SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: **Decision: X**

Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt applications for 2016

Overview: On September 16th 2015, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) issued a call for walrus sport hunt applications inviting all Hunters and Trappers Organizations and other interested individuals or organizations to apply to the NWMB for approval of walrus sport hunts. The deadline for submission of applications was October 30th 2015.

Hunt plans require the NWMB's approval as per *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Sections 5.2.34(d)(i) and 5.6.48 before licences are issued. In May 1999, the Board approved an interim policy for evaluating requests for sport hunts (Appendix 1). The Board further requested that those conducting hunts report their struck, lost and landed animals at the time of application the following year. The following summarizes the hunts requested for the 2016 season:

Applicant	Walrus Stock	Hunts Requested
Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	5
Luke Eetuk, E and E Outfitting, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	6
Jake Netser, JJ Outfitting, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	6
Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization	North and Central Foxe Basin	15

In September 2014, at the NWMB's Regular Meeting (RM 003-2014), Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a Proposal for Decision to establish a management unit boundary and total allowable harvest for the North and Central Foxe Basin walrus stocks (a map can be found at the end of this briefing note). In April 2015 the NWMB, in consultation with co-management partners, decided to adjourn its public hearing to consider this Proposal to allow Fisheries and Oceans Canada to analyze and consult on newly available scientific information concerning this stock. The results of this analysis, which will include a revised sustainable harvest estimate, are expected in the spring of 2016.

There is currently no scientific estimate of the size of the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait walrus stock, however Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60 walrus. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization has passed a resolution supporting the three applications from Aaron Emiktowt, Luke Eetuk and Jake Netser, which was provided to the NWMB via e-mail. All four applications are summarizes in Appendix 2.

Prepared by: Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist
Reviewed by: Peter Kydd, Director of Wildlife Management
Date: November 9th 2015

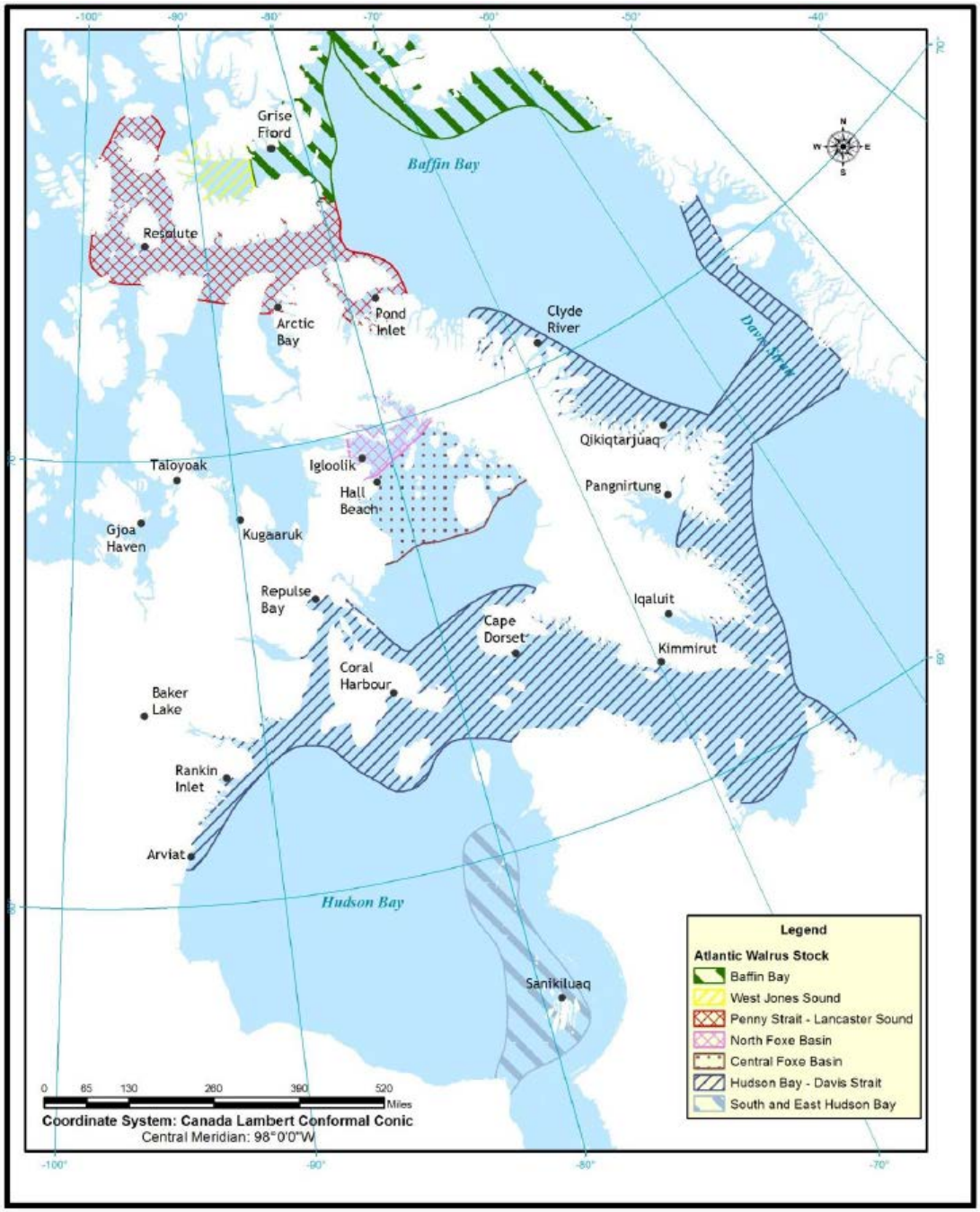

Figure 1. Stocks of Atlantic walrus in Nunavut. Hall Beach harvests walrus from the North and Central Foxe Basin stocks. Coral Harbour harvests walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock.

