

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

REGULAR MEETING No. 66

Francophone Center, Iqaluit, December 7-9 2010

No:	Item:	Tab:	Presenter:
1	Call to Order and Opening Prayer		A/Chairperson
2	Opening Remarks		A/Chairperson
3	Agenda: Review and Approval	1	A/Chairperson
	Internal In-camera No. 38 (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. December 7th)		
	Nunavut Wildlife Research Trustees Meeting (3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. December 7th)		
	Executive Committee No. 50 (4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. December 7th)		
	Regular Meeting No. 66 (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. December 8th; 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 December 9th)		
	In-camera No. 14 (1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. December 9th)		
4	Environment Canada (EC): Issues/Decisions		
5	Parks Canada (PC):Issues/Decisions		
6	Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Issues/Decisions		DFO
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13	Adjournment and Closing Prayer		A/Chairperson

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Update on Entrapment of Beluga in Cumberland Sound

Background:

In fall-early winter, belugas may be observed in small inlets or fiords along the coast of Cumberland Sound, and may appear to be entrapped. To determine whether whales are truly entrapped, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) follow the *draft Action Plan for Trapped Whales*, developed in 2001, and monitor suspected entrapments over several (2 to 3) high tide cycles, to see if they will leave the area independently. If animals do not leave the area independently within this time, attempts are made to herd the animals to open water. If the herding attempts are unsuccessful, it is assumed the animals will die of natural causes, and a humane harvest may be required.

On 31 August 2010, the Pangnirtung HTO reported an entrapment of 3 beluga whales in Targioyak Fiord (65°34'N, 67°42'W) in Cumberland Sound, as well as a later entrapment of 4 beluga whales in Kangiqturjuarlaaq Fiord (66°25'N, 67°16'W), which was reported to DFO by the Pangnirtung HTO on 28 September 2010.

For the Targioyak entrapment, DFO and the HTO agreed that the whales would be left over several high tide cycles to see if they would leave the area independently. If the whales did not leave the areas, a herding attempt would be conducted. On 15 September 2010, DFO updated the NWMB on the situation and advised that in light of the experience from the 2009 entrapment in Targioyak Fiord, a herding attempt should be attempted earlier in the season this year, and that the 23 September high tide cycle might be the best option for a herding attempt. During this time DFO and the Pangnirtung HTO attempted to work closely on this issue, but interactions in late September and early October were affected to some degree by staff absences at the HTO office, and as a result herding attempts could not be conducted. In early October, an aerial survey confirmed that one beluga still remained entrapped in Targioyak Fiord. DFO also contracted to the Pangnirtung HTO to assess the situation, and the HTO confirmed the presence of one beluga in Targioyak Fiord.

For the Kangiqturjuarlaaq entrapment, DFO contracted the Pangnirtung HTO to assess the situation. In early October, the HTO confirmed that no beluga whales remained entrapped in the Kangiqturjuarlaaq Fiord, and they likely left the area during a high tide event. A DFO offshore surveillance flight also confirmed that no beluga remained entrapped in the Kangiqturjuarlaaq Fiord.

In view of unavoidable delays in organizing a herding attempt in Targioyak Fiord, the condition of the affected animal, and the possibility of deteriorating weather conditions, the Pangnirtung HTO and DFO determined the immediate harvest of this animal, was the most humane solution. The Pangnirtung HTO wrote DFO on 21 October to ask permission to humanely harvest the one remaining entrapped beluga. DFO forwarded this letter to the NWMB on 22 October, and requested the NWMB decision on the matter. On 27 October, the NWMB approved the humane harvest of this beluga. The

NWMB decision was confirmed by DFO EAA Director, who notified the Pangnirtung HTO in writing that they could proceed with the humane harvest.

Current Situation:

As of 9 November, the HTO has not decided whether it will proceed with the humane harvest. If the harvest is conducted, then DFO will request that the appropriate biological samples be collected from the harvested animal.

Consultations:

P. Hall, DFO Central and Arctic, Winnipeg
K. Fisher, DFO Central and Arctic, Winnipeg
J. Justus, DFO Central and Arctic, Winnipeg
E. Kan, DFO Central and Arctic, Winnipeg
C. Lewis, DFO Eastern Arctic Area, Iqaluit
A. Currie, DFO Eastern Arctic Area, Iqaluit
Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, Pangnirtung

Prepared by:

T. Bortoluzzi, DFO Fisheries Biologist, Eastern Arctic Area, Iqaluit

Date:

9 November 2010

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt Reporting for 2010

Background:

The NWMB has requested that all Hunters and Trappers' Organizations (HTOs) and other interested organizations apply to the NWMB for allocation of walrus sport hunts. At the NWMB Regular Meeting No. 61 held in Iqaluit from September 26th to October 1st, 2009, the Board reviewed and approved applications received for walrus sport hunts. There were also two late applications submitted following the meeting that were also reviewed and approved.

Current Situation:

The NWMB approved the following Walrus Sport Hunt allocations for 2010:

- Hall Beach – 15 walrus;
- Henik Lake Adventures, Arviat – 6 walrus;
- Adamie Keatainak, Salluit, Quebec (Nunavik) – 8 walrus;
- Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour – 12 walrus;
- Luke Eetuk, E & E Outfitters, Coral Harbour – 12 walrus.

As of November 1st, 2010, 12 walrus sport hunt licences were issued in the community of Coral Harbour; 5 to E & E Outfitters (Luke Eetuk) and 7 to Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt). A total of 8 walrus were harvested, and 4 hunts were unsuccessful due to bad weather and did not occur. Licences were not issued for the remaining allocations.

For the 2010 Walrus Sport Hunt, walrus sport hunt reporting cards were developed and implemented for the first time. The sport hunt reporting cards were used to collect harvest information on landings, basic biology, and struck/loss from the walrus sport hunts. In 2008, DFO advised the NWMB that it was not possible to recommend sustainable harvest levels for walrus in Nunavut until more up to date estimates of walrus population size were available and better harvest reporting was provided by hunters.

DFO obtained a 100% return rate on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards; it was reported that the cards were easy to use and responses came in to DFO in a timely manner. The hunt report cards were successful in reporting all struck, loss and landed information. The number of strikes reported ranged from 2 to 15 per walrus, no walrus were lost, and one outfitter reported that three of six killed walrus, from one hunt, were left behind due to suspicions of the meat being contaminated with *Trichinella*. Unfortunately, no samples were collected to confirm *Trichinella* contamination.

Recommendations:

1. The NWMB consider the positive feedback reported on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards, the value of the information received and encourage continued use of the cards.
2. The NWMB defer the considerations of walrus sport hunting to the Baffin Bay and Foxe Basin Walrus Working Groups. Considerations will be given to strike limit, humane harvesting, animal wastage and the role of the outfitter.

Consultations:

DFO Central & Arctic Region

Prepared by: S. Frame, Fishery Management Coordinator, DFO Winnipeg.

Date: November 5, 2010

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

**Issue: Development of a Coral and Sponge Conservations Strategy for
Newfoundland, Labrador and Eastern Arctic Waters**

Background: Corals and sponges form complex habitats which support many species of fish and invertebrates and in great number too (Figure 1). They are slow growing, long lived organisms that are susceptible to human activities, including bottom fishing and climate change. Corals and sponges live in the deep, cold waters of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. To date in the Arctic, corals and sponges have been found primarily along the slopes of the Baffin Island and Greenland Continental Shelves between 500 -1500 m (Figure 2). Canada is committed both domestically and internationally to conserving and managing these sensitive benthic areas. DFO Central & Arctic Region and Newfoundland and Labrador Region are working together to develop a coral and sponge conservation strategy for Newfoundland, Labrador and Eastern Arctic waters. The Strategy will describe impacts to, state of knowledge of, and conservation efforts for corals and sponges. It will also identify conservation, management & research objectives and outline actions to achieve these objectives. As a first step, DFO is planning a series of information sessions this fall and winter with key government, aboriginal, stakeholder and environmental organizations to provide information on the strategy and identify initial concerns.

Consultations: Margaret Treble (Science) and Steve Newton (Oceans), DFO, Winnipeg; Jason Simms (Oceans), DFO, St. John's.

Prepared by: Beth Hiltz, Resource Management, DFO, Winnipeg

Date: October 29, 2010

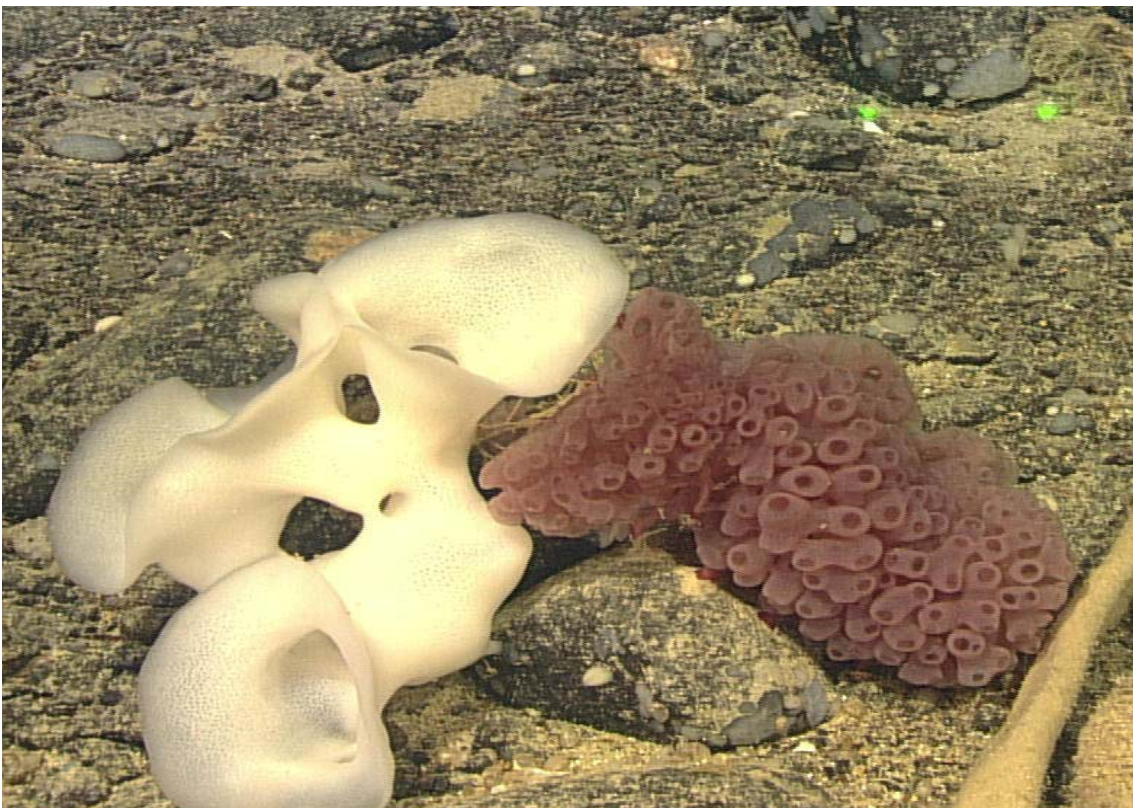
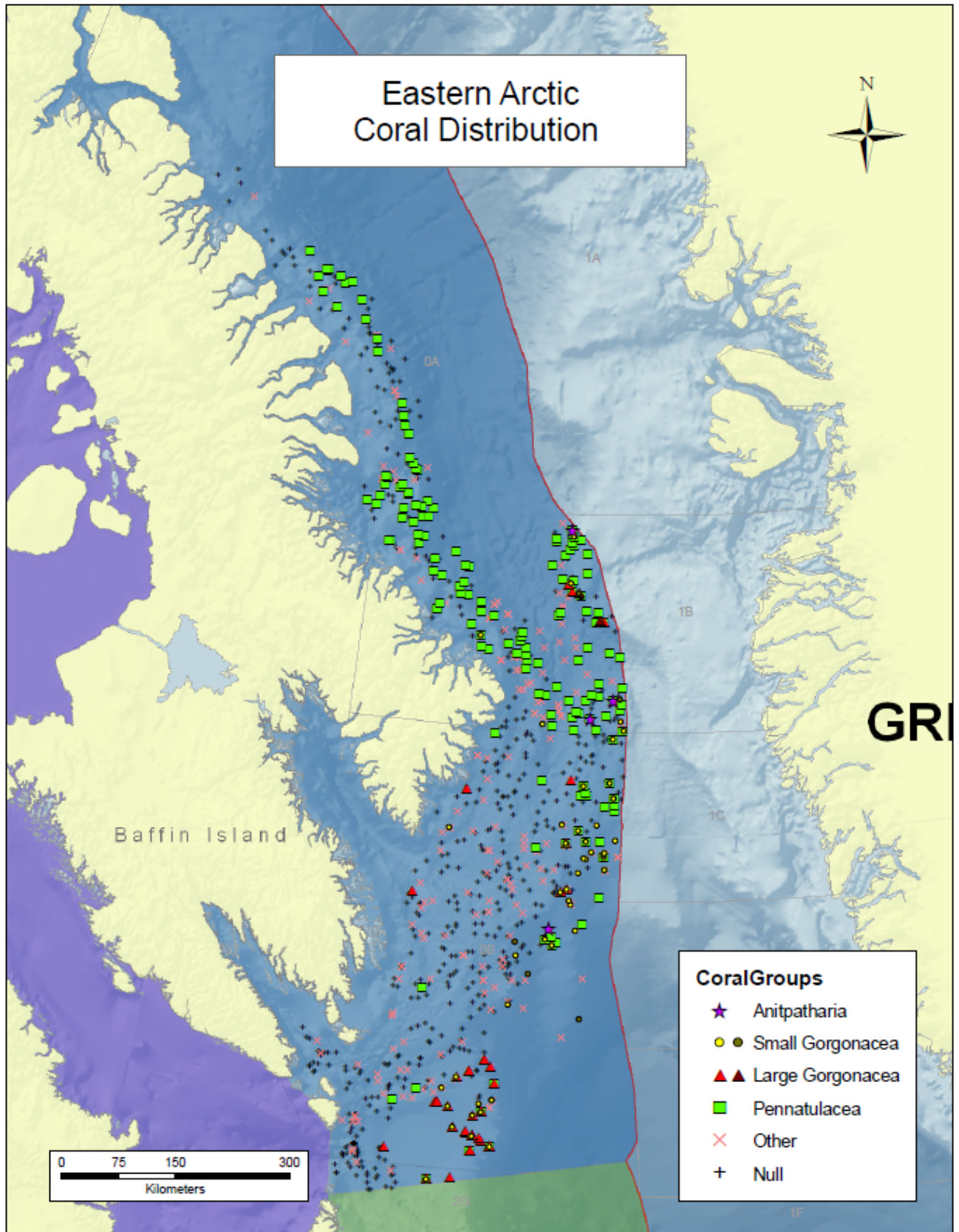


Figure 1. Corals found in the deep, cold water of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean.



SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Information regarding the possible addition of the Acadian Redfish (*Sebastes fasciatus*) and the Deepwater Redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk on the *Species at Risk Act*.

Background:

As per 3.3 of the Harmonized Listing Process, DFO is informing NWMB of assessment results. COSEWIC has completed status updates for the Acadian Redfish and Deepwater Redfish.

DFO does not intend to move forward with listing consultations for species that occur in both Nunavut and Nunavik waters until an MOU has been developed and approved to harmonize the SARA listing process and Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement. This means the SARA listing process will not move forward at this time for the Acadian and Deepwater Redfish.

Acadian Redfish and Deepwater Redfish – General

Because the two species cannot be easily distinguished (Fig. 1), DFO Fisheries Management treats the two species as a single management unit. For this reason, the two species have been assessed together by COSEWIC in the 2010 report and both have been designated as Threatened.

Redfish inhabit cold waters along slopes of banks and channels at a depth of 100 to 700 m. Deepwater Redfish are typically found in waters of 350 to 700 m depth while Acadian Redfish prefer slightly shallower waters of from 150 to 300 m. While Deepwater Redfish occur on both sides of the Atlantic, the Acadian Redfish is found only in the western Atlantic, mainly along the coast of Canada (Figure 2).

Redfish have a long life span (up to at least 75 years) and late maturation and slow growth give this species low resilience and are considered limiting factors. Deepwater and Acadian Redfish have both been major commercial species in the past. Given their large historical abundance, they must have played an important role in the marine ecosystem.

Incidental capture in the northern shrimp fishery may be the biggest current threat to northern populations of these species.

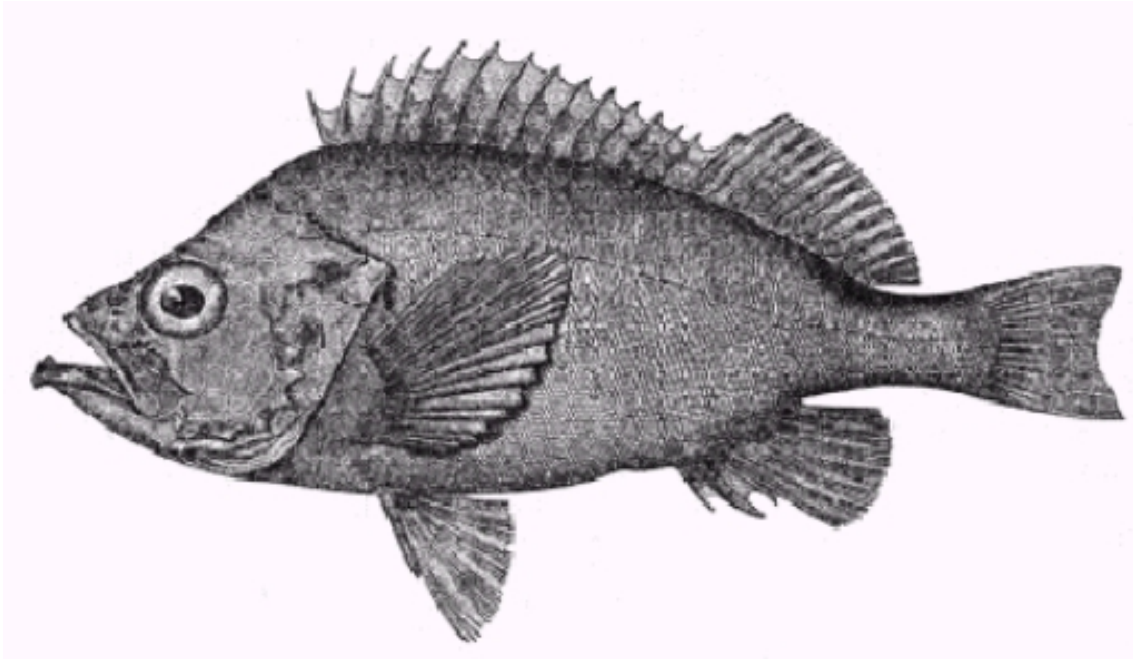


Figure 1: Drawing of the Acadian Redfish (*Sebastes fasciatus*). It is impossible to distinguish the Acadian Redfish from the Deepwater Redfish (*Sebastes mentella*).

Acadian Redfish - Atlantic Population

This species is long lived, late maturing and very vulnerable to mortality from human activities. It has experienced a 99% decline in the abundance of individuals over a period of two generations. Since the 1990's there has been some stability. Directed fishing and incidental harvest in fisheries for other species (bycatch) are the main known threats. In some areas where this species occurs the fishery is closed. This species occurs in both Nunavut and Nunavik waters (Fig. 2).

