



May 2nd, 2012

The Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Re: NWMB decision on non-quota limitation on the use of bows or crossbows by sport hunters harvesting walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area

Dear Minister Ashfield,

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting No. 001-2012, held on March 13th 2012 in Iqaluit, the NWMB considered a request from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to restrict the use of bows or crossbows in walrus sport hunts. After careful review and consideration, the NWMB made the following decision:

"MOVED that the NWMB prohibit the use of bows or crossbows by sport hunters in the harvesting of walrus, as per S. 5.6.48 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement"

In making its decision, the NWMB found the following arguments pertaining to the use of bows or crossbows during walrus sport hunts, to be particularly reliable and persuasive:

- The use of this method would probably be less quick in killing the animal than a bullet; and
- There is the possibility for increased struck and lost rates as walrus can switch to anaerobic respiration for a short time period, giving the walrus an opportunity to flee and enter the water where it is more likely to drown and less likely to be retrieved.

Should you accept this decision of the NWMB, the NWMB anticipates that implementation of this decision by your department will include appropriate notification to walrus sport hunters. Should you have any questions or concerns with respect to this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Jim Noble
Chief Operating Officer
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

