

Ikajutiit Hunter's and Trapper's Organization

This is the response from a letter dated September 30, 2016 regarding on NWB to consider modifications to total allowable harvest for Admiralty Inlet.

Up to present the current allowable harvest for Narwhal in Admiralty Inlet has been sufficient and well managed, but due to climate change affecting Admiralty Inlet, and the hunters increasing each year, this policy is in the opinion of the HTO and the members of the community has to be modified.

The current policy is the hunt or the harvest for "Summer" is July 20 to September 30 and for "Migratory" is April 1 to July 19 and October 1 to March 31, this is in the opinion of HTO be modified to this: the harvesting of Narwhal in Admiralty Inlet will open May 1 and ends September 30 4 months of hunt, HTO will manage and enforce the hunt should there be any hunters putting themselves in danger during Spring and Summer.

The current policy is conflicting the current changing weather and more hunters are in danger during spring hunt due to ice breaking up early than in the past and for Migratory hunts in Admiralty Inlet narwhals leave beginning of October, and also there are more hunters that have invested new boats so there are more hunters going for the hunt in the summer and the summer tags are used up in Admiralty Inlet, and the sea is not safe to travel due to more winds blowing than summer simply the season turning into fall. By modifying this policy to May 1 to September 30 each season, the community will not lose any tags during Spring and Summer hunt, also it is in the opinion of Ikajutiit Hunter's and Trapper's Organization any person who finds and dead narwhal carcass with a tusk waits 1 year or less and this takes too long when a hunter who finds one with no income ends up waiting for a tag while the price of tusk may or may not decrease, so Ikajutiit HTO requests that 10 tags will be used for dead Narwhal carcass' tusk from new allotted tags for Admiralty Inlet 389 tags and HTO will work very closely with the conservation officer to determine if the tusk comes from dead narwhal carcass and these two request be discussed and passed.

Narwhal Hunting in Nunavut

Arctic Bay



- o The Designated Officer will attach the Marine Mammal Tag to the tusk using a permanent attachment device (*MMR s. 24*).
- o The hunter will then bring the tusk (with complete Marine Mammal Tag and permanent attachment device) to HTO office.
- o The HTO will remove the return portion from the Marine Mammal Tag and record all the harvest information

Harvest Reporting

The reporting of harvest information is required (*MMR s. 17 and 24*)

- Narwhal without a tusk
 - o Marine Mammal Tag return portion is returned to HTO office and all harvest information is recorded by the HTO
- Narwhal with a tusk
 - o The hunter will bring tusk (with complete Marine Mammal Tag and permanent attachment device) to HTO office
 - o The HTO will remove return portion from Marine Mammal Tag and record all the harvest information
- Reporting of all non-hunt related narwhal harvests is required (*NLCA s. 5.7.43*), such as narwhal caught in fishing nets or humanely harvested due to ice entrapment

Exporting

Possession of untugged tusks is illegal (*MMR s. 14*).

A Marine Mammal Transportation Licence is required to transport your narwhal tusk out of Nunavut. The Marine Mammal Transportation Licence is free and available in the community from the local Conservation Officer or a Fishery Officer.

To export narwhal products or parts from Canada you require a CITES Export Permit. This permit can take several weeks to obtain. For more information you can contact the DFO CITES Management Authority at (888) 641-6464.

For a complete list of regulations or to answer any questions, please contact your local Conservation Officer or a Fishery Officer.

General Inquiries: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P.O. Box 358, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Ph: 867-979-8000

Canada

Canada

Narwhal Hunting in Nunavut – 2016/2017

Management Unit: Admiralty Inlet

Community: Arctic Bay

Community Harvest Limit:

Community	Season	Dates	Community Harvest Limit
Arctic Bay	Summer	July 20 to Sept. 30, 2016	84
	Migratory	April 1 to July 19, 2016 Oct. 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017	130

Marine Mammal Tags

A Marine Mammal Tag is required to hunt narwhal (male or female) (Marine Mammal Regulations (MMR) s. 5).

The Marine Mammal Tag provides for harvesting of one narwhal from the Management Unit during the harvest season identified on the Marine Mammal Tag.

Hunting can only occur in the Management Unit identified on the Marine Mammal Tag.

The Marine Mammal Tags will be distributed by the HTO, to its membership prior to the hunting season.

Narwhal Management Measures

When hunting narwhal, the following measures are in place:

- Hunters are required to have all necessary equipment on hand to retrieve a hunted narwhal (MMR s.9)
- Hunters shall not waste any edible part of a narwhal (MMR s.10(2))
- Hunters that kill or wound a narwhal shall make all reasonable efforts to retrieve it without delay, and shall not abandon or discard it (MMR s. 10(1))
- Hunters shall only kill a narwhal in a manner that is designed to kill it quickly (MMR s.8)
- A narwhal calf or an adult narwhal accompanied by a calf cannot be hunted (MMR s.18)

