

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: New project proposals for Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust funding, 2014-2015.

Background: The Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust (NWRT) funds research projects related to wildlife management carried out by Government departments. NWRT project numbers identify the department associated with the project, the year of the original application and a project number. Projects starting with a '2' refer to the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, projects with a '3' refer to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, projects with a '4' refer to the Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service.

We received a total of 22 new applications for NWRT funding this year: 10 from the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, 10 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and 2 from Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service. These proposals have requested a total of **\$1,139,000**. The total funding available for 2014-2015 is **\$883,000**; however, as there is **\$165,500** committed to multi-year projects approved last year, only **\$717,500** is available to allocate to new projects for 2014-2015.

The NWRT policy indicates that: "The NWMB will consider only a package of projects (ranked highest to lowest) that does not exceed 135% of the funds available for allocation". Based on the **\$717,500** available to allocate for 2014-2015, a package of proposals totaling **\$968,625** is being brought to the Board for consideration.

As per the NWRT policy and funding guide, proposals brought to the Board for consideration must achieve a minimum score of 65. All proposals were evaluated according to the policy approved in September 2010 by the NWMB (score sheets are available for review but are not included in the binders and are not publicly available). Proposals were scored based on the following four sections, for a total score out of 100:

- Priorities / 25 (NWMB Priority 17.50 and Regional Priorities 7.50);
- Quality of research / 35;
- Funding and training / 25; and
- Consultation and reporting / 15

The NWMB's 2010-2013 Wildlife Management and Research Priorities and the 2010 Regional Priorities lists for Baffin and Kivalliq Regions were used to evaluate the NWMB Priorities and the Regional Priorities respectively (refer to **TAB 2**). The NWMB has not yet received a finalized 2010 priority list from the Kitikmeot region, so the 2007 list of wildlife priorities was used for this region. When scoring proposals, NWMB staff used the highest relevant ranked priority from these lists.

After having reviewed each proposal in detail, NWMB staff would like to note that 3 of this year's applications did not provide sufficient detail to achieve the minimum score of 65%. In particular: 1)

applications did not provide sufficiently detailed information on the procedures used during field research, as well as statistical or spatial analysis techniques – information that is required to evaluate the proposed methodology and approach, and; 2) the proposals had objectives that did not address NWMB or regional priorities; therefore, they achieved a lower score.

In sending letters to notify applicants that their applications would not proceed to the second stage of the evaluation process, NWMB staff emphasized the importance of adhering to the NWRT Funding Guide when submitting applications. The NWRT Funding Guide is provided annually with the Call for Proposals and provides applicants with a clear breakdown of evaluation criteria, and stresses that the NWMB expects that as much detail as possible will be provided for all sections.

As such, 18 projects which met the requirements outlined in the policy are being brought to you for consideration (9 from the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, 9 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and 0 from Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service), requesting a total of **\$957,000**.

The annual allocation to multi-year projects cannot exceed 25% of the total amount available for allocation (**\$220,750 for the current funding year**). As there is **\$165,500** committed to multi-year projects approved last year, only **\$55,250** is available for new multi-year projects proposed for 2014-2015. To be approved for multi-year funding a project must meet the following minimum scoring requirements under each of the four sections:

- Research Priority- 16.25 / 25 (65%);
- Quality of research - 24.50 / 35 (70%);
- Funding and training – 15/25 (60%);
- Consultation and reporting - 10.50/15 (70%).

Three of the project proposals that are being brought to the Board requested multi-year funding in their applications. Only one of three project proposals¹ requesting multi-year funding met the criteria above, and is requesting **\$75,000** in funding for 2014-2015. As this project is requesting more than the **\$55,000** that the NWMB has available for multi-year projects and the 2 other multi-year proposals did not meet the above criteria, all three proposals are being brought to the Board for consideration for only the 2014-2015 funding period.

The maximum amount of preliminary study funding that can be awarded each funding year is 10% of the total funds available to allocate (**\$71,750 for 2014-2015**). One project proposal² being brought to the Board requested preliminary funding for the 2014-2015 funding period, requesting a total of **\$10,000**.

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¹ Eastern Arctic marine multi-species survey (3-14-10 Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

² Pond Inlet Arctic char exploratory fishery analysis (3-14-09 Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

New Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Proposals for 2014-2015.

Project #	Title	Amount Requested	Score	Rank	Tab
2-14-07	Distribution and abundance of Baffin Island barren-ground caribou	\$75,000	90.00	1	6
2-14-09	M'Clintock Channel polar bear genetic mark-recapture	\$75,000	85.60	2	7
2-14-08	Estimating breeding female abundance within the Qamanirjuaq mainland migratory barren-ground caribou subpopulation	\$75,000	85.37	3	8
3-14-02	Cumberland Sound beluga survey	\$60,000	83.34	4	9
3-14-03	Abundance of walrus in Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait	\$75,000	82.69	5	10
2-14-04	Peary caribou landscape genetics: critical habitat and population structure in the High Arctic	\$36,000	82.29	6	11
2-14-05	Kane Basin polar bear mark-recapture	\$65,000	81.00	7	12
3-14-05	Jones Sound narwhal study	\$45,000	76.94	8	13
3-14-08	Fishery independent sampling of Cambridge Bay char stocks	\$20,000	74.17	9	14
3-14-07	Climate related changes in marine invertebrate communities and AIS risks	\$20,000	73.00	10	15
2-14-10	Community-based caribou health monitoring on Baffin Island and the Melville Peninsula	\$16,000	73.00	11	16
3-14-04	Killer whale study	\$30,000	72.25	12	17
3-14-01	Growth and sustainable yield of lake trout in Nunavut	\$55,000	71.88	13	18
3-14-10	Eastern Arctic marine multi-species survey	\$75,000	71.30	14	19
2-14-02	Southern Ellesmere Peary caribou and muskox aerial survey	\$75,000	69.84	15	20
3-14-09	Pond Inlet Arctic char exploratory fishery analysis	\$10,000	68.16	16	21
2-14-01	Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory	\$75,000	67.06	17	22
2-14-11	Muskox population boundary delimitation and estimate number on Victoria Island	\$75,000	66.69	18	23
Total Funds Requested:		\$957,000			
Total Funds Available:		\$717,500			