

# PROPOSAL REVIEW

**Project Number:** 244-14-02

**Applicant:** James Qitsualik

**Title:** M'Clintock Channel polar bear biopsy and hair snag survey

**Funding Requested:** \$30,000

**Rank:** 1 / 3

**Total Score** 75.75 /100

(0 points deducted)

**Scoring Breakdown:**

NWMB Priority: 7.50 / 7.50

Regional Priority: 17.50 / 17.50

Quality: 32.00 / 35.00

Consultation: 8.50 / 15

Funding: 10.25 / 25

**Project Summary:** The main objective of this project is to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of bears in M'Clintock Channel to inform the total allowable harvest. Working in conjunction with an aerial biopsy survey conducted by the Government of Nunavut (proposed separately; project 2-14-09), this project also seeks to increase capacity of Inuit hunters of Gjoa Haven and other Kitikmeot communities to conduct their own polar bear monitoring using hair snag sampling, diagnosis of footprints, biopsy sampling, and collection of fecal samples.

**Project Contributions:**

Requested from NWMB	\$30,000	100%
Other Contributions	\$ 0 <sup>1</sup>	0%
Total	\$30,000	100%

**NWMB Staff Evaluation:**

NWMB Priority: #1 - Contributes to the establishment, modification or removal of levels of Total Allowable Harvest (S 5.6.16 to S 5.6.18) for stocks or populations where there is believed to be a conservation concern or that are priority species for harvest by Inuit.

Regional Priority: # 1 Kitikmeot – M'Clintock Channel polar bear population estimate

Project design: Hunters will erect up to 100 hair snag sampling stations approximately 10 kilometers apart in a 10km by 10km wide grid around Cape Sydney and Cape Alexander. The stations will be erected after May 15, 2014, once the aerial biopsy survey has been completed. All stations will be baited and checked a few days after being set. Stations will each be checked twice before dismantling. All hair snag samples will be collected and bear tracks will be photographed and diagnosed by hunters for sex, age, size and age of tracks. Any bears encountered between sampling stations will be darted for biopsy samples and all fecal pellets observed will be collected. Genetic analysis by the Government of Nunavut will determine the number of individual genetic profiles in the combined hair snag, biopsy and fecal samples, giving an indication of the number of bears in the area.

Application of results: Results will be communicated to Gjoa Haven residents, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board and partners from the Government of Nunavut, the Canadian Wildlife

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<sup>1</sup> Costs of data compilation and analysis will be absorbed by other collaborating partners.

Service and southern universities. It is hoped that this survey will give an accurate estimate of the number of bears in M'Clintock Channel to inform the total allowable harvest.

Community involvement / consultation: This application was submitted by the Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Organization; however no evidence of community consultation has been provided. The project will employ three hunters, one each from Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak, and Gjoa Haven. Results will be communicated to residents of Gjoa Haven as well as the Kitkmeot Regional Wildlife Board.

**Recommendations:**

NWMB staff have no recommendations.

**Prepared By:** Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

**Consultations:** Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB