



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Nunavut Polar Bear Management Plan

Background:

- Nunavut's current management regime for polar bears is guided by a series of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that were developed in 2004 and signed by all HTOs and RWOs.
- The system of MOUs was inherited from NWT and although the most recent MOU was developed since the inception of Nunavut certain portions do not reflect the requirements of the NLCA.
- The MOUs have a seven year review clause which passed in 2012. Although the MOUs are still functional, the Department of Environment (DoE) felt that the MOUs warranted more than a review.
- To address the changes that are required for the NLCA and to address community concerns about polar bear management, a broader approach was been identified.

Current Status

- The Department of Environment worked cooperatively with co-management partners to develop a draft polar bear management plan.
- In early 2013 a Working Group was formed with staff from NWMB, NTI, DOE and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three RWOs.
- The working group was tasked with identifying the best process to develop and consult on a new Polar Bear Management Plan for submission to the NWMB.
- The Working Group developed a draft management plan over 2013 and completed consultations with all Nunavut communities in early 2014.
- Community consultations consisted of representatives from the co-management partners travelling as a team to the regions and conducting two meetings per community, one with the HTO board and one a public meeting.
- The meeting discussions were recorded and used to revise the consultation draft to reflect community input.
- The next phase consisted of regional meetings which were an in depth review of the revised draft with participants from each HTO and the working group with the intent of finalising the draft through identification of outstanding concerns and discussion of potential resolutions.

- The regional meetings combined with community consultations provided enough input and direction to complete the final draft.
- The new management plan features many components of the old MOUs but will reflect changes in research methods and the implications of these changes, as well as include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit perspective in regards to management, research, and goals and objectives for managing polar bears.

Consultations:

- A full consultation summary has been provided in a separate document.
- Community consultations were conducted in all Nunavut communities from February to April 2014.
- Three regional meetings were conducted in June and July 2014.
- Additionally copies of the draft management plan were available online with public comment forms online as well.
- Hard copies of the draft and comment forms were also available at all Conservation Officer stations.
- The consultation summary provides an overview of each meeting as well as identifies key issues that have been addressed in the draft plan.
- Complete meeting notes are also available but consist of several hundred pages and have not been submitted.

Recommendation

DOE requests that the NWMB approve the attached Polar Bear Management Plan.