くっくトット すりっこと もつともつじゃい Hall Beach Hunters' and Trappers' Association

P.O. Box 14 ~ Hall Beach ~ Nunavut ~ X0A 0K0 Phone: (867) 928 - 8994 ~ Fax: (867) 928 - 8765

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Iqaluit, Nu X0A 0H0

August 2, 2013

Re: Foxe Basin Subpopulation Public Hearing Submission

Hall Beach Hunters' and Trappers' Association is requesting for an increase in Foxe Basin Polar Bear TAH from 7 tags to 15 tags.

In 2012-2013 harvest season, our community's Foxe Basin total allowable harvest (FB TAH) was reduced by 1 bear due to over harvest of 2 females. TAH was supposed to be 8 and with reduction, Hall Beach HTA received 7 (5 males & 2 females) and 1 QWB floating tag.

And as of December 2012 Hall Beach harvested 12 polar bears and over harvested 4 females, all 12 bears were identified as defence kilis. Of the 12, 2 were destroyed by RCMP officers as one kept returning and became a danger to the community and the other was killed when it attacked and bitten a resident. Than in February 2013; DOE officials arrived to discuss the situation of over harvesting under defense kills and informed during the meeting of possibilities of 0 TAH for the next three years.

Hall Beach HTA holds their annual public meeting of membership in October to allocate their polar bear tags for the season (fall, winter and spring allocation) and encourage the membership and residents to be vigilant to stay within in the allocated tags and season. Once the tags are filled for the season, Hall Beach HTA with cooperation of bylaw officers, hired polar bear deterrent and locals tend to deter/scare off any polar bears that come near or roam in to town as Hall Beach does not have a conservation officer.

These polar bears that come near or roam in present an immense danger to community, residents, property and caches as some do destroy/damage property and some just go for the meat caches that were harvested during the summer for winter usage. Hall Beach HTA and it's membership try and exhaust every option to deter the polar bears even hiring locals as polar bear monitors to deter for public safety which again, provide them with fuel, ammunition including the by-law officers. Once all options are exhausted, the decision to destroy are never taken likely as everyone knows, it will be a reduction for up-coming season. This is why it's always mentioned by our locals that polar bears are more protected than our membership safety as there will be automatic reduction.

Igloolik and Hall Beach are well known for their fermented walrus meat (igunaq) and it the last ten years, more and more harvesters have been caching their meat near the community due to increased polar bears just so they can protect their cache. These caches support their family, provided/made available for community feast or special occasions and including selling them for income to support their harvesting. Once this fails, a harvester has no choice but to defend his property and meat which results in

destroying the polar bear and last season was the worst as all our allocated tags were utilized under defense kill and went over the TAH.

Foxe Basin Population was recently surveyed and was classified as healthy population Hunter's are seeing more and more polar bears in Hall Beach area and surrounding areas, they know polar bear population has increased a lot therefore Members of the HTA would like the TAH to be increase as 7 tags per year is now inefficient for the community, hunter's are showing more and more interest in harvesting polar bears.

If you have any questions or concerns please call our office during working hours @ 867-928-8994 or email us @ hbhta@qiniq.com.

Thank you,

Peter Siakuluk Vice Chairman

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Hall Beach HTA

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