Concern under SARA – consultations are underway

Objectives

1. Best Practice standards are an issue
2. Why the continued reference to sub-populations?
3. Explanation of 4.2 – what are threats? For example are there more impacts and damage to bears from research than there is from ship traffic?

Threats to Polar Bear Conservation (Impacts/Influences on Polar Bear Conservation))

1. Climate Change - changing habitat – how do we identify the carrying capacity of an area?
2. Separation from terrestrial denning areas? What is the meaning of this statement?
3. Resource Industry activities
4. Shipping – need to identify the impact and routes of cruise ships
5. Inappropriate harvest level –This implies that harvesting is a threat. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement envisions a management system that complements Inuit harvesting rights.
    a. NLCA Principles 5.1.2 (e) there is a need for an effective system of wildlife management that compliments Inuit harvesting rights and priorities, and recognizes Inuit systems of management that contribute to the conservation of wildlife and protection of wildlife habitat.
    b. NLCA Principles 5.1.2 (h) there is a need for an effective role for Inuit in all aspects of wildlife management; including research;
    c. NLCA Objectives 5.1.3 (b) the creation of a wildlife management system that (ii) fully acknowledges and reflects the primary role of Inuit in wildlife harvesting,
    This is a fundamental concern – we are at a point in time where Aboriginal harvesting rights in Provinces to the south have been compromised and traditions lost, we do not want this to happen in Nunavut.
6. Human Bear conflicts – the need for a properly funded Polar Bear alert, awareness and prevention is required. Compensation for damage to property.
7. Add a section as 5.7

Intrusive Scientific Research: Immobilization, tagging and collaring of polar bears has the potential for direct mortality and disturbance, including disruption to family groups and disturbance of bears in dens. Environmental change will likely require more research on polar bears and this will increase the disturbance and mortality of polar bears. Until current research methods are changed to be less intrusive, research is a threat to polar bear conservation.

Challenges to Polar Bear Conservation

1. **6.2 Difficulty in obtaining information** - the coordination of information and how it is used needs to be reviewed. When media is used to twist the information and interviews occur.

2. **Habitat Conservation** – the reference to Western Hudson Bay, where there is a major disagreement between researchers and Inuit is not a good example to use.
3. **Interaction of threats** – the concept of sustainable harvest no longer applies?
4. **Overpopulation -** Should there be a reference to overpopulation like Davis Strait where the population is now in decline**,** how is the role of Inuit/harvesters in the eco-system recognized?.
5. **Allocation of Harvest –** identification of issues and how to approach them?

Guiding Principles

1. Why are we managing polar bears? What is the main purpose? Is it to provide for a sustainable harvest or is it to ensure the tourism industry survives? There is a need to identify the need to recognize the importance of continuous harvesting of polar bears by Inuit, there should be no moratoriums on harvesting, but harvesting should be allowed at reduced rates to ensure the continuity of harvesting practices for the protection of the Inuit culture. The Rio declaration on Environment and development proclaims that: Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. It is clear that we need to broaden management goals to include livelihood and equity objectives, in addition to biological and economic objectives in order to achieve any conservation strategy objectives.
2. 7.2 - do we want bears managed at the sub-population level? If so, is it done in relation to other sub-populations and recognized that these are not **closed** populations?
3. Need more info on how to incorporate traditional knowledge and link it with Consultation and involvement in research as per NLCA section 5.1.2 (h)
4. 7.4 – Lack of certainty does not give discretion to infringe on Inuit harvesting rights as per NLCA 5.3.3.

    a. *7.4* Where there are threats of serious or irreparable damage to polar bear populations within subpopulations, lack of certainty will not be a reason for postponing reasonable or precautionary conservation measures.

    b. *5.3.3 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement states: Decisions of the NWMB or a Minister made in relation to Part 6 shall restrict or limit Inuit harvesting only to the extent necessary: (a)to effect a valid conservation purpose; (b) to give effect to the allocation system outlined in this Article, to other provisions of this Article and to Article 40; or (c) to provide for public health or public safety*

5. 7.6 and 7.8 should be higher in the list and more detail to specific constitutional obligations needs to be identified. 7.6 states: "Harvesting of polar bears is a vital cultural activity for many northern Aboriginal peoples. Ensuring that the harvest of polar bears continues in a coordinated and sustainable manner is an integral component of the collective Canadian management system" there should be clarity that there is a need to identify and recognize the importance of continuous harvesting of polar bears by Inuit, there should be no moratoriums on harvesting,

but harvesting should be allowed at reduced rates to ensure the continuity of harvesting practices.

6. Add a section on Scientific Research as 7.10 - Scientific research on polar bears will recognize the effects of immobilizing, tagging and collaring polar bears. All research on polar bears will be conducted in a manner that will reduce the effects on polar bears and whenever research will be done, it is done as unobtrusively as possible.

Framework

1. PBAC and the role with other interests than just PBTC need to be identified. All Government jurisdictions should be aware of the importance of including stakeholders. An example of this is the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge sub-committee under the Species at Risk Act.
2. Shared populations – more info on this - Reference to the Inuvialuit and west Kitikmeot User to User Agreement.
3. Sub-populations and the continued reference to it need to be broadened. Related areas or larger Designated Units need to be recognized as per the discussions at the June 2010 Winnipeg meeting. Larger areas that also have overlap or grey areas and influences need to be considered. The impact on one area as it relates to others needs to be recognized. Working in isolation allows for too much bias and leads to further misrepresentation of the situation. If the document is going to use examples, then reference should be made to the sudden decline in M'Clintock Channel and all of a sudden there was a sudden increase for Gulf of Boothia. These are not closed populations.
4. It should be noted that Polar Bear Technical Committee and the Polar Bear Specialist Group are an exclusive membership that received little attention and guidance by authorities until Polar Bears came onto the international scene. All bodies need some forms of checks and balances and the decisions underlying these groups have been directed by polar bear biologists with little regard to other sources of knowledge. Although Inuit organizations are often invited, they are often perceived as tokens. This can be seen by the discussions on membership for PBTC when discussing the terms of reference for PBTC (please see PBTC minutes …)
5. **The monitoring provisions and timelines as per 8.4 needs to have broader discussion and should include input from other stakeholders than just the PBAC and PBTC.**
6. The discussion on 8.6 needs to be more prominent and the concerns about scientific methods and the impacts need to be under more scrutiny than the current situation.
7. Two areas review to monitoring (8.4 and 8.7) – there needs to be a move towards more involvement of Inuit in all aspects of research and management as per NLCA 5.1.2 (h) and move away from excessive drugging and handling of bears.

Implementation

1. The statement of 9.1 raises a point that should be recognized. Inuit Circumpolar Council has been very effective at raising awareness about Climate Change. Inuit are now concerned that harvesting by Inuit is now portrayed negatively nationally and internationally is a result of the

PBTC and PBSG status designations and misunderstanding generated through polar bear biologists predicting that polar bear populations will become extirpated. It compromises the relationship between Inuit and scientists and ultimately conservation.

2. The development of annexes by PBTC and PBAC exclusively is of concern. If other stakeholders are not involved or able to develop or comment on workplans, review of the strategy including annexes then the implementation of conservation actions becomes problematic.
3. The list of Annexes should also include Intrusive Research techniques and the development and oversight of an ethics committee that would monitor how research is done, where funding sources come from, what are the management objectives of the research, and are researchers involving and working with the impacted communities.

Signatories

1. There is no signature block for NTI, was this an oversight or an issue?