Appendix 1

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 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* 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 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement,* 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 2

Summary of Applications[1]

1. **Aaron Emitowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour**

Number of Hunts Requested: 5

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock. Scientific data on this stock is lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization did not identify any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60. Over the past 5 years, an average of 6 animals has been harvested annually in sport hunts[2] and 13 animals in subsistence hunts[3], with a total of 19 animals harvested annually.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Aaron Emiktowt, Darcy Nakoolak and Jonathan Emiktowt will guide the hunts around Walrus Island or Coats Island in August and September of 2016. The guides have level 1 and 2 certificates. Aaron Emiktowt has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past. Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt) holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will carry harpoons, rifles, hooks, buoys, rope, retrieval hooks, winches, a killer spear and proper safety equipment (survival suits, satellite phones, flares, CB radio, life raft, personal floatation devices).

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot then harpooned or harpooned then shot. The hunter will only be allowed to strike once and land. The hunter can take the tusks, cape, skull, baculum and hide. The rest of the walrus will be fermented and given to elders or the community.

Letter of Support from Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes (e-mail)
Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 6
Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 6
Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 6
Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

---

[1] All five-year averages are based on available data for the 2010/2011-2014/2015 hunting seasons. Not all categories of hunt data were reported in all years.

[2] Based on 5 years of data from 2010-2014.

[3] Based on 4 years of reported data, from 2010-2014.

2. Luke Eetuk, E and E Outfitting, Coral Harbour

Number of Hunts Requested: 6

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock. Scientific data on this stock is lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization did not identify any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60. Over the past 5 years, an average of 6 animals has been harvested annually in sport hunts[4] and 13 animals in subsistence hunts[5], with a total of 19 animals harvested annually.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Luke Eetuk, Ross Eetuk and Mark Pootoolik will guide the hunts around Southampton Island, Coats Island and Walrus Island between July and September of 2016. The guides have level 1 and 2 certificates. Luke Eetuk has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past. E and E Outfitting (Luke Eetuk) holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will carry harpoons, rifles, buoys, ropes, a Global Positioning System and proper safety equipment (survival suits, satellite phones, spot device, tents, anchors, rope).

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot then harpooned. The hunter will only be allowed to strike once and land. The hunter can take the full mount or cape, skull, tusks and baculum. The rest of the walrus will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes (e-mail)
Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 6
Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 2
Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 1
Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

[4] Based on 5 years of data from 2010-2014.

[5] Based on 4 years of reported data, from 2010-2014.

3. **Jake Netser, JJ Outfitting, Coral Harbour**

Number of Hunts Requested: 6

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock. Scientific data on this stock is lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization did not identify any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60. Over the past 5 years, an average of 6 animals has been harvested annually in sport hunts[6] and 13 animals in subsistence hunts[7], with a total of 19 animals harvested annually.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Jake Netser and Jonathan Emiktowt will guide the hunts around Walrus Island. Both guides are trained. Jake Netser has guided hunts in the past. JJ Outfitting (Jake Netser) holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will carry rifles, harpoons, harpoon heads, knives and proper safety equipment (survival suits, satellite phone, spot device).

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be harpooned then shot. The hunter will only be allowed to strike once and land. The hunter can take the hide, tusks, skull and bones. The rest of the walrus will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes (e-mail)
Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 0
Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 0
Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 0
Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

[6] Based on 5 years of data from 2010-2014.

[7] Based on 4 years of reported data, from 2010-2014.

4. Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization

Number of Hunts Requested: 15

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Hall Beach harvest walrus from the Northern and Central Foxe Basin stocks. The most recent estimated size for these two stocks combined ranges from 8,153 to 13,452 walrus based on counts from different dates with different adjustment factors. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is in the process of producing a final estimate of sustainable harvest for these two stocks. The Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization did not identify any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Hall Beach does not have a community quota. Over the past five years, the average number of walrus harvested annually has been 3 in sport hunts[8] and 77 in subsistence hunts[9], with a total of 80 animals harvested annually.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Experienced hunters and certified guides will guide the hunts around Foxe Basin between July and August of 2016. The Hunters and Trappers Organization has had hunt plans approved and has conducted sport hunts in past years. Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization will hold the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will be fully equipped with hunting equipment (no specification as to the type) and proper safety equipment (survival suits, first aid kit, satellite phone, CB radio, spot device, safety boat).

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: If the walrus is in water, it will be harpooned first then shot on land or ice. If a hunter strikes but does not land a walrus, he or she will be allowed a second strike. The sport hunter will take whatever parts of the animal his or her province/territory allows. The remaining meat will be fermented and used for community events.

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 15
Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 11
Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 11
Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

[8] Based on 5 years of data from 2010-2014.

[9] Based on 4 years of reported data from 2010-2014.