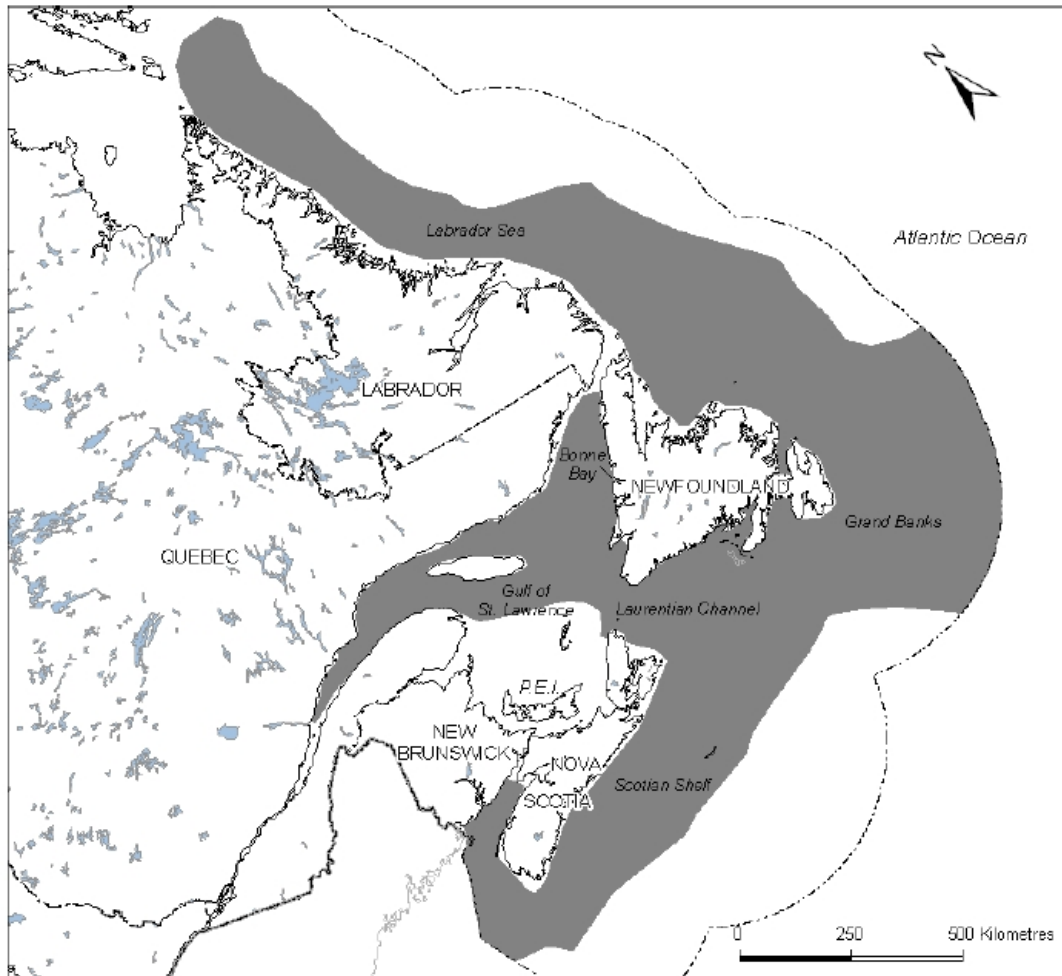


Figure 2: The distribution of the Acadian Redfish in Canadian waters.

Deepwater Redfish - Northern population

This species is long lived, late maturing and very vulnerable to mortality from human activities. Abundance of mature individuals has declined by 98% since 1978. Directed fishing and incidental harvest in fisheries of other species (bycatch) are the main known threats. This species met the criteria for being assessed as endangered, however COSEWIC felt that because it is located over a large area, has several million mature individuals and there is evidence that the population may be stable or increasing the designation of Threatened was more appropriate. The Canadian distribution of the Deepwater Redfish is shown in Figure 3.

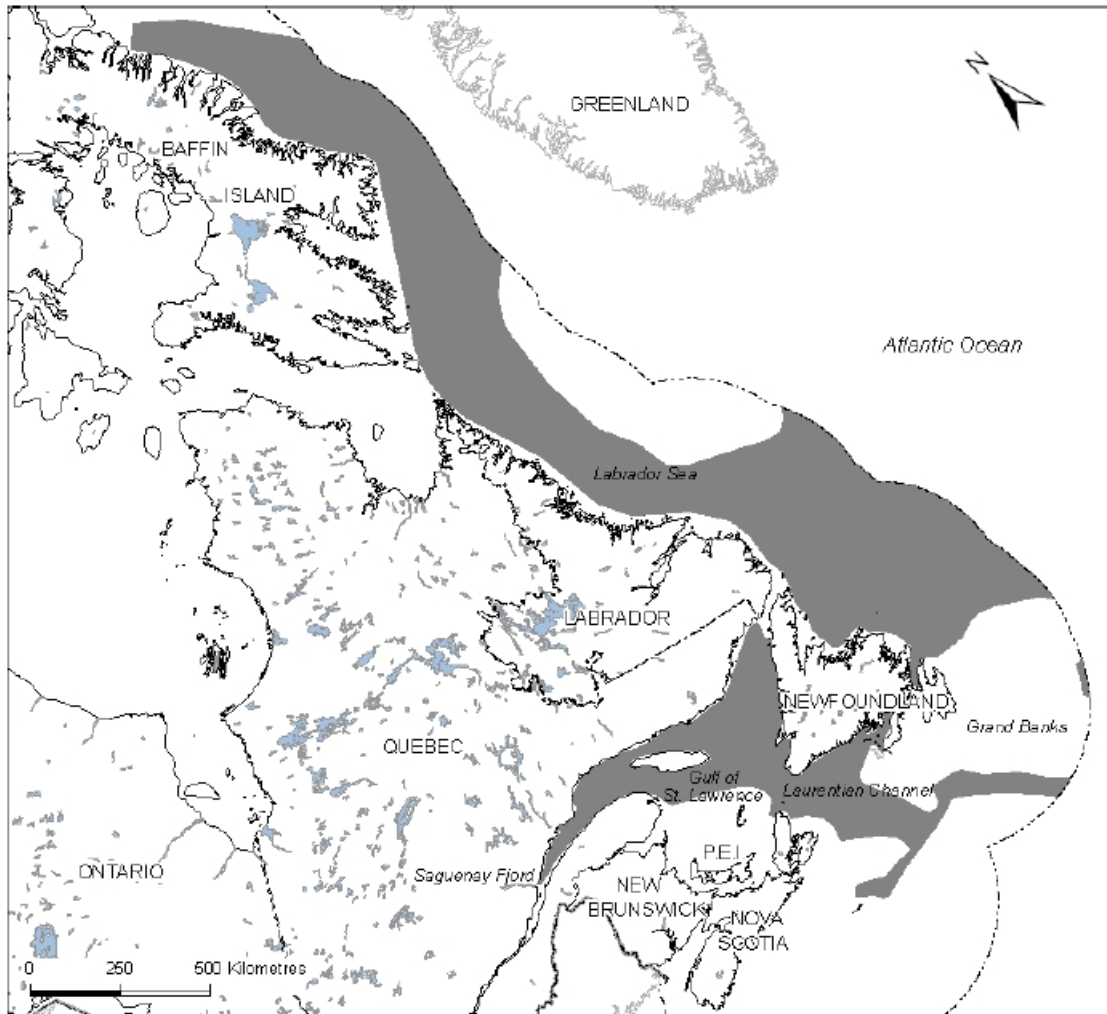


Figure 3: The distribution of the Deepwater Redfish in Canadian waters.

Should either of these species eventually be listed under SARA, automatic prohibitions apply and a recovery strategy and action plan must be developed.

The complete COSEWIC status report for the Acadian and Atlantic Redfish can be obtained from the SARA Registry at:

http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/9C047373-F075-48B5-856A-1B1DF4FCDF81/sr_Deepwater-and-Acadian-Redfish_0810_e.pdf

Prepared by:

Sam Stephenson, Species at Risk Biologist, DFO, Central and Arctic Region, Winnipeg

Date:

26 September 2010

Assessment Summary – April 2010**Common name**

Acadian Redfish - Atlantic population

Scientific name

Sebastes fasciatus

Status

Threatened

Reason for designation

As with other members of the family Sebastidae, this species is long-lived (maximum age about 75 yr), late-maturing (generation time 16-18 yr), and highly vulnerable to mortality from human activities. Recruitment is episodic, with strong year-classes only occurring every 5-12 years. Abundance of mature individuals has declined 99% in areas of highest historical abundance over about two generations. However, since the 1990s, there has been no long-term trend in one area, and trends have been stable or increasing in other areas where large declines have been previously observed. Directed fishing and incidental harvest in fisheries for other species (bycatch) are the main known threats. Fisheries in parts of the range of this designatable unit (DU) are currently closed, but remain open in other areas. Bycatch in shrimp fisheries has been substantially reduced since the 1990s by use of separator grates in trawls, but could still be frequent enough to affect population recovery.

Occurrence

Atlantic Ocean

Status history

Designated Threatened in April 2010.

Assessment Summary – April 2010**Common name**

Deepwater Redfish - Northern population

Scientific name

Sebastes mentella

Status

Threatened

Reason for designation

As with other members of the family Sebastidae, this species is long-lived (maximum age about 75 yr), late-maturing (generation time 23 yr), and highly vulnerable to mortality from human activities. Recruitment is episodic, with strong year-classes only occurring every 5-12 years. Abundance of mature individuals has declined 98% since 1978, somewhat over one generation. However, declines have stopped since the mid-1990s and increases have been observed in some areas. Directed fishing and incidental harvest in fisheries for other species (bycatch) are the main known threats. Fisheries in parts of this designatable unit are currently closed, but remain open in other areas. Bycatch in shrimp fisheries has been substantially reduced since the 1990s by use of separator grates in trawls, but could still affect population recovery.

Occurrence

Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean

Status history

Designated Threatened in April 2010.

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA) 2010 Greenland Halibut (turbot) fishery update

Background:

A separate inshore stock management area, the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA), was established in 2005 with a 500 t Total Allowable Harvest. The CSTMA is located entirely within the Nunavut Settlement Area marine waters, adjacent to the community of Pangnirtung. Traditionally an ice based winter longline fishery, an open-water longline fishery commenced in summer 2009, and both ice based and open-water fishing took place in 2010. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is working closely with Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. (PFL), Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd. (CSFL), and the Government of Nunavut (GN), to develop this inshore fishery.

A number of concerns have arisen respecting the open water fishery, including very high Greenland Shark bycatch, as well as Arctic Skate bycatch; issues with the independent Observer coverage that has occurred in the fishery; and problems experienced with the vessel's onboard Vessel Monitoring System.

DFO has been flexible on these issues, in support of developing this fishery; however, there is a need for all partners to work together towards resolving the issues to ensure a sustainable fishery that can provide benefits to the community and to Nunavut. DFO plans to initiate an annual post-season review meeting with industry (PFL, CSFL) and co-management partners (GN, NWMB), to discuss successes and challenges over the past season, and to plan for how we will work together to address these in 2011. DFO will prepare a report from this meeting, and provide copies to the NWMB and its Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Recommendations:

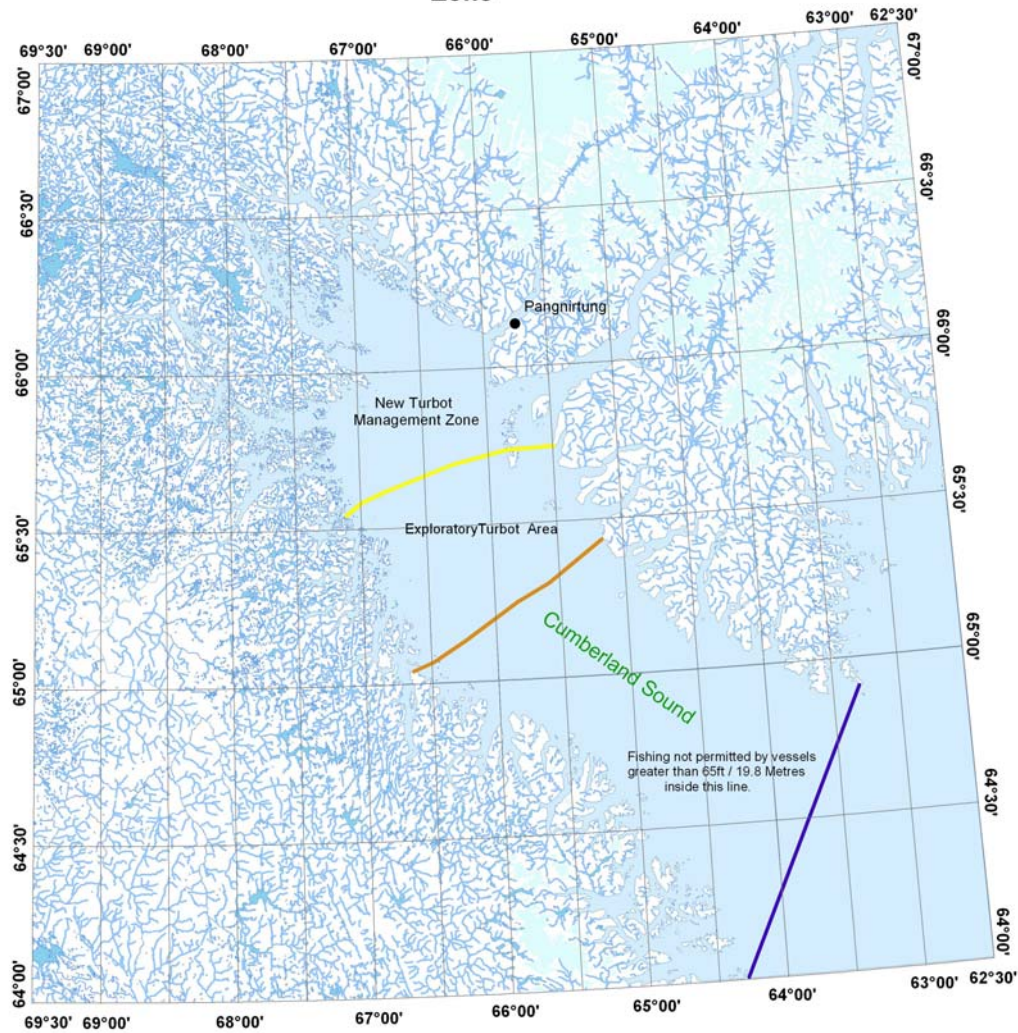
DFO hopes that the NWMB supports this approach of meeting together to resolve the issues. It is recommended that the NWMB support the initiative through participation of its Wildlife Management Biologist in the post-season review meeting.

Consultations: Joe Justus (Fisheries Mgmt, Iqaluit), Jeff MacDonald (Conservation & Protection, Iqaluit), Rory MacDonald (Fisheries Mgmt, Iqaluit)

Prepared by: Charlotte Sharkey, Fisheries Management Officer
Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Eastern Arctic Area

Date: November 5, 2010

Cumberland Sound New Turbot Management Zone



Transverse Mercator Projection
NAD 1983
Zone 19
February, 2005



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Vessel Monitoring System transponders in Nunavut Settlement Area

Background:

Cumberland Sound is located entirely within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) marine waters, adjacent to the community of Pangnirtung. Within the Cumberland Sound, the NWMB has approved a separate stock management area, the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA). The CSTMA is located at the end of the Sound, where a winter fishery has been prosecuted using longlines since 1986. An open-water longline fishery commenced in summer 2009, and open-water fishing also took place in 2010.

The outer portion of Cumberland Sound falls within the NAFO 0B management zone. In the past, vessels fishing in NAFO 0B have fished in the offshore areas, that is, out in the Davis Strait. In 2009 however, Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited (PFL) and the Government of Nunavut expressed interest in conducting a test fishery within the outer portion of Cumberland Sound in NAFO 0B. In 2009 and 2010, PFL fished within the outer portion of Cumberland Sound in NAFO 0B.

It is a licence condition that vessels have a DFO-approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) transponder installed on the vessel with unobstructed signal transmission at all times. A VMS transponder is about the size of a small radio with an antenna. It uploads the location of the vessel to satellites, and this information can be monitored by DFO Fishery Officers. The licence conditions state that if the VMS becomes inoperative then the vessel has to stop fishing.

Vessels fishing in Cumberland Sound in 2010, both within the CSTMA and the outer portion of the Sound within the NAFO 0B management zone, experienced problems with their Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) transponders. DFO Fishery Officers have investigated what happened, and found that some of the VMS transponders do not work very well when vessels are north of 50-60° N. This is because they use satellites that are located at the equator, and thus do not have good coverage in the north. However, there are VMS transponders – those that operate on the Iridium satellite system – that provide good coverage in the north.

A second issue is that when vessels are fishing further south and VMS transponders break down, the vessels are ordered into port to have them fixed. In the north, vessels are fishing farther from land, and it may take days for a vessel to steam to port. The duration of the fishing season is already limited in the north, because of the environment, and lost fishing days are a serious concern.

Recommendations:

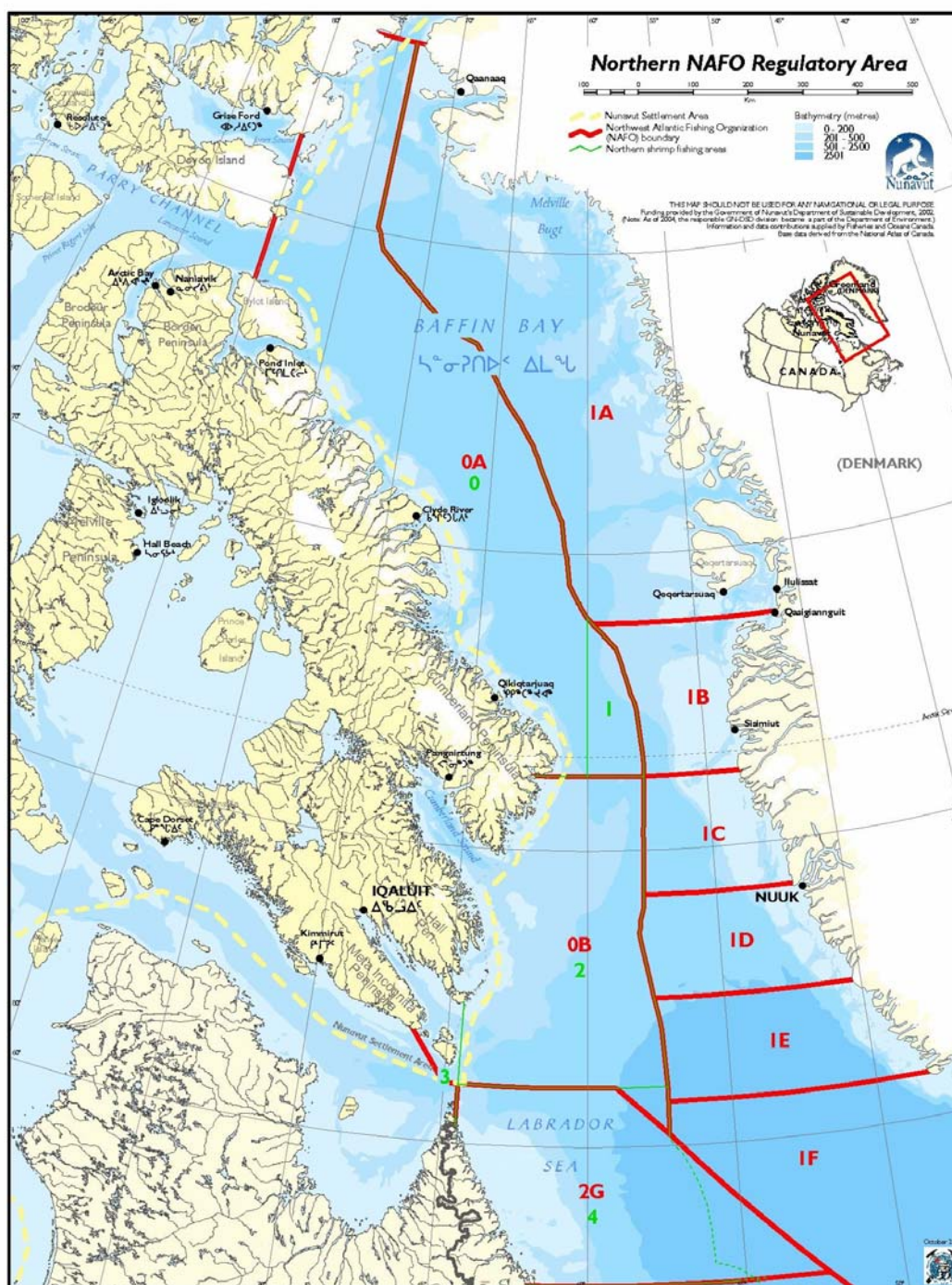
DFO does not want vessels to have to stop fishing because VMS transponders are not transmitting. Therefore, DFO recommends:

- 1) That the NWMB establish a non-quota limitation (NQL) requiring that vessels planning to operate within NSA waters be outfitted with a VMS transponder that has greatest coverage in the north (that is, one that operates on the Iridium system); and
- 2) That the NWMB establish a NQL requiring that vessels planning to operate within NSA waters carry two VMS transponders in case of one breaking down. VMS transponders cost in the range of \$500-1000, and purchasing an extra one would be much less expensive than expending fuel to steam into port to fix one.