- Hunters are to use a firearm with the following restrictions (MMR s. 19):
 - o a rifle and bullets that are not full metal jacketed and produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds
 - o a shotgun and rifled slugs that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds
- Once the Community Harvest Limit has been reached, no further hunting is allowed unless authorized by the RWO, under the Tag Transfer Policy.
- The migratory season hunt will be closed when either of the following conditions is reached:
 - the Migratory Community Harvest Limit is reached (spring + fall = Migratory Community Harvest Limit) OR
 - the migratory season established by the HTO is over.
- The summer season hunt will be closed when either of the following conditions is reached:
 - the Summer Community Harvest Limit is reached OR
 - the summer season established by the HTO is over.
- Hunters are encouraged to respect local hunting rules as set by the HTO

When a Whale is Harvested

- Narwhal without a tusk
 - o Marine Mammal Tag is filled out by the hunter.
 - o Marine Mammal Tag is affixed to carcass by the hunter (MMR s. 24).
 - o Marine Mammal Tag return portion is returned by the hunter to the HTO office and all harvest information is recorded by the HTO.
- Narwhal with a tusk
 - o Marine Mammal Tag is filled out by the hunter, leaving tusk length blank.
 - o Tusk is removed from skull by the hunter¹
 - o Tusk and Marine Mammal Tag are brought to the Conservation, Fishery, or RCMP (Designated) Officer for tusk measurement. This is an important step toward eliminating tusk length irregularities which may prevent some tusks from being sold/traded.
 - o The Designated Officer will measure the tusk, record the tusk length on the Marine Mammal Tag and then sign the Marine Mammal Tag for certification.

¹ Harvesters wishing to have the tusk remain in the skull must have this reported on the Marine Mammal Tag Return portion and can eat reporting form. For example "tusk was measured while in the skull."

Ikajutit Hunters' and Trappers' Organization
Revised Rules on Narwhal By-Law on Section 3.3

1. A member is required to notify the HTO when going out narwhal hunting
2. The HTO Board of Directors and the members will establish the maximum number to tags a hunter can hold;
 - a. for hunting from the ice with Snowmobile and Qamutik, the member can hold no more than two (2) tags. After harvesting two (2) narwhal, the hunter shall return to the community to receive tags and may go narwhal hunting again.
 - b. for hunting during open water a member will hunt according to the size of the boat

Over 20 ft. boat - three (2) tags
20 to 16 ft boat- two (2) tags
15 and under- One (1) tag
3. For each narwhal landed the member must complete the harvest information and return it to the HTO Office within seven (7) days following the landing.
4. A member must also keep an accurate record of the number of Narwhal struck and lost and must provide that record to the HTO office within seven (7) days following each hunt, it will remain anonymous.
5. A member must ensure those that are edible parts are not wasted.
6. A member must on hand the equipment necessary to retrieve, handle and flense Narwhal, including;
 - a. A harpoon with a sufficient line and float.
 - b. A retrieval hook (Kiviyuqniuti) and line.
 - c. A rifle of 6.5 (264 cal.) or larger.
 - d. No hunt shall be with a rifle scope when the narwhal is close at hand
7. A member must only attempt to harvest Narwhal in a manner that can kill it quickly. A member will not attempt to harvest a Narwhal what is at a distance greater than his ability to retrieve it with equipment at hand.
8. The Board of Directors of the HTO may temporarily reduce or stop Narwhal hunting by member in order to ensure the following;
 - a. the safety of the members.
 - b. the effective Narwhal management and conservation.
9. The HTO may, pursuant to its by-laws, suspend the membership of, or impose a reasonable penalty on, any member who in the opinion of the Board of Directors has seriously or repeatedly contravened these hunting rules. A reasonable penalty may include;
 - a) one Narwhal Tag made available to the member;
 - b) withdrawal of any other tags license otherwise available to the member.
10. Studies and Filming

- a. During Studies, there shall be no hunter close to the studies and the local guides shall not hunt during guiding.
 - b. On floe edge when the members are on the floe edge the film crew are not to be on the floe edge.
11. The Board of Directors will appoint a member to make sure that the by-law is followed correctly.
12. If a member is a non resident of Arctic Bay shall come to the HTO office to be informed how many tags they can be given in order to hunt narwhal and if a member will be residing in Arctic Bay will have to wait six (6) months before considered a resident of Arctic Bay.
13. If the member is not going to put the meat (muktaaq) in the freezer is asked to cache (qingni) the meat where ever the member wants to cache.
14. No member shall hunt a narwhal when the hunter knows it's with a calf (ugiaq)
15. These rules and any subsequent amendments will come into effect only after having been;
 - a. adopted by majority of the members of the HTO at the General Public Meeting;
 - b. Broadcast on at least two (2) separate occasions over the local radio station and
 - c. posted publicly for a minimum of one (1) week.
16. The Board of Directors will appoint a member to the inexperienced hunters on proper Narwhal hunting techniques. The board of Directors will also appoint a member to explain proper method of catching Narwhal to the membership
17. No member shall put her/himself and others in any danger while hunting Narwhal.
18. No firearms shall be used to hunt Narwhal within the community and waters up to cemetery (Qakuqtannguat) and fuel tank farm (Nuvuaqjukuluk) for public safety reasons. However, harpoons with floaters are permitted inside the community waters and shooting a rifle is permitted if facing out the community.

Dated this 18th day of August 2015.



Signature of HTO chairperson (Jobie Attitah)



Signature of Board of Direct