

## Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

5) It is QWB's opinion that the consultation process to date has been fragmented. Adequate time has not been provided to address the many diverse aspects of the IFMP and the proposed TAH. As QWB has stated in earlier letters and submissions, this limits any meaningful engagement that could inform the overall plan. What has occurred is that more contentious matters have become more of the focus versus the actual IFMP itself. This leaves communities frustrated and not fully informed of the work towards the IFMP.

The concluding recommendations of these points is this: QWB strongly urges NWMB to cancel the public hearing on Foxe Basin Walrus. As this hearing has already been postponed, QWB is of the opinion that an adjournment is more harmful than helpful for the impacted communities. QWB continues to maintain that a more ordered approach to consultation is necessary and will ensure impacted communities are informed, engaged and have a voice in the development of a Walrus Management Plan. It is only in doing this that co management partners can argue to the world that there is an efficient walrus management plan in place, one that is supported by the communities.

Thank you,

James Qillaq, Chair

QIkiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.

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## Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

April 2, 2015

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

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 commangement 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 Qaujimajatuganit and Scientific) and the TAH recommendation itself.