Consultations: Joe Justus (Fisheries Mgmt, Iqaluit), Jeff MacDonald (Conservation & Protection, Iqaluit), Rory MacDonald (Fisheries Mgmt, Iqaluit)

Prepared by: Charlotte Sharkey, Fisheries Management Officer
Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Eastern Arctic Area

Date: November 5, 2010



SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Admiralty Inlet Narwhal: 2010 Aerial Survey Update, and plans to develop an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP).

Background:

Aerial surveys of narwhals were conducted in the Canadian High Arctic during August from 2002 to 2004. Admiralty Inlet surveys were hampered by poor weather conditions and clumped narwhal distribution. The best abundance estimate for Admiralty Inlet was obtained in 2003, when narwhal abundance, corrected for diving whales, was 5,362 (SE =2,681). An updated population abundance estimate is needed for comparison with previous surveys. DFO had planned to survey Admiralty Inlet narwhals in August 2009, but it was necessary to postpone the survey until 2010.

2010 Aerial Survey Update:

In August 2010, surveys of narwhal in Admiralty Inlet were completed successfully. Analysis of the survey data is currently underway; a revised abundance estimate and sustainable harvest advice will be forwarded to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board when the internal DFO peer review approval process is complete.

Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP):

DFO has invited participation from Ikajutit HTO, QWB, and NTI in the development of an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Admiralty Inlet narwhal. This working group will hold its first meeting in January 2011. At that time, the representatives will review the terms of references for the working group and start to development the IFMP, which will include both Inuit and scientific knowledge.

Consultations: J. Justus, DFO Eastern Arctic Area, Iqaluit
E. Kan, DFO Eastern Arctic Area, Iqaluit
P. Hall, DFO Central and Arctic Region, Winnipeg
P. Richard, DFO Central and Arctic Region, Winnipeg
K. Martin, DFO Central and Arctic Region, Winnipeg
S. Romberg, DFO Ottawa

Prepared by: T. Bortoluzzi, DFO Eastern Arctic Area, Iqaluit

Date: 09 November 2010



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: The verification and documentation process employed by the Department of Environment for polar bear defence kills

Background:

The NWMB has requested that DOE provide them with information on how defence killed polar bears are investigated and managed.

Current Status:

The NLCA and *Wildlife Act* (Nunavut) allow individuals to kill wildlife in defence of life and property. (See NLCA section 5.6.52 and *Wildlife Act* section 97). This occurs regularly, most commonly with polar bears, but occasionally with grizzly bears and other species

Pursuant to Wildlife Act section 100, a person who kills wildlife in defence must:

- a) reported it to conservation officer as soon as possible; and
- b) provide the conservation officer with the valuable parts (generally meaning the hide), or advise the conservation officer where it is located.

The conservation officer will conduct an investigation to determine if the defence kill is legitimate, or in legal terms, to determine if the kill was “*necessary to preserve a human life or to protect a person’s property.*” If it was a legitimate defence kill, the file is closed and the hide turned over to the HTO. If it was not a legitimate defence kill, charges may be laid and the hide held as evidence pending the outcome.

How the Process Works:

When a report is received that a bear(s) has been shot in defence of life or property, the Conservation Officer conducts an investigation. This will include interviewing all individuals involved, if possible visiting the site, and generally gathering and documenting all of the evidence, facts and circumstances surrounding the kill. As soon as possible after learning of the event the officer will take possession of the hide, required biological samples, and any other parts of the bear that may provide evidence of otherwise inform the determination of whether or not the kill was “necessary”. As a general rule, any meat is, as soon as possible, provided to the HTO for distribution.

In determining if the kill was necessary, in addition to the information learned in the investigation, the conservation officer may seek advice from any or all of:

supervisors, fellow officers, biologists, the problem wildlife specialist, or any other individual within the department; the hunters and trappers organization or other individuals within the community; and any other source of expertise or information as may seem appropriate at the time.

If it is determined that the defence kill was legitimate the hide is turned over to the HTO and they dispose of it as they see fit. (Note that while NLCA section 5.6.55 indicates that the hide is to be turned over to the NWMB, the NWMB has given DOE direction that the hides should be turned over to the relevant HTO.)

If there is reason to believe that the defense kill was not legitimate, or in other words was not necessary to defend a person's life or protect a persons property, the conservation officer will continue with the investigation, which may include the taking of additional statements, further visits to the site, and the collection of further evidence. When this information is all collected, the conservation officer will, in consultation with their supervisor decide whether or not to recommend that charges be laid. The final decision on proceeding with charges will be made by senior staff, often in consultation with the crown prosecutor.

If charges proceed and it is determined that the kill was not legitimate, the hide is disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the court. If charges proceed and it is determined that the kill was legitimate, the hide is provided to the HTO.



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: The inter-jurisdictional agreement between Nunavut and Manitoba for the Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Population.

Background:

The inter-jurisdictional agreement process began in 2005 through discussions of the Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC).

The discussions identified a need for cooperative management of polar bear populations that are shared between jurisdictions, including allocation of the resource and combined efforts at research and monitoring.

Negotiations of an inter-jurisdictional agreement for the Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear (WH) Population have been underway for some time. Because the WH population occurs in Wapusk National Park, the plan was to include the Government of Nunavut (GN), Manitoba (MB), and Parks Canada (PCA) as signatories.

Current Status:

There is presently no harvesting of polar bears in Manitoba.

Harvesting rights for polar bears and other wildlife and resource management in northern Manitoba are under discussion as part of the negotiations for the Kivahiktuq Settlement Area (These negotiations are between Manitoba, NIT and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the Sayisi Dene First Nation, and the Northlands Dene First Nation, with the GN sitting as an observer). These discussions are confidential, but may impact WH polar bear management.

The GN supports inter-jurisdictional cooperation for the management of polar bears, and will continue to work with Manitoba to identify the best way forward.



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

ISSUE: Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

BACKGROUND

Loss of property to wildlife damage has direct impacts on harvesters in Nunavut, and the GN is committed to providing assistance through a new wildlife damage compensation program. However, a wildlife damage compensation program that does not take into consideration the role of accepted best practices is not going to encourage pro-active efforts to prevent damage. For this reason, compensation for wildlife damage will only be considered if it is determined that all reasonable actions were taken to protect the property.

To achieve this the GN is also launching a wildlife damage prevention program which will provide harvesters with information, training, and equipment aimed at using best practices to prevent damage caused by wildlife.

CURRENT STATUS

The program manuals and guidelines have been drafted and will be consulted on in the coming months. The general operation of the program will be as follows:

When damage is reported the claim will be reviewed by a Conservation Officer. This, when possible will include travel to the location and inspection of the damage and surrounding area and circumstances of the occurrence. The application and results of the inspection will be provided to the community HTO who will make a joint recommendation to compensate or not to compensate. The application will then be forwarded to the Wildlife Deterrent Specialist whose recommendation or comments will also be included. The Director or designated official will make the final decision. The applicant will be provided with a letter informing them of the decision and the reason for it.

The current maximum claim amount is proposed at \$1000.00, although initial feedback is that this figure is too low.

Consultations with HTO's will be conducted this fall/winter.

Policies and guidelines are in the review process and it is our intention to have this program available to harvesters on April 1, 2011.



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

ISSUE: Wildlife Damage Prevention Program

BACKGROUND

The damage to property caused by polar bears is an economic loss to property owners. In addition, bears are often killed in attempts by property owners to deter them or to prevent damage. Each defense killed polar bear is an economic loss as well as a lost hunting opportunity. Individuals who suffer property damage from bears are often upset by this, and often tend to respond by feeling that there are too many bears, and by being less supportive of the polar bear management system. Therefore preventing and reducing damage to property caused by wildlife is desirable from a number of perspectives.

The Wildlife Damage Prevention Program is intended to both increase awareness on the alternatives available to prevent conflict or deter bears, and make these alternatives accessible and affordable. The program will consist of a fund as well as technical advice and assistance, that individuals and groups will be able to access. The program will provide assistance with the purchase, installation, and operation of detection and protection systems including electric fencing, bear resistant containers (variety of sizes), deterrents, higher grade construction materials, wire for cache protection, etc.

Consultations with HTO's will be conducted this fall/winter.

As with the Wildlife Damage Compensation, this program is expected to be available prior to April 1, 2011.

CURRENT STATUS

While the program has yet to be formally launched, we have begun a number of projects to begin field testing and evaluating a number of deterrent and damage prevention products. This includes:

- Electric fences (temporary) to protect dog teams, (Arviat)
- Electric fences (temporary) to protect Igunaq caches (Igloolik & Hall Beach)
- Bear Resistant containers (individual sized) to protect cached meat/dog food (Arviat/Qikiqtarjuaq)
- Wire Mesh to protect Igunaq caches (Igloolik)
- CritterGitter®, a heat and motion sensor to protect camps (Igloolik)
- Trip Wire Fence to protect camp (Pond Inlet)



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

ISSUE: Community Polar Bear Management Plans

BACKGROUND

Community Bear Management Plans have two primary goals:

1. Ensure that there is clarity on roles and responsibility relating to patrol and deterrent activities.
2. Identify areas and activities that have potential (or a history) of creating bear – human conflicts, and outlining actions to remove or reduce the potential.

The drafted problem wildlife operational directive further outlines the responsibilities of DoE and Hunter's and Trapper's Organizations in deciding what action is most appropriate for dealing with animals which have become "problem" wildlife (can not be deterred, or returning frequently).

Community plans are to be developed with input from Department of Environment, Hunters and Trappers Associations and other members of the community which may interact frequently with bears (e.g. by-law, municipal waste). Development of community plans are based on a template designed to guide the process of identifying problem areas and activities and finding solutions. Plans should be reviewed annually, particularly in communities which experience a high frequency of visits by bears to ensure that actions are being effective and efforts are directed as most needed, for that reason plans rarely leave the draft phase.

CURRENT STATUS

The communities which have higher bear problems have a draft community bear plan or have had a meeting to initiate the process. These include: Resolute Bay, Arviat, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove*, Chesterfield Inlet* (* initiated by conservation officer).

Plans, and the process of development, have identified a number of key activities which are required to make these communities safer. These often include:

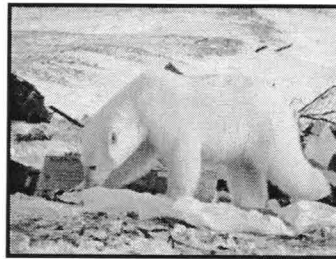
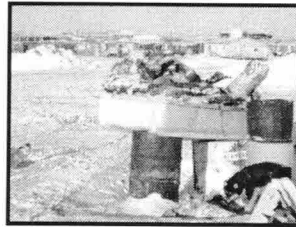
1. Increased patrol and deterrent efforts – in Arviat, Whale Cove, Resolute Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq beneficiaries have been hired as casual staff for additional patrol and deterrent efforts.
2. Better management of attractants – efforts are ongoing to provide alternatives to prevent loss of cached meat. This includes increased use of community freezers, provision of bear resistant containers, and increased community awareness.
3. Awareness & Knowledge – most meetings have identified the need for people to be more aware about how to prevent problems and react to bear encounters. These have far reaching benefits as they can use this knowledge in the community, at camps, or out on the land. Posters have been developed and distributed. Bear safety workshops were held in Igloolik, Kimmirut, Arviat, & Rankin Inlet (turn-out was low - moderate).

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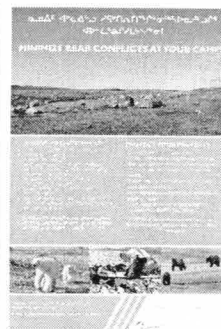
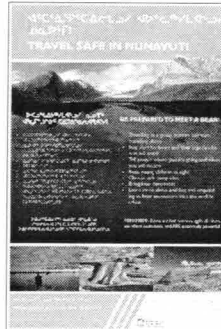

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Community Bear Management Plans



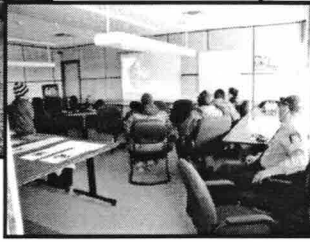
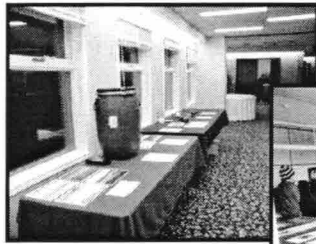
Δο⁸σ⁶ ▷⁷ρ⁷ρ⁶σ⁶ Public Awareness



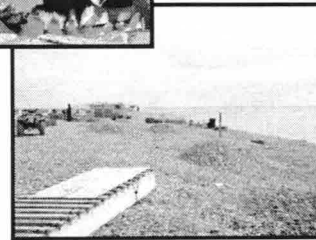
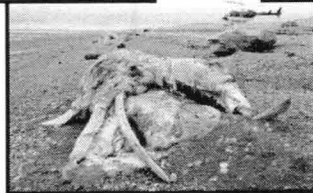
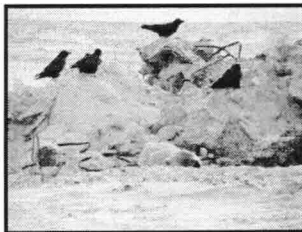
- Incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into shared material
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Workshops & Training

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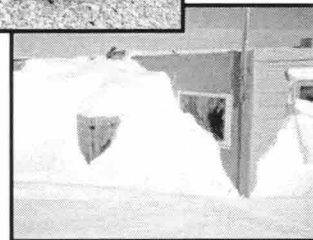
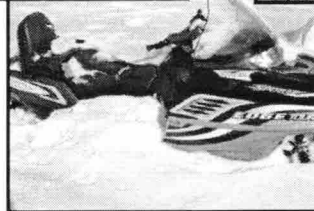
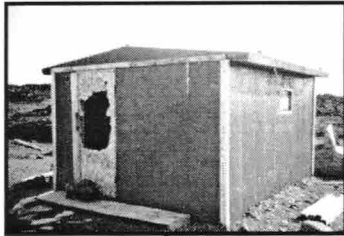


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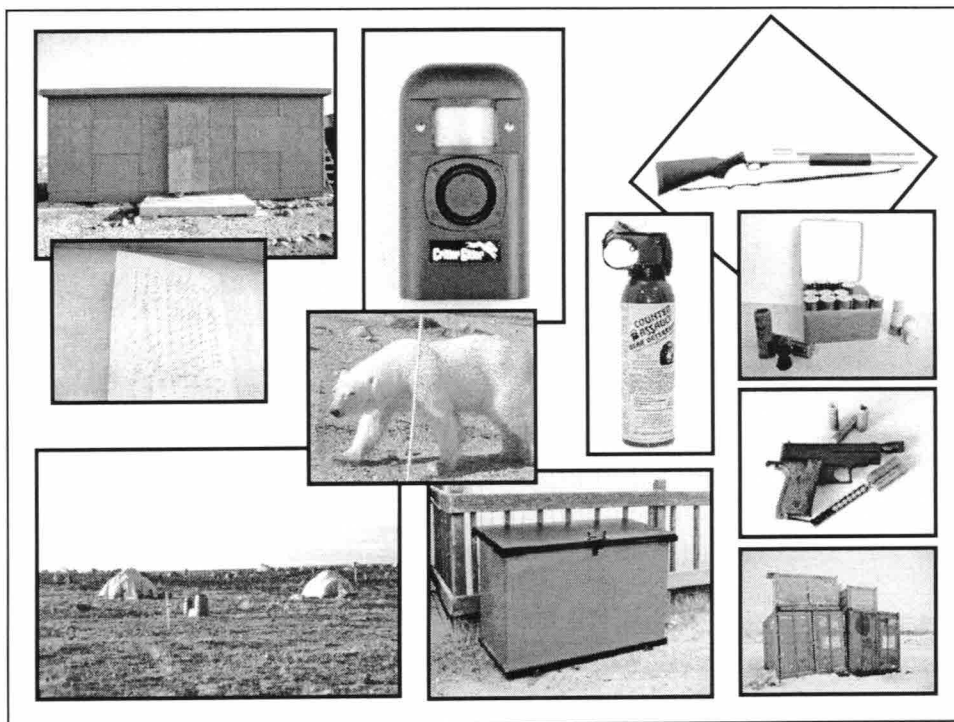


Easily Accessible Food...

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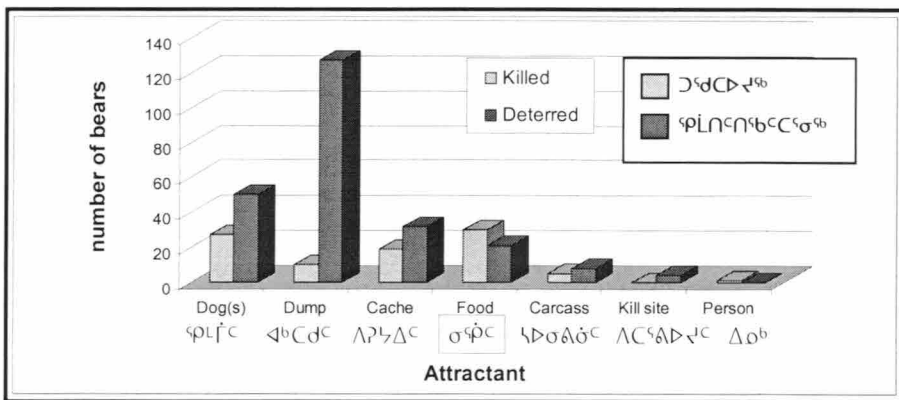


Limited financial ability and availability of materials for
 individuals to protect property



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Bear-Human Conflict by Attractant

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Data from 334 occurrence reports

Challenges

- [illegible]

- Reporting
- Community Relations
- Wildlife Act
- Cultural Considerations
- Reduced Quotas





SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

ISSUE: The Work of the DOE Wildlife Deterrent Specialist

BACKGROUND

In recent years, a number of factors have emphasized the need for focused effort in minimizing wildlife-human conflict in the territory. Increases in the number of human-wildlife conflict incidents (polar bear and grizzly bear encounters, in particular), and growing communities with increasing amounts of wildlife attractants are among those factors. In order to adequately address the issues regarding wildlife-human conflict in Nunavut, the Department created a new, full-time Wildlife Deterrent Specialist position.

