

Thank you,

J. Qillaq
James Qillaq, Chair
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.



Ben Kovic, Chair
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Sent by email to: jakearok@nwmb.com

April 2, 2015

Re: Request to Cancel Foxe Basin Walrus Public Hearing

Hello Ben,

On March 31, 2015, QWB participated in a call to discuss the upcoming Foxe Basin Walrus Public Hearing. This call was initiated by DFO and included your staff and staff from NTI. On this call DFO stated that its science division found some new information related to Foxe Basin Walrus. As the department has not had an opportunity to analysis this new information, they requested that the upcoming hearing be adjourn, allowing DFO to determine whether this new information changes, confirms or strengthens its submission currently in front of NWMB.

QWB Executive met to discuss this matter on April 1st. QWB appreciates DFO's openness and its commitment to due diligence, ensuring its work is based on the best available information. QWB also believes DFO when it says it is unsure how this new information impacts their recommendation overall.

I would like to share with you a number of points raised from the QWB Executive call:

- 1) The Walrus Working Group (WWG) is a central vehicle of the IFMP process. It allows direct engagement with representatives from the impacted communities and various co management partners. QWB remains committed to the WWG.
- 2) While the work of WWG is necessary and foundational, equally necessary is direct consultation with the community on these issues;
- 3) The focus and energies of all co management partners should return to completing the IFMP. The IFMP process requires consultation with the impacted communities on the various aspects on the plan;
- 4) Any future discussion on a possible TAH should occur once an explicit conservation concern is raised. Any TAH request should be informed by proper and direct engagement on the issue with the WWG and the impacted communities. Part of this discussion will include surveys, research results (Inuit Qaujimajatuqanit and Scientific) and the TAH recommendation itself.