

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.

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