Primary goals of the Wildlife Deterrent Specialist are to:

- Develop community based approaches to minimizing human-bear interactions and guide appropriate responses to bear conflicts.
- Increase public awareness of bear safety and how to minimize conflicts
- Improve the availability of deterrents to Nunavummiut
- Monitor problem bear activity and research causes and solutions

CURRENT STATUS

The position of Wildlife Deterrent Specialist has been filled since September 2008. Since this was a new position within the department, much of the first year was occupied with data gathering, identifying and working with high conflict communities, re-working and translating a community bear management plan template to better fit Nunavut communities and culture, and identifying internal department requirements to better respond and report human/wildlife conflicts.

In relation to specific goals:

- Community Bear Plans have been initiated in 10 of 25 communities (Resolute Bay, Arviat, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Chesterfield Inlet). Remaining communities to be completed by 2011
- A series of 4 public-awareness posters on bear safety was produced in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French
- Pilot bear safety workshops were held in Igloolik, Kimmirut, Arviat, and Rankin Inlet
- Information packages on detection & deterrent equipment and other safe camping and property protection are being developed for Wildlife offices and HTO offices
- Testing of equipment to complement traditional activities (etc. electric fences, detection systems, deterrents) was completed
- A new Wildlife Damage Prevention Program was developed, which aims to make wildlife deterrent resources available to Nunavummiut
- A new compensation program was developed, which encourages proactive approaches to reduce human-wildlife conflict
- Ongoing data collection and reporting on human– wildlife conflicts in Nunavut has enabled tracking and monitoring of conflict incidence.

Obstacles to further success with the Wildlife Deterrence Program:

1. Reporting. Not all cases of polar bear human conflict are reported to officers. In some instances bears that are killed in conflict with people are only recorded as regular kills. This results in the data indicating a lower trend in polar bear conflict than what is actually experienced. Also, experiences at camps when bears are not killed may not be reported (or recorded).
2. Different levels of collaboration between Conservation Officers, HTOs and community. Poor communication and vacancies in Conservation Officer positions can influence the response effort, data sharing, and success of community bear management plans.
3. Traditionally, bears entering living areas were often opportunistically harvested (meeting with Elders, Iqaluit 2010). Current management system of quotas frequently prevents this alternative but a recent survey indicates many Inuit would prefer to take this action (Kotierk 2010).
4. Reduced or limited quotas have in some cases created an unreceptive environment in which to promote non-lethal alternatives to conflicts.



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: The planned 2011 aerial survey of the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population.

Background:

The last mark-recapture estimate of Western Hudson Bay (WH) polar bear population was done in 2004 by Environment Canada (EC). The Department of Environment (DoE) and EC are working to update the population estimate by incorporating new mark-recapture data collected between 2004 and 2010. Results are expected in spring 2011.

In addition, the use of aerial surveys as a method of assessing or monitoring the population is being studied. A pilot aerial survey was undertaken in 2010. The information generated will support design of a full WH survey.

Current Status:

Designing an effective aerial survey requires some knowledge of the distribution of bears in order to identify the areas which require surveying and how best to allocate the available search effort (flying time).

Far less is known about the summertime distribution of WH polar bears within the Kivalliq region in comparison to areas within Manitoba that are the focus of EC's mark-recapture studies.

The primary objective of the pilot survey was therefore to map the distribution and density of polar bears in the Nunavut portion of WH only; from just south of Chesterfield Inlet down to the Manitoba border.

HTOs in WH, the GN and NTI worked together to organize the pilot aerial survey. During a workshop in Churchill in July, HTO representatives from Arviat, Whale Cove, and Rankin Inlet provided local knowledge/IQ regarding summertime areas used by polar bears in WH. These were incorporated into the survey design.

The survey was conducted in late August and early September. Approximately, 55 hours were flown. To ensure areas identified by HTO's were covered and to fully evaluate the extent of polar bear distribution in the region some transects extended up to 75 km inland. Offshore islands were also sampled. A report summarizing the results will be distributed in winter 2010.

The test survey **will not** result in new TAH recommendations but will be used to make recommendations regarding a full survey of WH; currently under consideration by the DOE for 2011.

One of the limitations in using aerial survey methods in WH is the inability to detect bears underground in dens. Unless this source of bias is corrected, an aerial survey will underestimate the size of the population. The degree of bias cannot be accurately determined. However, based on current knowledge of the denning habits of polar bears in WH, it appears population size could be underestimated by as much as 15-20%.

Potential methods to accurately correct for denned bears are being explored but a solution has not currently been identified. Without a solution to this problem, a full aerial survey still has some useful applications including the following:

- Although not producing a total population estimate, an uncorrected aerial survey is capable of providing a relatively precise minimum population estimate. This estimate can be used to make TAH recommendations, albeit more conservative than those derived from a total estimate.
- Understanding population trend is as important as knowing population size. A minimum estimate derived from aerial survey can be used as an index to monitoring the trend in WH. This provides a non-invasive, quick and relatively inexpensive monitoring tool.
- While this would not provide the basis for setting TAH it would allow monitoring of population trend
- If the scientific estimate of the size of the WH (based on mark-recapture studies) is considerably different from that suggested by local/Inuit knowledge, even an uncorrected aerial survey may have sufficient precision and accuracy to distinguish between these two perspectives.



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Development of new methods to survey polar populations

Background:

Until recently, mark-recapture has been the method used to assess polar bear populations in Nunavut. This method provides detailed, accurate and precise information which can be used to assess the status (size and trend) of a population and make recommendations on future harvest levels.

Since 2008, the Department of Environment (DOE) has been developing alternative methods for surveying polar bear populations. This initiative has been undertaken in response to:

- a) public concerns surrounding the capture and handling of bears, and
- b) the need to develop methods of monitoring that are less costly and quicker than mark-recapture, thereby facilitating more frequent or rapid assessment of populations requiring closest monitoring.

Current Status:

Three alternatives to mark-recapture have been tested to varying degrees:

- (i) aerial survey;
- (ii) biopsy marking (genetic mark-recapture); and
- (iii) radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags.

The feasibility of **aerial surveying** has so far been tested in 3 populations across Nunavut under a range of conditions differing in terrain, habitat or season.

Following pilot work in 2008, the first full aerial survey of a polar bear population in Nunavut was completed August to September of 2009 and again in 2010 in Foxe Basin. Final results from this study are anticipated in the fall of 2011. In Baffin Bay, test surveys were completed in the fall of 2009 and spring of 2010. In Western Hudson Bay a test survey was completed in August and September of 2010. Based on these test surveys, full surveys of Baffin Bay and Western Hudson Bay are currently under consideration by DOE as well as the Greenland/Canada Joint Commission for BB.

Genetic mark-recapture uses biopsy darts to obtain small samples of tissue from bears without the need for capture and handling. These samples are used to identify ('mark') individual bears based on analysis of their DNA. Biopsy

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darting equipment was tested on polar bears in Foxe Basin during 2009 and appears to function well as a way of obtaining samples for genetic analysis. Initiation of a full biopsy marking study in one of Nunavut's polar bear populations is currently under consideration by DOE.

The use of **RFID ear tags** has been tested on bears in Foxe Basin as a modification to the mark-recapture method. The tags are placed on captured bears but unlike conventional mark-recapture tagged bears are not recaptured because the RFID tags can be scanned remotely to identify individuals. Based on testing in Foxe Basin, it appears the tags have a high failure rate which may be due to a weakness in the casing material which causes them to break off or other deficiencies. Consequently, the use of RFID tags is not being pursued further by DOE at present.

While mark-recapture remains the most precise and detailed method of surveying polar bear populations, future research in Nunavut may rely on a range of different methods including aerial surveying and biopsy marking. No single method will necessarily be suited to every population or circumstance. Which method is used will depend on a number of considerations including the management goal, urgency for new information, available funds, population size and density, terrain or habitat conditions and community support.

Each of the methods has pros and cons. For example, an aerial survey offers a less invasive, quicker and cheaper alternative to mark-recapture for estimating population size. However, this method is not suitable for low density populations since it tends to produce imprecise results under these conditions. More importantly, unlike mark-recapture, aerial surveying does not generate information on survival rates or reproductive output which is needed to determine if a population is increasing or decreasing. **As a result of not knowing the population trend, Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) recommendations based on the results of an aerial survey will tend to be more conservative (lower) than those derived from a mark-recapture study** in-order to minimize the risk of an overharvest. Therefore, if maximizing harvest opportunities is one of the management goals, mark-recapture may remain the method of choice for some populations. If aerial surveying is to be used in populations where maximizing harvest is a desired goal, the risks of harvesting would need to be mitigated by increasing the frequency with which surveys are conducted in-order to more closely monitor population trend and the potential effects of harvesting.



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Implementation of the Canada - Greenland Memorandum of Understanding for shared polar bear populations.

Background:

The Baffin Bay (BB) and Kane Basin (KB)) polar bear populations are shared between Nunavut (Canada) and Greenland.

Canada, Greenland, and Nunavut signed an agreement for the BB and KB populations in 2009. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will bring Canada and Greenland into compliance with the International Agreement for Conservation of Polar Bears and their Habitat.

The Government of Nunavut, the governments of Greenland and Canada, and Inuit from both countries are represented on the Joint Commission, which was established under the Canada-Greenland MOU. The Joint Commission's mandate is to make coordinated recommendations on the sustainable management of polar bears in BB and KB populations.

In February 2010, the Joint Commission met in Canada. In May 2010, the Joint Commission, and the Traditional Knowledge Working Group, met in Greenland. Management objectives, harvest levels and research plans for the BB and KB populations were discussed.

One of the highest priorities identified by the Joint Commission is to update the population size and status information for BB, and to use research results as the basis for harvest recommendations.

Current Status:

The European Union (EU) ruled that import from BB and KB polar bear populations is detrimental to the species due to combined overharvest in Canada and Greenland.

Based on the available information, Environment Canada issued a positive Non Detriment Finding (NDF) for 12 of 13 polar bear sub-populations in Canada, and a negative NDF for one population (BB) effective March 10, 2010. Export from Canada from this population is now prohibited, although export from Nunavut to other parts of Canada is permitted.

The mandatory harvest quota system that Greenland implemented as of January 2006 has resulted in a significant reduction in the Greenland harvest in BB.

Way Forward:

The NWMB and GN must take into consideration harvest by Greenland in its management actions for shared populations.

Close cooperation between the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Greenland, and Environment Canada (EC), on behalf of the Government of Canada, is required in the management of polar bear populations that are shared between Canada and Greenland.

Under the Joint Commission's guidance, Greenland and Nunavut biologists are undertaking necessary collaborative research. A pilot aerial survey took place in 2010, and more extensive work is planned in 2011, pending determination of suitable methodologies for a new population survey.

With the signing of the Canada-Nunavut-Greenland MOU, the BB TAH reduction over the next 4 years, and a new population survey, the major obstacles to reversing the NDF will be met. These activities will help to reverse the European Union and Environment Canada NDFs, and will help to re-establish and bring back to Baffin communities the benefits of attracting international sport hunters - if they wish to do so.



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Efforts to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in wildlife research and management

Background:

The Department of Environment (DOE) uses both Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and science in management and research of wildlife.

The definition of IQ includes

1. Inuit Traditional Ecological Knowledge;
2. Inuit Ecological Knowledge;
3. Inuit public opinion; and
4. Inuit values.

The use of IQ is mandated:

1. through Tamapta which requires that the government adheres to Inuit Societal Values; and
2. the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), which creates a wildlife management system that invites public participation and promotes public confidence, particularly amongst Inuit, and serves and promotes the long-term economic, social and cultural interests of Inuit harvesters.

Current Status:

Funding has been provided in support of IQ research on polar bears in Baffin Bay in 2005-2006; in Foxe Basin in 2007-2009; and in Davis Strait in 2006-2008. The Minister of Environment also made a commitment to work with NTI, NWMB and affected communities to develop a new traditional knowledge/IQ study, ideally starting in 2011/12.

DOE continues to use IQ in research. For example, Inuit knowledge regarding denning and habitat use is collected for use in land-use assessments by DOE personnel. Inuit knowledge regarding distribution of polar bears is used in the design of polar bear surveys. Through communication among research and operations personnel and hunters, Inuit knowledge is used in the interpretation of biological data.

Finally, IQ is used in decision-making on polar bear management. Some examples include:

1. In its decision not to reduce the TAH in Baffin Bay in 2008, the NWMB used Inuit knowledge of increased number of bears, despite contradictory scientific results.
2. In 2007, a survey extension project was conducted in Western Hudson Bay based on Inuit Knowledge of change in distribution of polar bears.
3. In 2005, Inuit knowledge of increasing bear numbers contributed to the decision to increase the TAH in Baffin Bay, Davis Strait, Western Hudson Bay, Foxe Basin, Gulf of Boothia, and Lancaster Sound.
4. In 2002, Inuit knowledge and science indicated a declining in the M'Clintock Channel population, and the decision was made to implement a temporary hunting moratorium for this population.

DOE however recognizes that we need to find ways of bringing Traditional Knowledge and science closer together in the decision making process. We continue to work with co-management partners to try and close this gap and to find ways to better include IQ in wildlife management decisions.



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Polar Bear Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories for the Northern Beaufort Sea and Viscount Melville Sound Polar Bear Populations.

Background:

The inter-jurisdictional agreement process began in 2005 through discussions of the Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC).

The discussions identified a need for cooperative management of polar bear populations that are shared between jurisdictions, including allocation of the resource and combined efforts at research and monitoring.

A draft inter-jurisdictional agreement between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (NWT) for the Northern Beaufort Sea (NB) and Viscount Melville Sound (VM) Polar Bear Populations is under development.

The agreement will have many benefits. The agreement will:

- define a process to discuss future coordinated harvest changes when new population information becomes available;
- ensure research is carried out in a collaborative environment;
- support the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy, once completed;
- formalize current practices on data sharing, harvest management, and research and monitoring of populations.

Current Status:

The draft has been agreed upon, in principle, by the NWT government and the GN. It has been reviewed and supported by Wildlife Management Advisory Council and Inuvialuit Game council (WMAC/IGC) in NWT. In August 2010, NWMB provided its review of the draft to the GN, suggesting substantial revisions.

The GN will complete consultations with affected communities, RWO and NTI on the draft before further progress is made in the final negotiations of an agreement. Consultations with communities are planned for this winter.



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Review of the Polar Bear Management Memoranda of Understanding.

Background:

Polar Bear Management Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) set out the objective of holding management meetings at least once every seven (7) years to review and update information, and to set the direction for continuing management of polar bears. The polar bear management MOU system has been in place since the mid 1990's, and the present MOU's have been in place since 2004/2005.

Current Status:

The existing MOUs have strengths and weaknesses. For example the flexible quota system and harvest reporting continues to function and provide valuable information for management, whereas the focus on mark-recapture inventories as a primary research method has lost much support due to concerns over handling of polar bears.

DOE is committed to the review of existing MOUs with an aim to identifying the components that have been successful for carrying forward into the future, and to identifying areas of concern so that they can be addressed or replaced with new approaches.

Our expectation is that with hiring of a new polar bear biologist we will initiate the review with communities in 2011/2012. The anticipated timeline for the completion of this review, and the establishment of a new system, is 2014/2015.

DOE will be discussing this issue with management partners in the near future to obtain input and views on how this review should be conducted, and how the various parties envision the future of polar bear management in Nunavut.

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: _____

Decision: X

Issue: Review of NWMB Interim Policy on Walrus Sport Hunts and removal of NWMB approval

Background:

Prior to the bowhead hunts in 2010, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) challenged the Nunavut Wildlife Management Boards (NWMB or Board) authority to require the approval of bowhead hunt plans prior to the issuance of a licence to Inuit¹. In consideration of this challenge put forth by NTI at the Board's Regular Meeting No. 64, the NWMB was in agreement that the Board does not have the authority to **require** a hunt plan as per S 5.2.34 (d) (i) of the Nunavut *Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) for approval prior to the issuance of a licence to Inuit.

As a result of the bowhead discussion, it was the NWMB's Wildlife Section staff's understanding that the Board directed staff to proceed with the removal of the NWMB from the annual approval of walrus sport hunts as per its Interim Policy. This direction was not accompanied by a Board resolution, neither was the direction of removing NWMB from requiring Bowhead hunt plans.

Since the 1995 pilot walrus sport hunt in Igloolik, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has requested applications for walrus sport hunts in the form of hunt plans, as per the NWMB's Interim Policy, for approval by the NWMB and Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in accordance with S 5.2.34(d)(i) and S 5.6.48 of the NLCA prior to the issuance of a licence for a sport hunter.

The policy has been implemented by requesting walrus sport hunt plans in June for submission to the NWMB by the end of August; review of the hunt plans for approval at the September meeting²; decision sent to the Minister by October; and then applicants being informed by DFO by the end of December so that bookings can proceed. To date the NWMB has not issued the call for walrus sport hunt plans.

The Interim Policy identifies four conditions that must be met which are that:

- i.) no conservation concern arises;
- ii.) hunter and public safety are maintained;
- iii.) humane harvesting takes place and the whole animal is used; and

¹ This is a very general description of one of NTI's positions. NTI's full position is outlined in its September 2009 submission to the NWMB. The intention of this briefing note is not to present all of the positions and arguments put forth by NTI pertaining to the issue.

² Note that when approving sport hunt applications, the NWMB only approves the hunt plan and non-quota limitations for those communities that have a quota.

iv.) the developing industry is healthy and will continue to deliver a quality product, thus serving and promoting the long-term economic, social and cultural interests of Inuit harvesters (NLCA S 5.1.3 (b) (iii)).

The Interim Policy also includes three criteria for the evaluation of applications, which are:

- 1.) In a community that is not subject to a quota (beyond the individual limit of 4), attempt to ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous 5 years (condition i)
- 2.) Ensure that a hunt plan is in place that meets the safety, humane and other requirements necessary under the NLCA, the Fisheries Act and the Regulations (conditions ii and iii);
- 3.) Ensure that the community or enterprise starts with a relatively small and closely monitored number of hunts, prior to permitting an expanded sport hunting effort (condition iv).

In approving walrus sport hunts, the NWMB has also included the following conditions in recent approvals, which include the following:

- 1.) That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. If such information is not reported, future sport hunts may not be approved;
- 2.) That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety requirements established by Transport Canada or DFO;
- 3.) That the assignment of each walrus be made in writing;
- 4.) That there be no more than 2 strikes per walrus landed.

NWMB staff held a meeting on November 10th, 2010 with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) to discuss the Interim Policy. Due to the short notice for the call of the meeting, DFO indicated that it was not able to attend the meeting due to previous commitments. However, DFO provided a preliminary position with recommendations on how to move forward.

The meeting identified a difference between the approval of bowhead hunt plans and walrus hunt plans, in that walrus sport hunt plans are for non-Inuit harvesting, but similar in that the requirement for a hunt plan is placed on Inuit. Upon further discussions with NTI staff, it was noted that the NWMB has the ability to establish Non-Quota Limitations on non-Inuit that do not have to meet the same test as per S 5.3.3 of the NLCA, as S 5.3.3 specifically refers to Inuit harvesting.

