



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

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Sarnia (Ontario)  
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APR 01 2015

Mr. Ben Kovic  
Chairperson, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Kovic:

**Re: Postponement of the Public Hearing to Establish a Total Allowable Harvest level for Foxe Basin walrus**

On March 31, 2015, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) representatives held a conference call with Nunavut co-management organizations to discuss new information that was identified by DFO Science that may influence the sustainable harvest levels recommended by DFO for Foxe Basin walrus. DFO is committed to making its decisions and recommendations based on the best available information, and as such, we are requesting a postponement of the Public Hearing scheduled April 15-16, 2015, which would have considered the establishment of a TAH for Foxe Basin walrus. DFO requires the necessary time to fully evaluate this new information.

This evaluation will commence immediately, with the goal of having an analysis completed by the fall of 2015. Depending on the outcome of this analysis, review by the National Marine Mammal Peer Review Committee will be undertaken in October 2015. DFO is committed to informing the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) of the outcome at the earliest opportunity.

DFO will continue to work with co-management organizations through the Walrus Working Group to ensure all parties are informed of future developments related to the re-analysis and to seek recommendations on the process. DFO regional staff will be contacting members of the Working Group shortly to discuss the next steps.

If you require further information or clarification on the information contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Burden  
Regional Director General  
Central & Arctic Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

CC:

Jason Akearok, Chief Executive Officer, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Paul Irmgaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
James Qillaq, Chairperson, Qikaqtaaluk Wildlife Board  
Devin Imrie, Director of Fisheries and Sealing, Government of Nunavut  
David Aqqiaruq, Chairperson, Igloodik Hunters & Trappers Organization  
Manasie Naullaq, Chairperson- Hall Beach Hunters & Trappers Organization, Co-Chairperson, Walrus Working Group  
Scott Gilbert, Regional Director, DFO Fisheries Management  
Larry Dow, Director Northern Operations, DFO  
Michelle Wheatley, Regional Director, DFO Science  
Rob Young, Division Manager, DFO Science  
Stefan Romberg, DFO Resource Management