

# **SUBMISSION TO THE**

# **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**



## **FOR**

**Information:**   X  

**Decision:**       

**Issue:** Establishment of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for Narwhal

## **Background:**

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans have made a commitment towards the establishment of Total Allowable Harvests (TAH) for narwhal as per the decision on the trial Community Based Management (CBM) system for narwhal.<sup>1</sup>

In January 2007, the NWMB requested that DFO provide recommendations on TAH for narwhal. At Regular Meeting No. 60 (May 30<sup>th</sup>-June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009), DFO provided TAH recommendations for narwhal and beluga based on summering stock aggregations<sup>2</sup>. Following the meeting, the NWMB requested further information pertaining to the reasons for managing narwhal by summering stock aggregations compared to populations (including conservation implications) and information pertaining to the differences between the terms 'population', 'stock' and 'sub-stock'. At Regular Meeting No. 64 (June 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2010), DFO provided a report based on the NWMB's requests<sup>3</sup>. No further direction has been provided to NWMB staff or the NWMB's co-management partners on how to proceed with the establishment of TAH for narwhal.

NWMB staff organized a meeting with DFO and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to discuss a way forward for the establishment of TAH for narwhal. The discussion led to a number of action items for each co-management partner, of which a number are currently being addressed (action items are listed in Appendix 1).

## **Recommendations:**

To facilitate progress towards addressing the establishment of TAH for narwhal, NWMB staff recommend the following:

1. The NWMB request DFO to provide a report of what the management system would entail (including any Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs), such as seasons and boundaries) for the proposed DFO approach of managing narwhal based on summering stocks, and an overview of managing narwhal at the population level by June 2011. (NWMB staff would facilitate a meeting

---

<sup>1</sup> July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 NWMB decision letter specified a move towards implementation of the NLCA through the establishment of TAH for narwhal; September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Minister response accepted the Board's decision

<sup>2</sup> DFO, 2008. Total allowable harvest recommendations for Nunavut narwhal and beluga populations. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Advis. Rep. 2008/035.

<sup>3</sup> DFO, 2010. Stock definition of Belugas and Narwhals in Nunavut. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Advis. Rep. 2009/079.

with NTI and DFO staff to assist DFO with the type of information required in the management report).

2. The NWMB move forward with addressing S 5.6.25<sup>4</sup> of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) (refer to separate briefing note for recommendations).

**Consultations:** Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management

**Prepared By:** Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

**Dated:** November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

---

<sup>4</sup> NWMB shall establish the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus;

**APPENDIX 1: Action Items identified from October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting pertaining to a way forward for the establishment of Total Allowable Harvest for Narwhal**

DFO:

1. Provide a position on the basis for establishing TAH for narwhal. Is it a conservation issue or a trade issue?
2. Provide position on the approach to establishing BNLs for narwhal, beluga and walrus.
3. Provide response to NTI if it will be preparing other management options for narwhal apart from summering aggregations.
4. Provide response to NTI and NWMB, if DFO will prepare management package(s) to demonstrate what the summering stock management approach and other management approaches would look like.

NTI:

1. Provide position on the approach to establishing BNLs for narwhal, beluga and walrus.
2. Provide response to DFO pertaining to whether consulting with RWOs is an appropriate consultation approach.
3. Completion of sharing arrangement with Nunavik Inuit for Northern Hudson Bay narwhal.

NWMB:

1. Provide position on the approach to establishing BNLs for narwhal, beluga and walrus.
2. Provide briefing to the NWMB at its December meeting on discussions from this meeting, including any recommendations on how to move forward. Any recommendations will be circulated to the group.

All parties agreed to continue to work together on this issue.