In summary, DFO provided three main points for the NWMB to consider when considering the removal of the NWMB's Interim Policy:

- 1.) Supports an immediate review of the existing policy with the objective of revising or replacing the existing policy to address current gaps (including regulatory and statutory compliance) prior to October 2011. Recommends first initial meeting to occur early in the new year.
- 2.) That the interim policy remains in place to guide the hunts this year, as the removal without having an alternative would be both harmful to both the stock and the outfitting industry.

3.) That the interim policy be presented to the Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay Walrus co-management working groups at meetings scheduled November 30th to December 3rd to obtain feedback on the interim policy.

Due to the briefing note deadline, NTI was not able to submit a position but NWMB staff indicated that NTI would verbally present its position at the Regular Meeting.

NWMB Recommendations:

NWMB staff recommend that based on the Board's lack of authority provided to it in the NLCA, the NWMB no longer request and require that a hunt plan be approved by the NWMB prior to the issuance of a licence for a walrus sport hunt to a sport hunter. Rather that DFO regulate the sport hunts through existing regulations and NWMB established NQL's.

Members should be aware that in the absence of annual NWMB approval of hunt plans, all sport hunts would still be subject to the relevant provisions of the Marine Mammal Regulations, the General Fishery Regulations and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Relevant provisions in the Marine Mammal Regulations and General Fishery Regulations as per S 5.6.51 of the NLCA are deemed to have been established by the NWMB. NWMB staff have provided a summary list in Appendix 1 of the regulations that it believes would be applicable in the absence of annual NWMB approval.

In the absence of NWMB approval of sport hunters, NWMB staff recommend that the Board establish the following Non-Quota Limitations for walrus sport hunts that are not covered by existing regulations:

1. That the walrus be harpooned first then shot to reduce struck and lost.
2. That there be no more than 2 strikes per walrus landed.
3. That the sport hunter identify the guide as approved by the HTO as per S 5.6.41 (b) of the NLCA,

NWMB staff believe that with the establishment of these NQLs and the application of existing regulations, walrus sports hunt should be sufficiently managed and that the following process should be followed by DFO.

For communities with a quota:

- 1.) The Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) decides how many sport hunts are to be conducted and designates the guides (i.e. outfitter) for the hunts;
- 2.) DFO issues the licence to the sport hunter applying NWMB established NQLs and any other conditions that it deems necessary through relevant existing regulations;

For communities without a quota:

- 1.) The outfitter requests to DFO the number of sport hunts it wishes to conduct;
- 2.) DFO applies the first criteria from the NWMB's Interim Policy and responds to the request;
- 3.) Outfitter gets designated by the HTO for the requested number of sport hunts;

4.) DFO issues the licence to the sport hunter applying NWMB established NQLs and any other conditions that it deems necessary through relevant existing regulations.

In addition, it is recommended that the NWMB recommend to DFO that it apply the first criteria of its Interim Policy, when considering requests from outfitters from communities with no quota.

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

Dated: November 12th, 2010

APPENDIX 1: NWMB staff summary of key existing regulations that would be applicable to walrus sport hunts

The requirements in the Interim Walrus Sport Hunt policy and application form and existing DFO walrus sport hunt licence conditions are identified to illustrate that the requirements would still have to be met if annual NWMB approval was removed.

Marine Mammal Regulations (MMR):

MMR 10 (1) (a): *"No person who kills or wounds a marine mammal shall fail to make a reasonable effort to retrieve it without delay"*

Interim Policy: condition iii (i.e. humane harvesting);

Application Form:

DFO licence conditions: condition #1 (i.e. If the animal is lost, every effort will be made to retrieve it...")

MMR 10 (2): *"No person who kills a cetacean or walrus shall waste any edible part of it"*

Interim Policy: condition iii (i.e. the whole animal is used)

Application Form: section 14 and 15

DFO licence conditions: condition #7 (i.e. all meat is utilized)

MMR 8: *"No person shall attempt to kill a marine mammal except in a manner that is designed to kill it quickly."*

Interim Policy: condition iii (i.e. humane harvesting);

Application Form: section 8 and 12

DFO licence conditions: condition #4

MMR 9: *"No person shall fish for a marine mammal without having the equipment necessary to retrieve it."*

Interim Policy:

Application Form: section 12

DFO licence conditions: condition #6

MMR 5: *"Subject to section 6, no person shall fish for marine mammals except under the authority of a licence issued under these Regulations...."*

Requirement for sport hunters to have a licence

MMR 6 (1) (c): *"An Indian or Inuk other than a beneficiary may, without a licence, fish for food, social or ceremonial purposes for subject to section 26, four walrus in a year."*

MMR (6) (2) (c): *"A beneficiary may, without a licence, fish for food, social or ceremonial purposes within the area covered by the agreement under which the beneficiary is enrolled for subject to section 26, four walrus in a year."*

MMR 17 (1): *“Every person who is authorized under these Regulations to fish for cetaceans or walrus shall keep a record for a period of two years of any cetacean or walrus taken and shall produce that record for examination when requested to do so by a fishery officer.”*

MMR 17 (2): *“The record referred to in subsection (1) shall contain the time and place at which the cetacean or walrus was taken and the species, sex and colour of the cetacean or walrus.”*

Interim Policy:

Application Form: section 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21

DFO licence conditions: in part condition #3

MMR 25 (a) (b): *“No person shall fish for walrus with a firearm unless the person uses (a) a rifle and bullets that are not full metal-jacketed that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds; or (b) a shotgun and rifled slugs that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds.”*

Interim Policy:

Application Form: section 12

DFO licence conditions: condition #4

MMR 26: *“No person who ordinarily resides in a settlement set out in column I of an item of the table to this section shall fish for walrus after notice has been given by a fishery officer that the annual fishing quota set out in column II of that item has been reached.*

TABLE

Colonne I		Colonne II
Item	Settlement	Annual Fishing Quota
1.	Coral Harbour	60
2.	Sanikiluaq	10
3.	Arctic Bay	10
4.	Clyde River	20

General Fishery Regulations (GFR):

GFR 8 (1) (a): *“The Minister may require an applicant for a document to submit such information in addition to that included in the application as may reasonably be regarded as relevant.”*

2: “document” means a licence, fisher’s registration card or vessel registration card that grants a legal privilege to engage in fishing or any other activity related to fishing and fisheries.”

Interim Policy:

Application Form: all sections

DFO licence conditions:

22 (1): "For the proper management and control of fisheries and the conservation and protection of fish, the Minister may specify in a licence any condition that is not inconsistent with these Regulations or any of the Regulations listed in subsection 3(4) and in particular, but not restricting the generality of the foregoing, may specify conditions respecting any of the following matters:

(a) the species of fish and quantities thereof that are permitted to be taken or transported;

Interim Policy: condition i (i.e. no conservation concern arises); criteria 1 (i.e. ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous 5 years)

Application Form: section 5

DFO licence conditions:

(b) the age, sex, stage of development or size of fish that are permitted to be taken or transported;

(c) the waters in which fishing is permitted to be carried out;

Interim Policy:

Application Form: section 7

DFO licence conditions:

(f) the period during which fishing or transporting fish is permitted to be carried out;

Interim Policy:

Application Form: section 6

DFO licence conditions:

(g) the vessel that is permitted to be used and the persons who are permitted to operate it;

Interim Policy:

Application Form: section 12

DFO licence conditions: condition 6

(h) the type, size and quantity of fishing gear and equipment that is permitted to be used and the manner in which it is permitted to be used.

Interim Policy:

Application Form: section 8 (i.e. harpooned first then shot), 12, 13

DFO licence conditions: condition #4, #6

(k) information that the holder of the licence shall report to the Department prior to commencement of a fishing trip with respect to where and when fishing will be carried out, including the method by which, the times at which and the person to whom the report is to be made;

Interim Policy: criteria 2

Application Form: all sections

DFO licence conditions:

(p) records that the master of the vessel shall keep of any fishing activity carried out under the licence or of the sale or transporting of fish caught under the licence, including the manner and form in which the records are to be kept, the times at which and the person to whom the records are to be produced and the period for which the records are to be retained;

22 (2): The Minister may, for purposes of the conservation and protection of fish, amend the conditions of a licence

22 (7): No person carrying out any activity under the authority of a licence shall contravene or fail to comply with any condition of the licence.

APPENDIX 2: DFO Licence Conditions for Walrus Sport Hunts from 2009

1. The hunter will pursue and hunt one selected walrus until the kill is complete or two strikes have been made whichever occurs first. If the animal is lost, every effort will be made to retrieve it and failing retrieval, the hunter must stop hunting
2. If a walrus is harvested thus completing the allotted quota of one walrus the licence shall no longer be valid.
3. All walrus harvested or struck and lost shall be reported to DFO Iqaluit.
4. Fishing gear will include
 - (a) a rifle and bullets that are not full metal-jacketed that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds; or
 - (b) a shotgun and rifled slugs that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds
5. The hunter shall follow the directions of the guides. If at any time there should be a problem or conditions that would affect the safety of the hunt, the hunt shall cease until the problem or condition has been resolved.
6. Hunter will be accompanied by a second boat for back up.
7. All meat must be utilized.

APPENDIX 3: NWMB Interim Policy on Walrus Sport Hunts

Interim NWMB Policy for Walrus Sport Hunts

In deciding the number of sport hunts to approve for a particular community, it is recommended that the NWMB's policy be to ensure, to the extent reasonably possible, that sport hunting in the community develops in such a manner that the following 4 conditions are met:

- (i) no conservation concern arises;
- (ii) hunter and public safety are maintained;
- (iii) humane harvesting takes place and the whole animal is used; and
- (iv) the developing industry is healthy and will continue to deliver a quality product, thus serving and promoting the long-term economic, social and cultural interests of Inuit harvesters (See *NLCA* Sub-section 5.1.3 (b) (iii))

Accordingly, until the Walrus Working Group offers a more detailed analysis and recommendations, it is recommended that the NWMB apply the following 3 criteria in deciding upon the number of sport hunts for a community:

1. In a community that is not subject to a quota (beyond the individual limit of 4), attempt to ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous 5 years (condition i);
2. Ensure that a hunt plan is in place that meets the safety, humane and other requirements necessary under the *NLCA*, the *Fisheries Act* and the Regulations (conditions ii and iii); and
3. Ensure that the community or enterprise starts with a relatively small and closely monitored number of hunts (the "pilot" stage), prior to permitting an expanded sport hunting effort (condition iv).

In addition, the NWMB may wish to consider what percentage of the overall quota or average harvest for the last 5 years should be allocated to sport hunts.

APPENDIX 4: Application form

REQUEST TO CONDUCT WALRUS SPORT HUNTS

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SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Update on the 2010 Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priority Workshops

Background:

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Boards (NWMB or Board) policy on the *Identification of NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities for Nunavut* requires the NWMB to establish to regional priorities once every three years.

NWMB staff held workshops in all three regions: Kitikmeot (Sept. 18th-19th); Kivalliq (Oct. 2nd-3rd); Qikiqtaaluk (Nov. 21st-22nd).

At the time of the drafting of this briefing note, the Kitikmeot priority list was still undergoing further review by the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) and the Qikiqtaaluk workshop had yet to be conducted. NWMB staff are expecting an approved list from the KRWB in the near future. The list approved by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) is provided in Appendix 1.

There was some concern noted by the Government of Nunavut (GN) that the ranking approach used at the workshops by NWMB staff was different than in previous workshops. The ranking approach used at the recent workshops was that only community representatives were permitted to be involved in the actual ranking of priorities. Government departments were given the opportunity to present their priorities but were not involved in the actually ranking of the priorities. It should be noted that all priorities, in most cases, proposed by Government departments were discussed during the ranking process.

In response to this concern, NWMB staff requested that if departments desired they could provide the NWMB a ranked priority list. Departments were provided until November 1st for the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions and the NWMB only received a unranked list from DFO (refer to Appendix 2).

Recommendations:

NWMB staff were required to send the call letter for proposals to the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust (NWRT) and Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (NWSF) by October 31st and due to priority lists not being finalized prior to the call, it is recommend that the NWMB use the 2007 priority lists when considering proposals for the 2011-2012 funding period for the NWRT and NWSF.

NWMB staff will present all finalized lists to the Board at the NWMB's March Regular Meeting.

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

Dated: November 13th, 2010

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Research and Management Priorities 2010-2013

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

#3 Research Management

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Grizzly bear population assessment	Sport hunting opportunities for grizzly bear
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Musk ox population assessment	
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ᐊᐸᑲᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᐊᑲᑲᑦ ᖃᐅᐱᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ	Develop opportunities for sport hunts for musk ox
Develop ways to incorporate IQ and science into wildlife management and research	ᐱᑲᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᐊᑲᑲᑦ ᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᐊᑲᑲᑦ ᐊᐸᑲᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᑲᑲᖃᐸᐸᑦ
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ᐊᑲᑲᑦ ᖃᑲᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᖃᑲᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᐅᑲᐸᑦᐅ	
Assess impacts of aerial surveys and air traffic on wildlife	ᖃᐅᐱᑦᐸᑦ ᐱᖃᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᖃᐅᐱᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ ᐊᑲᑲᑦ ᐸᐃᐸᑦ ᖃᐅᐱᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦᐸᑦ

	More studies involving elder knowledge and IQ
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#4 ᖃᐅᐱᓴᑦᓂᑦ Research ᐊᐅᓚᑦᑦᓂᑦ Management

ᖃᐅᐱᓴᑦᑕᑦ ᐊᑦᑕᐃᓂᓴᑦ ᐊᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐊᒪᑭᐃᓴᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᓂᑦ Assess the impact of growing wolf populations on caribou	
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#5 ᖃᐅᐱᓴᑦᓂᑦ Research ᐊᐅᓚᑦᑦᓂᑦ Management

	ᐊᓴᑭᓄᓴᑦᑕᐅᑕᑦᑕᓂᓴᑦ ᑲᓴᑭᐃᓴᑦ Harvesting opportunities for snow geese
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#6 ᖃᐅᐱᓴᑦᓂᑦ Research ᐊᐅᓚᑦᑦᓂᑦ Management

ᐊᒪᐅᓕᓴᓴᑦ ᑦᑕᑦ ᖃᐅᐱᓴᑦᑕᐅᑕᑦ (ᐃᓴᒪᑕᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐱᓕᑕᑦ ᓄᓄᐃᓴᑦ ᓂᑦᑭᖃᓴᓴᓂᓴᑦ ᐊᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᓂᑦ ᒪᓂᓂᓂᑦ) Eider duck population assessment (concerns about polar bears consuming large numbers of eggs)	ᐃᑲᓴᑦᑕᑦ ᓄᓄᓴᑦ ᐱᓚᓕᐊᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᐃᓴᓴᓂᑦ ᐊᓴᑭᓄᓴᑦᑕᓂᓴᑦ ᐊᐃᐱᓴᓂᑦ Assist communities with developing sport hunting opportunities for walrus
ᖃᐅᐱᓴᑦᑕᑦ ᐃᓴᓴᓴᓴᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐊᓴᑭᓄᓴᑦ ᐊᓴᓴᑕᑦ Research on migration routes of narwhal	
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ᖃᐅᐱᓴᑦᑕᑦ ᐊᑦᑕᐃᓂᓴᑦ ᑕᐃᓴᓴᓂᑦ ᐊᓴᑭᓄᓴᑦᑕᓂᑦ, ᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐱᒪᓴᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᓴᓂᓴᑕᐅᑦᑕᓂᑦ, ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ Assess the impact of sport hunts, which target large bulls, on caribou populations	

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: _____

Decision: X

Issue: Section 5.6.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement: establishing BNL's for Beluga Narwhal and Walrus

Background:

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has an outstanding obligation under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) to establish basic needs levels (BNL) for beluga, narwhal and walrus as per S 5.6.25.

"The NWMB shall establish the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus within 12 months of the NWMB being established taking into account the fact that they are in short supply in some areas and therefore that the harvest by Inuit has been and is artificially low in relation to their needs and does not necessarily reflect their full level of needs."

The complicatedness on how to deal with this obligation has hindered the NWMB from moving forward on the issue. Due to the need to address the obligation, NWMB staff feel that the best way to address the issue is to request the positions of its co-management partners through a hearing process. NWMB staff have discussed with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) on how to move forward proposing a written hearing approach. In response to this proposal, NTI indicated that it would be willing to accept a written hearing approach if all parties were in agreement on how to move forward.

Based on discussions with NTI and DFO they have provided preliminary positions on S 5.6.25, which are in brief summary:

A.) DFO's position is that the NLCA dictates the manner in which to establish BNLs and TAHs;

B.) NTI's position is that the BNL for beluga, narwhal and walrus should all go to Inuit, similar to species identified as *Presumption as to Need* species under S 5.6.5 of the NLCA;

Due to differing positions on how to move forward, NTI indicated that they were not willing to accept a written hearing approach.

Recommendations:

NWMB staff recommend that the NWMB initiate a public hearing process to solicit opinions on how the Board should implement S 5.6.25. As members are aware in most circumstances when the Board conducts a public hearing there is a proponent and a proposal for parties to respond to. NWMB staff are recommending that the Board be the proponent and that parties respond to the issue of how the NWMB should implement S 5.6.25.

NWMB staff therefore recommend that:

1. The NWMB be the proponent and that it follow its public hearing process¹ (ensuring that procedural fairness requirements are met) in the anticipation that it will conduct a public hearing on the issue at a February meeting (proposed by NWMB staff) or at the NWMB's March Regular Meeting.

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

Dated: November 13th, 2010

¹ Such as providing public notice; call for submissions; uploading of information to the NWMB's website; etc.

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.¹

In January 2007, the NWMB requested that DFO provide recommendations on TAH for narwhal. At Regular Meeting No. 60 (May 30th-June 4th, 2009), DFO provided TAH recommendations for narwhal and beluga based on summering stock aggregations². 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 19th-24th, 2010), DFO provided a report based on the NWMB's requests³. 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 29th, 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

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

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

³ 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 5.6.25⁴ 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 13th, 2010

⁴ NWMB shall establish the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus;

APPENDIX 1: Action Items identified from October 29th, 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.

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Request from the Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) for an increase in tags for the Foxe Basin Polar Bear subpopulation

Background:

The Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) in response to the NWMB's call for submissions to Regular Meeting (RM) No. 66, has submitted a request for an increase of 10 tags for the Foxe Basin Polar Bear subpopulation.

The request provides the following reasoning for the request:

- 1.) Cape Dorset has over 1300 residents and have only 10 tags compared to the other communities that harvest from the same subpopulation; and
- 2.) The polar bear population is healthy, more bears are being observed in recent years (Elders, traditional knowledge) and that the allocation is not enough to meet community needs.

NWMB Recommendations:

NWMB staff responded to a similar request from the Aiviq HTO on May 17th, 2010 in the following manner:

- 1.) Communicated to the HTO that the NWMB does not allocate the regional TAH as this is a responsibility that lies with the Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) and recommend that the HTO contact the RWO to request an increase in the allocation of the TAH for the subpopulation.
- 2.) Communicated to the HTO that following the completion of the 2010 aerial survey of the subpopulation¹, the NWMB would consider all of the "best available information" (including Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit and scientific knowledge) on the subpopulation, which may lead to an increase or decrease of the regional TAH based on the evidence provide to the NWMB.

NWMB staff recommend that the Board respond to this request and future similar requests in the same manner.

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

Dated: November 15th, 2010

¹ A report is expected to be submitted to the NWMB in the late summer/early fall of 2011 based on discussions with the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment

APPENDIX 1: Submission by the Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)

Cape Dorset Aiviq HTO
P.O. Box 300
Cape Dorset, NU
X0A 0C0
P: (867) 897-8978
F: (867) 897-8214

November 12, 2010

To: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

RE: NWMB Regular Board Meeting No. 66

Cape Dorset Aiviq HTO board is requesting for 10 additional polar bear tags to our current quota of 10 tags per year on behalf of the community wishes.

Cape Dorset has over 1300+ inhabitants and harvest from the Foxe Basin population and we are the only community with merely 10 tags compared to the other communities that harvest from Foxe Basin population. We know that our request is reasonable since our polar bear population is healthy, in fact we've observe a lot more (increase) polar bears over the years (Elders, traditional knowledge) and feel that 10 tags are not meeting the community's needs. We enjoy polar bear meat and 10 bears just not enough to go around in our growing community.

We seek that Nunavut Wildlife Management Board members make the decision to increase our polar bear quota to 20 and achieve long term benefit to Inuit in Cape Dorset.

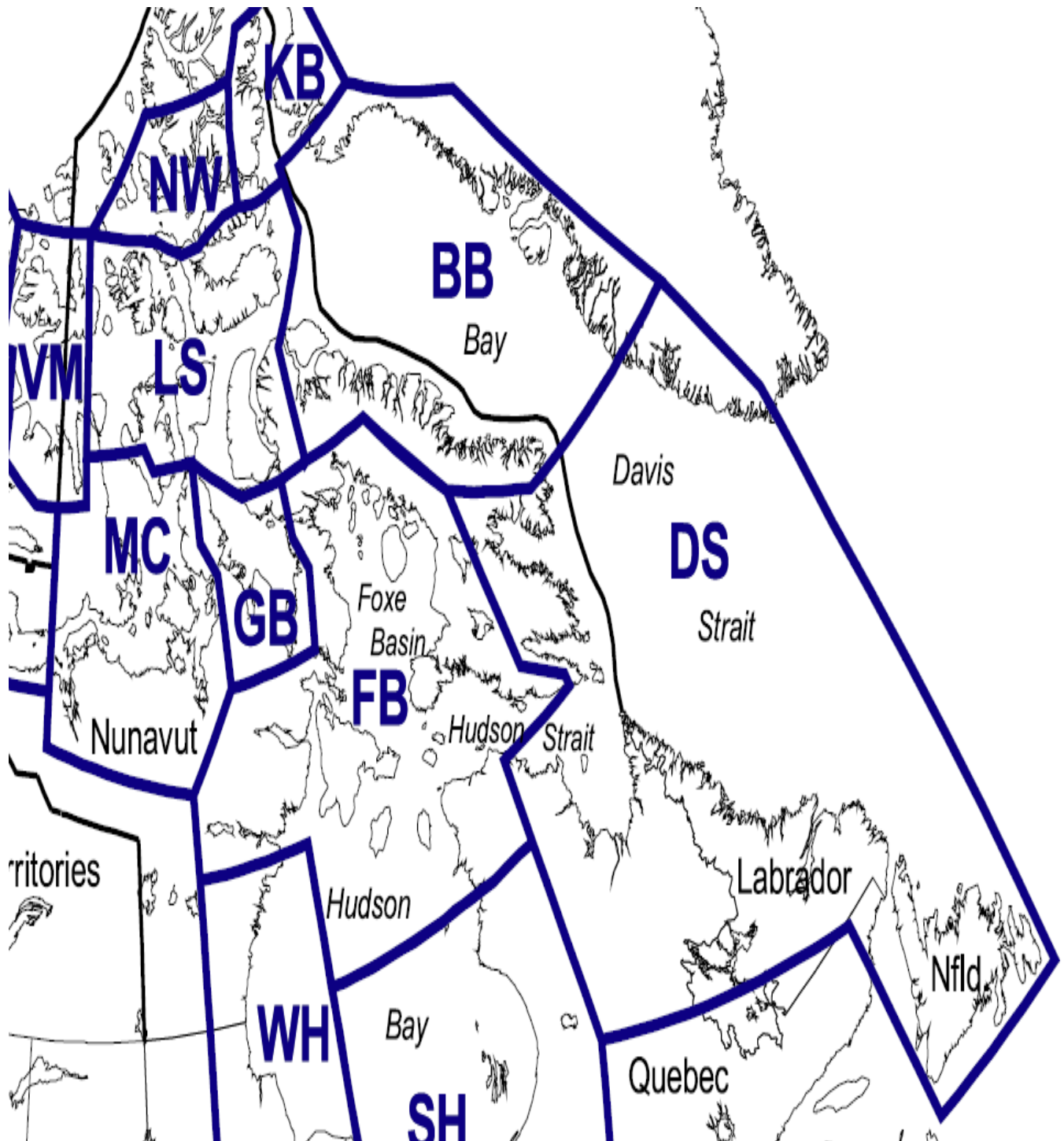
We're looking forward to hear your decision on our request and thank you on your ongoing efforts to take care of our wildlife and their habitat that is so crucial to Inuit and all Nunavummiut.

Yours Truly,



Quvianaqtulia Tapaungai
Chairman, Aiviq HTO Board

APPENDIX 2: Polar Bear Subpopulation Map



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: _____

Decision: X

Issue: Mayukalik H.T.O. request for an increase in polar bear quota and status of Davis Strait polar bear inter-jurisdictional meetings

Background:

On October 12th the NWMB received a letter from the Mayukalik H.T.O. requesting an increase in polar bear quota from the Davis Strait subpopulation (attached).

The Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation straddles Quebec, Nunavut, and Labrador (refer to Appendix 1). Together, the three Provincial and Territorial governments share responsibility for the management of this subpopulation. The most recent population inventory (2005-2007) has shown an increase in the number of bears and that at current harvest levels the population is stable. There is concern however that this subpopulation is disproportionately allocated, Quebec (Guaranteed Harvest Level of 62 for all populations), Nunavut (46) and Nunatsiavut (6) across the three jurisdictions. Currently, there is no formal mechanism for the joint management of polar bear subpopulations.

Environment Canada was asked by the jurisdictions to assist in the establishment of a process that would provide recommendations to address this issue. Representatives of all concerned Provinces, Territories, Wildlife Management Boards and concerned organizations met in Montreal on February 4th, 2010 to initiate this process. It was decided that in order to determine the appropriate allocation of harvest, it was necessary to provide advice on the establishment of a population management objective based on conservation principles, and to appropriately allocate the harvest between the three jurisdictions. It was determined that this advice should be based on the best available western science and traditional ecological knowledge, and should also include input from users that harvest polar bear from the Davis Strait subpopulation. As such, it was felt that user advice would most appropriately be sought via a user-to-user workshop. Upon receiving advice from all three sources, the Montreal Group would then review the information and provide recommendations to the various authorities for their consideration.

A two-and-a-half day user-to-user workshop was held in Kuujuaq, Quebec, September 13th - 16th, 2010. At this meeting, Inuit representatives from Nunatsiavut, Nunavik and Nunavut presented traditional ecological knowledge and participants heard presentations from jurisdiction representatives on their respective polar bear management processes. Dr. Stephen Atkinson (polar bear biologist, Government of Nunavut) also presented on the most recent western science population analyses. Inuit representatives from Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and Nunavut decided on two resolutions (attached) at the user-to-user meeting for consideration. It was identified that the current population should be reduced to reduce human-bear conflict. This would allow for an increase in harvest.

Environment Canada and the Montreal Group are working on a draft letter to the organizations managing the Davis Strait polar bear, including recommendations for the organization's consideration. This letter is expected to be sent by February.

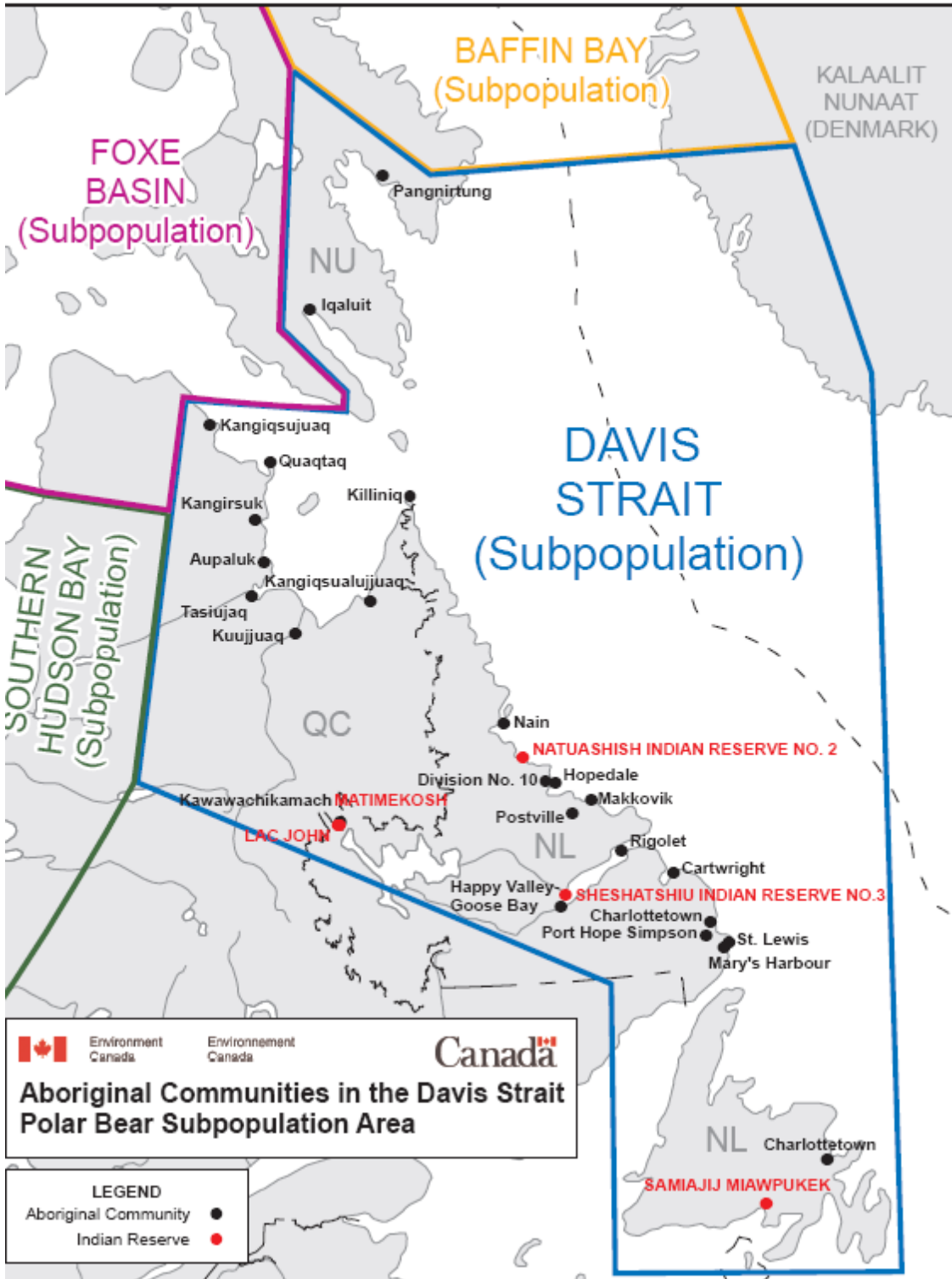
Recommendation: Provide a reply to the Mayukalik H.T.O. that the NWMB will need to defer its decision on the request for a quota increase until it has received and reviewed all of the information and resolutions being compiled from the user-to-user meeting and the Montreal Group.

Consultations: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

Prepared By: Robert Kidd, DWM

Dated: November 12th, 2010

APPENDIX 1: Aboriginal Communities in the Davis Strait Polar Bear Subpopulation Area



1st Interjurisdictional Davis Strait Polar bear User to User Meeting between User Groups of Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and Nunavut.

Kuujuak, Québec

September 13th – 16th, 2010.

WHEREAS the current quota for Nunatsiavut is based on an estimate of approximately 900 animals in 1979,

WHEREAS Inuit knowledge has indicated a substantial increase in the Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation for some time,

WHEREAS the most recent scientific survey provides an estimate of 2,142 animals in 2007,

WHEREAS the polar bear density for the Davis Strait subpopulation (5.6 per 1000 square kilometers) is one of the highest known for any polar bear subpopulation,

WHEREAS nesting areas of birds are being depleted by polar bears,

WHEREAS other wildlife such as seals are being depleted by polar bears,

WHEREAS cabins and other personal items are being damaged by polar bears,

WHEREAS there are human safety concerns because of increased polar bear encounters,

THEREFORE be it resolved that

“Representatives of the Inuit user groups of Nunavik and Nunavut support the request by Nunatsiavut to increase their quota by 6”.

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

In favor: _____ Against: _____ Abstained: _____

Passed: _____ Defeated: _____

Resolution # 1

Date: September 15, 2010

1st Interjurisdictional Davis Strait Polar bear User to User Meeting between User Groups of Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and Nunavut.

Kuujjuak, Québec

September 13th – 16th, 2010.

WHEREAS current population estimates for the Davis strait polar bear subpopulation indicate a significant increase from 900 in 1979 to 2142 in 2007,

WHEREAS user representatives from Nunavik, Nunatsiavut and Nunavut attending a meeting in Kuujjuak discussed their respective concerns related to polar bears harvested in the Davis Strait subpopulation

WHEREAS user representatives identified significant concern including but not limited to damage related to property cabins, tents, threat of injury, and death to humans related to this increase in bear numbers and the greater presence in proximity to communities and camps,

WHEREAS the increased number of bears has equally been seen to be negatively impacting on other animal resources important to Inuit for subsistence consumption including but not limited to predation of assorted waterfowl, their eggs, in addition to various seal species; walrus are anticipated to be impacted in the near future

WHEREAS specific concern was voiced by delegates in respect to Inuit not having been involved in the delineation of respective polar bear subpopulation zones,

WHEREAS in light of current population estimate for Davis Strait, and notwithstanding possible impacts from climate change, user representatives attending the meeting believe there is currently no valid biological conservation threat.

WHEREAS in consequence, Nunavut representatives wish to eliminate the current quota system in Nunavut for a 5 year experimental period; failing this, Nunavut delegates wish to increase their quota by 100 bears taken from Davis Strait to be allocated to the 3 Nunavut communities harvesting Davis strait subpopulation

THEREFORE be it resolved:

That adequate monetary compensation be solicited from government to pay for any damages incurred to property, injury, or loss of human life.

That immediate steps are taken to obtain Inuit input in delineation of polar bear subpopulation zones not limited to Davis Strait

That respective governments and relevant land claims organizations are immediately informed of the decisions contained herein

That user representatives deemed this meeting as particularly valuable in bringing users from the different jurisdictions together for the first time to discuss conservation and management of this shared resource and moreover advocate for meetings to be scheduled on a regular basis.

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

In favor: _____ Against: _____ Abstained: _____

Passed: _____ Defeated: _____

Resolution # 2

Date: September 15, 2010

Cape Dorset Aiviq HTO
P.O. Box 300
Cape Dorset, NU
X0A 0C0
P: (867) 897-8978
F: (867) 897-8214

November 12, 2010

To: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

RE: NWMB Regular Board Meeting No. 66

Cape Dorset Aiviq HTO board is requesting for 10 additional polar bear tags to our current quota of 10 tags per year on behalf of the community wishes.

Cape Dorset has over 1300+ inhabitants and harvest from the Foxe Basin population and we are the only community with merely 10 tags compared to the other communities that harvest from Foxe Basin population. We know that our request is reasonable since our polar bear population is healthy, in fact we've observe a lot more (increase) polar bears over the years (Elders, traditional knowledge) and feel that 10 tags are not meeting the community's needs. We enjoy polar bear meat and 10 bears just not enough to go around in our growing community.

We seek that Nunavut Wildlife Management Board members make the decision to increase our polar bear quota to 20 and achieve long term benefit to Inuit in Cape Dorset.

We're looking forward to hear your decision on our request and thank you on your ongoing efforts to take care of our wildlife and their habitat that is so crucial to Inuit and all Nunavummiut.

Yours Truly,



Quvianaqtulia Tapaungai
Chairman, Aiviq HTO Board

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR



Information:

Decision: X

Issue: The Kivalliq Wildlife Board is seeking a decision on the Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan.

Background: The issue of musk-ox management in Kivalliq has been on-going, and was most recently discussed in detail at Regular Meeting 63 (April 2010) and during in-camera conference call #011 (April 2010) when the Board approved proposed changes in boundaries to musk-ox management zones, removal of seasonal restrictions on harvesting, and an increase in total allowable harvest (TAH) in newly established management zones MX17 and MX18.

Overview: The proposed Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan aims to protect, conserve, and manage musk-ox in a sustainable manner in cooperation with co-management partners, communities, and government, and includes IQ, scientific and local knowledge while promoting regional involvement in decision making. An Action Plan is included as a component of the Management Plan and lists tasks that are considered essential to the sustainable management of the species. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated, as necessary, on an annual basis.

The Management Plan, which is supported by the KWB, GN-DoE, and NTI, proposes using the following three levels of management intensity depending on the status and trend of the population: (A) core management for stable or increasing populations, (B) enhanced management for declining population size, and (C) critical threshold management to be implemented when the population size drops below that required to support subsistence harvesting.

The management zone boundary changes, removal of seasonal restrictions, and increase in TAH (as previously approved by the Board) are recommended when musk-ox populations are stable or increasing in size.

This item was deferred from the RM 65 agenda, and NWMB Wildlife staff have since been in contact with Richard Connelly: staff recommended that the plan include criteria to use in determining when a switch from one level of management to another would occur, and that further information regarding what specific actions are involved in enhanced or critical management be included. A revised version of the Management Plan that included this information was provided to NWMB Wildlife staff in November 2010. The revised plan proposes a 5% harvest level during core management, intensified monitoring efforts and a 3% harvest level for 5 years when a declining trend is observed to promote herd growth, and a harvest level of 1-2% that will be reviewed annually should the herd size fall below that required for subsistence harvesting.

Recommendation: Wildlife staff recommends that the Board approve the most recent Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan.

Draft Resolution:

“Resolved that the NWMB, pursuant to subsection 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) approve the 2010-2015 Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan and the February 2010 Action Plan on the understanding that any modification to current NQLs and/or TAHs requires a decision by the NWMB.”

Prepared By: Rebecca Jeppesen, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Consulted: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management; NWMB
Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Date: November 16, 2010



March 9, 2010

Willie Nakoolak
Acting Chairman
Nunavut Management Wildlife Board
Iqaluit, NU

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk
Minister responsible for DOE
Government of Nunavut
Iqaluit, NU

Re: Management Plan for Kivalliq Musk ox Populations

Dear Sirs,

The Musk ox issue in the Kivalliq has been a long drawn out affair however through determination and perseverance enormous progress has been made by the co-management partners. Prior to 2007 our hunters had to travel long distances to harvest Musk ox, often passing many herds before arriving at the designated zones; the implementation of Exemption Permits provided easier access to the animals however proved cumbersome when renewing.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board, in consultation with its communities and the co-management partners, felt it was time to develop a management plan for the Kivalliq Musk ox populations. Several consultation meetings have taken place over the last few years and the following have been identified as priorities in the plan:

- Permanent change to the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations to eliminate existing Musk ox harvesting zones and change them into two populations as demonstrated in the attached map (MX17 and MX18).
- Permanent change to the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations to remove existing restrictions on harvesting seasons currently imposed on Kivalliq Musk ox.
- To increase the TAH on the Kivalliq Musk ox population to reflect a 5% harvesting ratio which current information suggests is consistent with stable populations of Musk ox.

The KWB and the communities of the Kivalliq feel that they have been adequately consulted on the matter. There are no safety or conservation issues with the Kivalliq Musk ox populations and IQ is and will continue to be used in the management of the herds. GN DOE and NTI Wildlife assisted in the development of the Management and Action Plans and support the KWB's proposed changes to Wildlife Act Regulations. The Board can revisit the Plan on an annual basis or as new information becomes available.

The KWB recently met and unanimously passed resolution #KWB-2010-REG-001 approving the Management and Action Plans for the Kivalliq Musk ox populations. GN DOE has provided supporting documentation for the Management Plan (attached); it is also important to note that the plan was developed in collaboration with NTI Wildlife staff involvement.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board believes that all the co-management partners and the communities of the Kivalliq Region have been adequately consulted and it is now time to implement the Musk ox Management Plan. The KWB also realizes that it may take some time for the NWMB and GN to make the permanent changes to the Wildlife Act Regulations and is therefore requesting that, in the interim, amendments be made to the existing Exemption Permit allowing these changes to become into effect immediately.

Members of the KWB Board look forward to working with NWMB and the GN to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Richard Connelly at NIWS if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Ross Tatty
Chairman, Kivalliq Wildlife Board

c. Jim Noble, NWMB
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, NTI Wildlife
David Lee, NTI Wildlife
Mitch Campbell, GN DOE
Steve Pinksen, GN DOE
Noah Kudluk, HTO Coral Harbour
Michel Akkuarjuk, HTO Repulse Bay
Richard Aksawnee, HTO Baker Lake
Leo Mimialik, HTO Chesterfield Inlet
Jack Kabvitok, HTO Rankin Inlet
Stanley Adjuk, HTO Whale Cove
Alex Ishalook, HTO Arviat

[illegible]

Issue

Musk ox is an unresolved issue in the development of the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations; Exemption Permits reducing harvesting zones to two zones (MX17 and MX18) have allowed hunters to harvest Musk ox closer to their communities however it is but a temporary solution, a Management Plan for the Kivalliq Musk ox Population is required in order to properly manage and conserve the herd.

Background

Prior to 2007, hunters in the Kivalliq had to travel very long distances, often passing many herds of Musk ox, to harvest from their respective zones. In 2007, after much community consultation, the use of Exemption Permits was established to allow Hunters to harvest closer to their communities. The use of these permits proved beneficial however the renewal process was cumbersome and lengthily.

In further consulting with communities, it was determined that a management plan for the Kivalliq Musk population was necessary; three main priorities have been identified for permanent changes within the Wildlife Act Regulations:

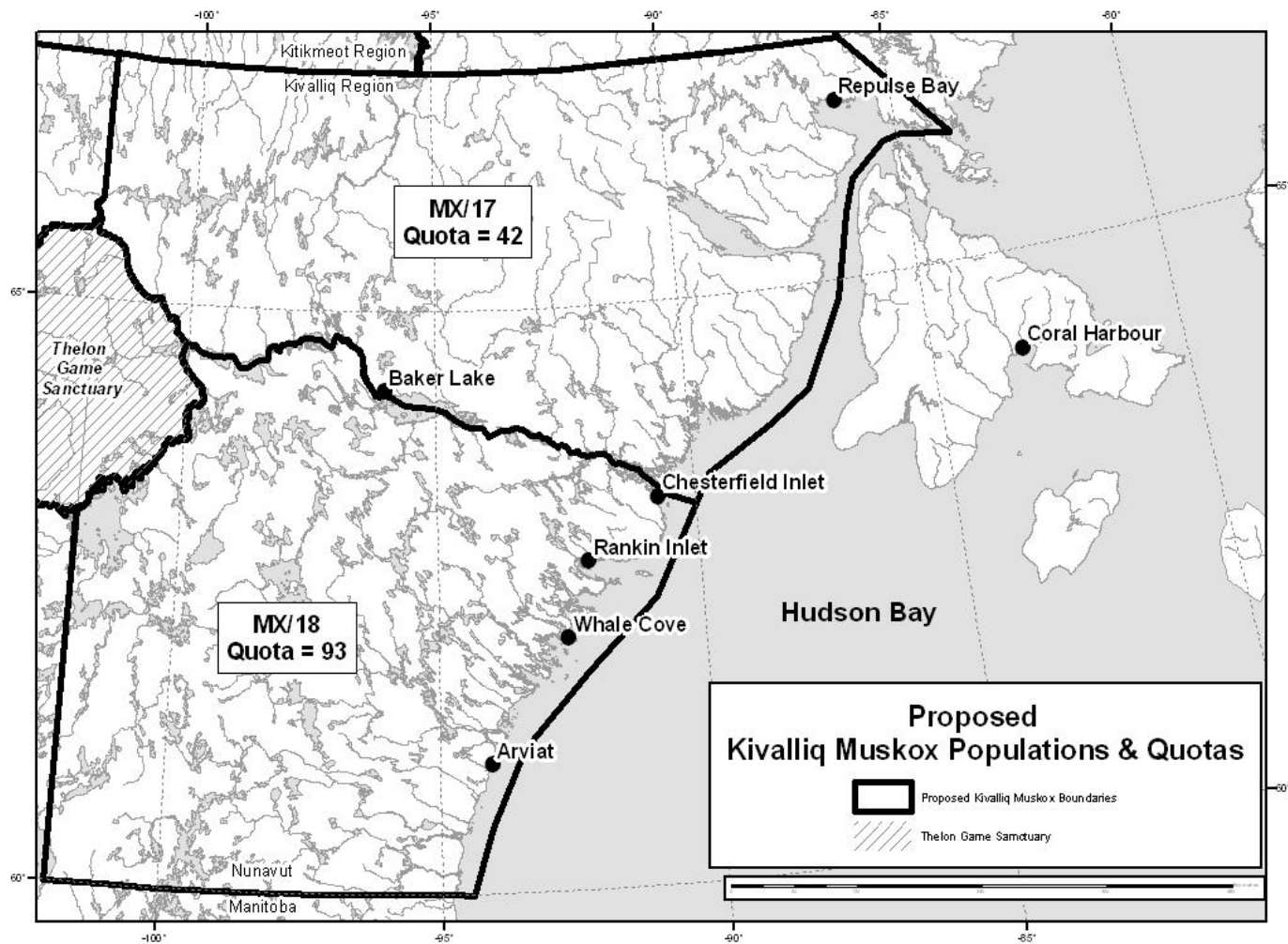
- Permanent change to eliminate existing Musk ox harvesting zones and change them into two populations as demonstrated in the attached map (MX17 and MX18).
- Permanent change to remove existing restrictions on harvesting seasons currently imposed on Kivalliq Musk ox.
- To increase the TAH on the Kivalliq Musk ox population to reflect a 5% harvesting ratio which current information suggests is consistent with stable populations of Musk ox.

The Management and Action Plans were developed in cooperation with Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, NTI Wildlife and with full consultation with Members of the KWB. A letter from GN DOE is attached supporting the efforts of the KWB.

Conclusion

Kivalliq Wildlife Board is seeking a decision on the Kivalliq Musk ox Management Plan that was recently submitted to the NWMB for consideration; the Plan once approved will be incorporated into the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations.

Ross Tatty
Chairman, Kivalliq Wildlife Board



Kivalliq Musk Ox Management Plan 2010 – 2015



Prepared by

Kivalliq Wildlife Board

In collaboration with

GN Department of Environment /NTI Wildlife

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1.0 Summary

Prior to the enactment of protection in 1917 (Burch, 1977), Musk ox populations throughout the central arctic were hunted to near extinction. Although limited information is available on the status of musk ox populations in much of the eastern Mainland (Fournier and Gunn, 1998), musk ox populations throughout Nunavut are currently re-colonizing much of their historical range. Most Kivalliq harvesters have reported increased sightings of Musk ox in close proximity to their communities which indicates that the animals have expanded their ranges significantly over the last few decades, in some areas as far as the coastline.

The Kivalliq Musk ox population management plan will serve as a tool to assist the co-management partners, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB), GN Department of Environment and NTI Wildlife, in properly protecting, conserving and managing the musk ox of the Kivalliq region. Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour represent the seven Kivalliq communities who harvest Musk ox from the two populations in questions and are represented on the KWB by their respective HTO Chairmen. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and community consultations have been utilized throughout the development of this management plan; community involvement has been instrumental in defining the direction of Musk ox harvesting in the Kivalliq Region.

The goals of the Management Plan are to protect, conserve and manage the herd in a sustainable fashion while working co-operatively with all co-management partners. The priorities include permanent changes to the Wildlife Act Regulations reflecting boundary alterations, elimination of seasons and setting of TAH.

An action plan has been developed to identify the immediate needs of the KWB however it is the intention of the Board to revisit the Plan on an annual basis or as necessary when new information becomes available.

2.0 The Kivalliq Musk ox Population and Its Range

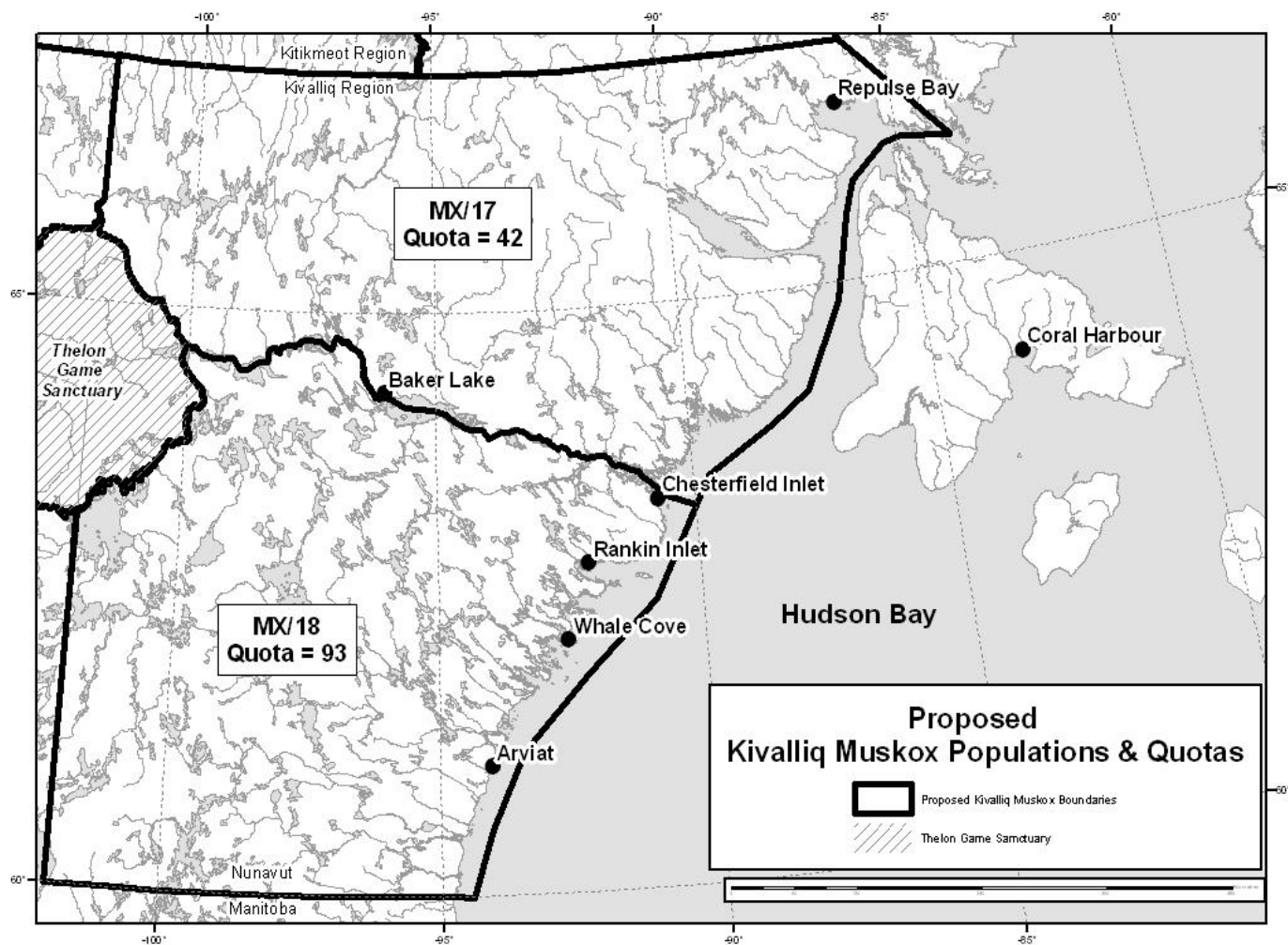
2.1 Musk ox Range

The precise number and boundaries of the population are currently in question. The most recent survey data supports the division of the Kivalliq Region into two main populations of Musk ox, one north of the Chesterfield Inlet/Thelon River basins and one south (Figure 1). Up to present, low harvest rates have allowed Kivalliq Musk ox to slowly expand their range while not significantly increasing their relative densities.

2.2 Communities that Harvest Musk ox

The Kivalliq Musk ox population is harvested from the seven Kivalliq communities; two zones are currently available to the communities. The two zones are divided by the Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake and Thelon River system; the communities of Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay harvest in the Northern zone (MX17) while the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and Arviat harvest in the Southern zone (MX18); Baker Lake harvests from both sectors. A map has been attached demonstrating the two zones.

Figure 1



3.0 The Necessity for a Musk ox Management Plan

3.1 Historical Information on the Need for a Management Plan

The Musk ox harvesting issue has been a long drawn out affair in the Kivalliq; traditionally hunters would travel very long distances to designated areas to harvest animals. Though recent consultations have clearly indicated a desire for being able to harvest Musk ox closer to communities, this has not always been the case. In fact, up until 2003 Kivalliq communities clearly indicated their support for a management system that would allow for harvestable groups of Musk ox to become established closer to communities. The current IQ suggests that this goal

has been achieved and it is now time to turn over decisions as to where and when Musk ox can be harvested to the communities keeping in mind that intensive harvesting on the expanding edge could in time once again lead to hunters having to go longer distances to catch Musk ox.

Though this change in management direction has been recommended by the KWB for four years, the management system in Nunavut has proven cumbersome and despite agreement in management direction by all co-management partners, this did not lead to the removal of the now overly restrictive regulations. More recently, in an attempt to expedite the process, the use of exemption permits was utilized to ease the burden of unnecessary travel and allow hunters' access to Musk ox closer to their communities. Now, with the proposed increased TAH and removal of seasons, it is critical that a management plan be developed to properly manage the Musk ox of the Kivalliq and ensure that any management decisions are quickly and effectively entered into the regulatory system.

3.2 Role of the Co-Management Partners

The KWB will be responsible for providing on-going IQ advice and support to co-management partners, allocating annual TAH to their respective communities, regulating their Members and fulfilling other obligations in accordance with the NLCA and reviewing the management plan as necessary.

The GN DOE will be responsible for the protection, management and sustainable use of the Kivalliq Musk ox population. The Department will also be responsible for conducting research when required, preparing reports, providing information and support to the KWB as necessary.

NTI Wildlife will be responsible for ensuring that all processes adhere to the NLCA; the Department will also provide information and support to the co-management partners as needed.

4.0 Community Involvement and Information

4.1 The Role of Communities in Musk ox Management

The communities of the Kivalliq will play a vital role in the management of the Musk ox population; it is through their local HTOs and subsequently on the Kivalliq Wildlife Board that their knowledge, expertise, concerns and wishes will be addressed.

4.2 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) is the knowledge and insight gained by Inuit through generations of living in close contact with nature. For Inuit, IQ is an inseparable part of their culture and includes rules and views that affect modern resource use. The practical application of local IQ with scientific information demonstrates the value of local consultations, and documenting and preserving IQ before it is lost. The communities of the Kivalliq, through the KWB, will be consulted on an on-going basis to ensure that IQ is utilized in conjunction with scientific information in the management of the Kivalliq Musk ox population.

5.0 Management of Kivalliq Musk ox

5.1 Goals of the Management Plan

The goals of the Management Plan are to provide guidance and direction to the co-management partners and are as follows:

- 1.1 To manage the Musk ox in a co-operative manner that involves the full participation of communities and government.
- 1.2 To include local knowledge, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific knowledge equally in the management process.
- 1.3 To promote local and regional involvement in decision making.
- 1.4 To protect, conserve and manage the Kivalliq Musk ox in a sustainable manner.

5.2 Management Plan Priorities

In addition to the goals of the Management Plan, specific priorities have been set by the KWB and supported by the co-management partners, these are as follows:

- Permanent change to the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations to eliminate existing Musk ox harvesting zones and change them into two populations as demonstrated in the attached map (MX17 and MX18).
- Permanent change to the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations to remove existing restrictions on harvesting seasons currently imposed on Kivalliq Musk ox.
- To increase the TAH on the Kivalliq Musk ox population to reflect a 5% harvesting ratio which current information suggests is consistent with stable populations of Musk ox.

5.3 Population Management

The main objective of population management is to monitor where the Kivalliq Musk ox population is within its long term cycle to help guide decisions about population monitoring actions and Musk ox harvesting.

The KWB has developed strategies to determine appropriate management actions for the Kivalliq Musk ox population that is based on the status within natural long term population fluctuations, these are as follows:

- **Strategy A – Core Management (Stable or Increasing Trend/High Population)** Core management applies at all times during population cycles and represents the minimum level of population activities that need to be conducted. Core management actions would be applied when population surveys and / or other indicators suggest that population trend is increasing or stable and that population size is above existing commercial, resident and subsistence harvesting needs.

The Kivalliq Musk ox population has been steadily increasing and expanding its range therefore the co-management partners felt that the herd could easily sustain an increase in harvesting from 3% to 5%.

- **Strategy B – Enhanced Management (Declining Trend)** As population trend declines, management actions need to be intensified to ensure that herds will be able to follow their natural cycle and increase in size again. Enhanced management will be applied when population censuses and/or other indicators suggest that population trend is declining or that population size has decreased below existing commercial, resident and subsistence harvesting needs.

In the event that the Musk ox population begins declining, the harvesting will be reduced from 5% (current stability) to 3% for a period of 5 years to promote growth of the herd; aerial and IQ surveys will be conducted to gather data and consultations will be scheduled with all co-management partners to determine if any further actions are necessary.

- **Strategy C – Critical Threshold Management (Population level below Subsistence Needs Level, SNL)** Critical Threshold management would apply when the population size is at a low point of the cycle and there are not enough Musk ox to meet the subsistence needs level. The extent of management effort required increases from high to low Musk ox population levels, and from Management Strategy A to C. Maximum effort will be required for a decreasing herd with a population level below SNL.

If the Kivalliq Musk ox population becomes critical, harvesting will be further reduced to 1-2% to promote growth and expansion of the herd, harvest levels will be reviewed on an annual basis by the co-management partners along with any new information such as aerial survey information, IQ information or any other relevant data. All co-management partners will work very closely together to ensure that the herd's welfare become a priority.

There will be on-going consultations between the KWB and its co-management partners regarding the Kivalliq Musk ox population. Musk ox is not a species at risk and there is presently no conservation concern for Musk ox in the Kivalliq Region. The current management objectives include total allowable harvest recommendations that are based upon maintaining a vital, healthy population capable of sustaining harvesting needs. These recommendations have been established through discussion with the co-management partners and will continue to be updated as necessary through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and systematic surveys of the population.

5.4 Population Monitoring and Indicators

Regular population monitoring by means of surveys is an essential tool for the effective management of the Kivalliq Musk ox. Although an aerial survey is scheduled for summer 2010, it is crucial that monitoring continue on a consistent basis to ensure accurate and long term information. The KWB will also encourage its Members to solicit harvesters for relevant information on Musk ox after they return from their hunts.

6.0 Action Plans

Action plans are an important part of the management plan because they describe what needs to be done to achieve the management plan's goals. Action plans outline essential tasks that must be conducted to allow communities to make appropriate decisions to ensure that herds and ranges are maintained.

For further information please contact:

Kivalliq Wildlife Board
P.O. Box 219
Rankin Inlet, NU
X0C 0G0

Phone: 867-645-4860
Fax: 867-645-4861
Email: richardc@qiniq.com

Kivalliq Musk ox Management Plan

Action Plan

February 2010



Prepared by

Kivalliq Wildlife Board

In collaboration with

GN Department of Environment / NTI Wildlife

ACTION PLANS

The following action plans are a component of the management plan. They list essential tasks that the KWB recommends for the management of Musk ox. The action plans support and emphasizes programs and projects that have proven to be of value in better Musk ox management and recommends what needs to be done to achieve the goals of the management plan.

Action plans assign responsibilities for conducting programs and projects and cover four main categories:

1. Aerial Survey of Kivalliq Musk ox Population
2. Gathering of Hunter Data Sheets and Other relevant IQ
3. NWMB Decision on Regulation Changes
4. Community Consultation

Action plans are dynamic and subject to modification to reflect changing circumstances. They are reviewed and updated annually.

1. Aerial Survey of Kivalliq Musk ox Population

Background:

The Rankin Inlet HTO applied and was approved for funding through the NWMB in fiscal year 09/10 (\$30k) to conduct an aerial survey in conjunction with GN DOE, unfortunately the GN did not secure funding for their portion of the project until fiscal year 10/11, work to take place in summer 2010. An aerial survey of the Kivalliq Musk ox population is crucial in determining an up to date count and location of the herd and establish the expansion of its range.

Problem Statement:

GN Doe has committed approximately \$80k towards the upcoming aerial survey for 2010 however it is hoped that the Rankin HTO's portion of the project funding can be carried forward into the next fiscal year to assist with the project.

Objectives:

Get commitment from NWMB that would allow the Rankin Inlet HTO to carry over their project funding into the 10/11 fiscal year to assist with the proposed aerial survey of the Kivalliq Musk ox.

Methods:

1. Rankin Inlet HTO to draft a letter to NWMB requesting carries over of project funding into fiscal year 10/11.
2. GN DOE send supporting letter to be attached with Rankin Inlet HTO letter to NWMB.

Schedule:

February 2010 – Letter from Rankin Inlet HTO to NWMB

February 2010 – Letter from GN DOE to NWMB supporting Rankin HTO

Evaluation:

Fall 2010 KWB Meeting

Lead Role:

Rankin Inlet HTO & GN DOE

2. Gathering of Hunter Data Sheets and Other relevant IQ

Background:

There is limited scientific information and even less IQ information available on the Kivalliq Musk ox population, it is imperative that all data be collected and analyzed in order to ensure proper decision making. In addition to the hunter information that the GN has collected over the years, the HTOs have now been collecting their own information in regards to harvest locations, herd sizes, health, as well as other pertinent information. There is also relevant data that can be collected from elders that has not yet been included in any literature.

Problem Statement:

In order to ensure proper and true management of the Kivalliq Musk ox population, all scientific and IQ data and knowledge must be reviewed and analyzed thoroughly prior to making decisions.

Objectives:

Compile the hunter data sheets from the local HTOs and determine locations where harvesters are sighting Musk ox, information to be compared to scientific data. Elders to be interviewed; their knowledge about Musk ox in the region to be documented.

Methods:

1. NIWS staff to assist KWB in gathering HTO hunter data sheets.
2. GN DOE / NTI Wildlife Staff to assist in analyzing information.

Schedule:

June 2010 – collect HTO hunter harvest sheets

July-August 2010 – conduct elder surveys

Evaluation:

KWB fall 2009 meeting

Lead Role:

KWB & HTOs

3. NWMB Decision on Regulation Changes

Background:

The co-management partners are responsible for the protection, conservation, management of the herd in a sustainable manner however the NWMB has an important role to play in the decision making process with regards to changes in the Wildlife Act Regulations. The KWB has requested and received support for permanent changes to the regulations which require a decision from the NWMB.

Problem Statement:

The NWMB must realize that the proposed management plan, action plans and changes to the Regulations are a culmination of years of relentless effort by the co-management partners to reach a consensus on an otherwise contentious issue.

Objectives:

The KWB has developed a Management Plan, Action Plan and compiled letters of support for their position in regards to improved management of the Kivalliq Musk ox population; the objective is to have the plan and requested changes approved by NWMB so that the plan can be implemented.

Methods:

1. NIWS, NTI and GN DOE to assist KWB in preparing Management Plan
2. NTI and GN DOE to provide letters of support
3. NIWS to assist KWB in preparing Plan and briefing note for NWMB meeting
4. KWB to attend NWMB April meeting

Schedule:

March 2010 – KWB to submit Management Plan, Action Plan to NWMB

March 2010 – KWB to submit briefing note and letter(s) to NWMB

March 2010 – NTI Wildlife to prepare support letter for Management Plan

March 2010 – GN DOE to prepare support letter for Management Plan

Evaluation:

KWB AGM – May 2010

Lead Role:

KWB / GN DOE / NTI Wildlife

4. Community Consultation

Background:

It is very important that communities are consulted throughout the process and are involved in research, gathering information and that their knowledge and wishes be listened to and more importantly, be included in the decision making process. Regular community visits are important, attending HTO or regional meetings are critical in

order to acquire valuable information and maintain a true relationship, this is the foundation for community consultation.

Problem Statement:

Consultation is too often viewed as one way street and input gathered from communities is not taken seriously and often not implemented.

Objectives:

The co-management partners have consulted the communities on an on-going basis to ensure that management of the Kivalliq Musk ox population is reflective of their views and their comments, concerns and input is included in the decision making process.

Methods:

1. GN DOE and NTI Wildlife to attend KWB and HTO meetings (whenever possible).
2. KWB to promote Management Plan to HTO Memberships once approved.

Schedule:

March 4-5, 2010 – KWB meeting, review of Plan and regional consultation

March 2010 to future – on-going consultation with co-management partners and communities on the status of the Kivalliq Musk ox population

Evaluation:

On-going

Lead Role:

KWB, GN DOE and NTI Wildlife

For further information please contact:

Kivalliq Wildlife Board
P.O. Box 219
Rankin Inlet, NU
X0C 0G0

Phone: 867-645-4860
Fax: 867-645-4861
Email: richardc@qiniq.com

Feb. 3rd, 2010

Ross Tatty
KWB Chairman
P.O. Box 219
Rankin Inlet, NU.
X0C 0G0
Ph: (867)645-4860
Fax: (867)645-4861

Re: Muskox Management Plan, Adjustments to Quotas and Seasons

Dear Mr. Tatty,

Our office received your letter e-mailed February 2, 2008 and I will do everything possible to attend your meeting and/or have our Regional Manager attend in my possible absence. Please review the following recommendations from the DoE as a result of the consultations with the community's leaders from your last KWB meeting.

Background

The KWB meeting of October 26, 2009 was extremely valuable in that it provided excellent discussion between the KWB, NTI, and DoE regarding future goals and objectives concerning muskox management in the Kivalliq. During these discussions the KWB respectfully made clear its desires to move forward on four main items concerning muskox management in the Kivalliq region;

- 1- Expand current hunting zones
- 2- Increase quotas to achieve stability in Kivalliq muskox populations.
- 3- Remove seasons.
- 4- Initiate a population survey of the Central Kivalliq muskox population.

The KWB members relayed information from hunters in their communities that they believed would support the first three requests and that their forth request would help insure that fact and possibly indicate further an increase in the central Kivalliq muskox population.

The GN DoE in 2007 had come to the same conclusions and strongly supported the KWB and its members regarding the expansion of the current muskox zones (Figure 1). The DoE research Division then re-drafted their TAH (Total Allowable Harvest) report to support the KWB in the expansion of these zones as the expansion in DoE and the KWB's opinion would not represent a conservation risk to the two identified muskox populations. The DoE then sent a letter to KWB in

November 2009 in support of the expansion of zones into two populations as indicated in Figure 1. The revised report did however caution that focused harvesting on the expanding edge of either population could, in time, cause future muskox distributions to exist further from communities. Therefore a balance in the harvesting of muskox both close to and further away from communities is strongly recommended to the KWB and all their represented HTOs.

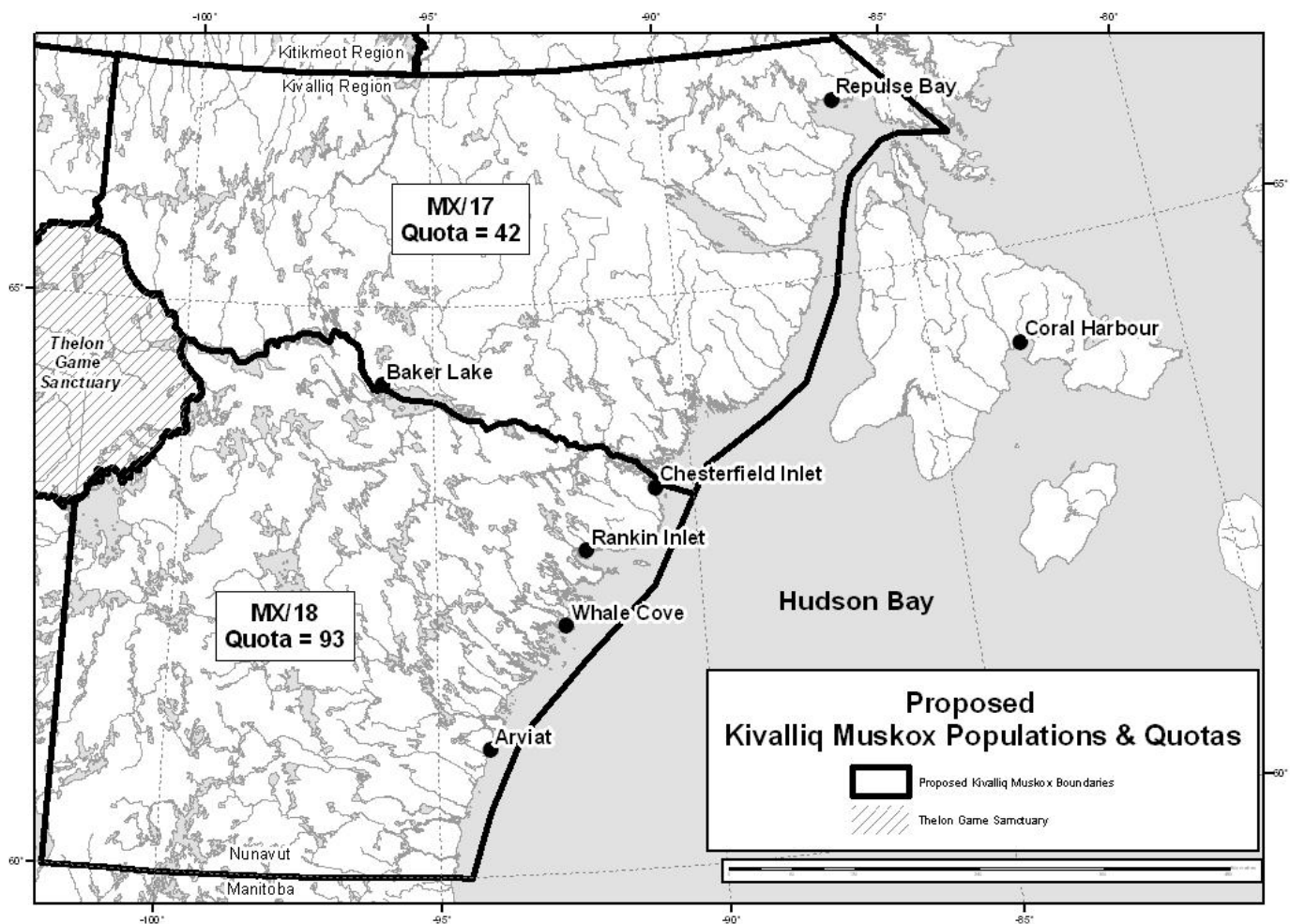


Figure 1 DoE recommendations for muskox population boundaries and new increased quotas based on an estimate of the sustainable harvest. The most current population estimate was flown July 1999.

The DoE is also pleased to inform the Rankin Inlet HTO and KWB that the proposed Central Kivalliq muskox survey has been approved for funding this fiscal year and that discussions will begin shortly with the Rankin Inlet HTO regarding the set up and initiation of this partnered muskox population estimate.

In response to the KWB's second and third requests, the DoE, during the October, 2009 meetings, committed to reviewing all available information including IQ, and with this information raise these requests at the November 2009 DoE Wildlife Research Divisions (WRD) annual research priorities meeting in Iqaluit. The following are the decisions and recommendations coming out of this meeting.

2 Muskox Quotas

DoE would like to inform the KWB that the consultations we had during your last KWB meeting in October 2009 were discussed with the Department of Environment Wildlife Research Division. During this meeting I explained the local knowledge that was relayed to me by the community representatives as well as the scientific knowledge collected in July 2000 relayed back to the communities. With this new information the KWB indicated a desire at this time to manage Kivalliq muskox populations for stability rather than growth. There was agreement amongst the DoE Research Division that an increase in quotas from 3% (marked for growth) to 5% (marked for stability) better represented the needs and goals of Kivalliq communities while maintaining the long-term sustainability of both Kivalliq muskox populations (Appendix A). Therefore the DoE would like to recommend to the KWB a quota increase in the newly identified population of MX/18 to be raised from 60 to 93 individuals of either sex and any age and a quota increase of the MX/17 muskox population from 25 to 42 individuals of either sex and any age (this increase has already been initiated) (Figure 1). The Department would like to strongly recommend to the KWB and its members that hunters try to avoid removing dominant bulls during the months of May, June and July as the dominant bulls maintain herd structure within the group and thus protection for the growing calves from predation and displacement/separation from the group/cows.

3 Kivalliq Muskox Seasons

Kivalliq muskox seasons (in light of normal hunting practices relayed to DoE through KWB's members, as well as the extreme difficulty in accessing most muskox groups during the snow-free season, as well as the reported increases in the Kivalliq muskox populations) were also reviewed. This review included the most current population information as well as a review of population trends. The DoE WRD discussed the issue and agreed that the scientific data and IQ provided by the KWB indicated that the Kivalliq muskox populations could be sustainably harvested in the absence of seasonal restrictions. As a result the

DoE would like to indicate their agreement with the KWB and recommend that within the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut all muskox seasons be removed as their removal will not represent a conservation risk to either Kivalliq population.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the KWB for their continued proactive involvement in Nunavut's co-management environment. I believe that decisions made by any stakeholder in Nunavut's wildlife management regime will develop superior decisions and actions within a collaborative environment where all parties interests, concerns and information are used. It is my goal to improve the Kivalliq research division's ability to work in partnership with the KWB and all its members to build a superior wildlife management system that benefits harvesters while conserving wildlife resources for their children.

Respectfully,

Mitch Campbell
Kivalliq Wildlife Biologist
Nunavut Department of Environment
P.O. Box 120
Arviat, NU
X0C 0E0
Ph: (867)857-2828
Fax: (867)857-2986
e-mail: mcampbell@gov.nu.ca

Appendix - A

Thelon / South (MX/18)	Adults (All strata in MX21)										
	Stratum	Yh	Var(Yh)	nh	Z	z	N	y(adults)	R (density)	Y	
	B_High	1551.14	32583.85	33	11619	5288.38	64.01	706	0.134	1551.14	
	D_Medium	742.9	64327.83	26	7047.2	2437.92	77.465	257	0.105	742.9	
	E_LowA	206.64	6824.84	15	7855.5	1482.58	70.49	39	0.026	206.64	
	Estimate = 2500.68	103736.5	74	26521.7	9208.88	211.97	1002	0.109	2885.77		
	SE(Y)			322.08		t2(0.5), 73		df= 1.993			
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (+/-)			641.91		Proposed Management Goal in Brackets					
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (%)			25.67		Old Quota (Expansion) = 3% LCI =1858.77 x 0.03 = 55					
	Coefficient of Variation			0.112		New Quota (Stability) = 5% LCI = 1858.77 x 0.05 = 93					
Thelon / North (MX/17)	Adults (All strata in MX20)										
	Stratum	Yh	Var(Yh)	nh	Z	z	N	y(adults)	density	Y	
	F_LowB	1521.83	109568.5	28	35377.65	7276.24	135.73	313	0.043017	1521.831	
	Estimate = 1521.83	109568.5	28	35377.65	7276.24	135.73	313	0.043017	1521.831		
	SE(Y)			331.01		t2(0.5), 27		df= 2.052			
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (+/-)			679.24		Proposed Management Goal in Brackets					
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (%)			44.63		Old Quota (Expansion) = 3% *LCI = 842.59 x 0.03 = 25					
	Coefficient of Variation			0.22		New Quota (Stability) = 5% *LCI = 842.59 x 0.05 = 42					

* LCI = The Lower 95% Confidence Limits of Y (-)

**Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association
Hunters' and Trappers' Organization
P.O. Box 309
Kugluktuk, Nunavut X0B 0E0
Ph. (867) 982 – 4908
Fx. (867) 982 – 5912
kugluktukhto@qiniq.com**

November 17, 2010

**Briefing Note for NWMB (Dec 2010)
Request for Study or Survey on Musk-ox Population
On the East Side of Kugluktuk**

The Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization (HTO) would like to see a study or survey done on the population of the Musk-ox on the East Side of Kugluktuk, especially in MX-19 Zone. The Kugluktuk HTO has made a motion to increase the musk-ox tags to the East Side of Kugluktuk. The local harvesters (hunters) have been noticing quite an increase in the musk-ox populations to the East of Kugluktuk. Herds can be seen in large numbers, and seen frequently by local travelers and hunters.

There is serious concerns that if the musk-ox is allowed to keep increasing, then the musk-ox tend to take over caribou trails and areas where they feed, and the caribou will move away or further away. This has been the case for the past few years, the caribou have been so far away, that local harvesters have had to travel huge distances in order to harvest caribou. The caribou move to other areas where there is no conflict for vegetation (food) with the musk-ox. This was the case for the communities of Sachs Harbour and Uluhaktuk in the past. The musk-ox was allowed to increase their herds too much, which is believed to be the cause of the caribou moving away from those two community areas. Which is still the case today; those two communities still have no caribou (or are too far) around their surrounding areas and are still relying on other communities to provide caribou for them.

This has been an ongoing issue for the Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization for a few years now. And there has been no resolution to the Kugluktuk HTO's request to increase the musk-ox tags for local harvesters (hunters). In the past, more tags were requested and received from the Bathurst Inlet HTO office. The Kugluktuk HTO would like to see an increase in musk-ox tags in our own jurisdiction for local harvesters to use. Increasing the musk-ox tags then assists the community of Kugluktuk during harvesting to provide well needed native food, which has replaced the meat of caribou these days.

Barbara Adjun
Manager
Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization