SUBMISSION TO THE

(2012/2013 fiscal year)

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



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Information:

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ssue:	Proposed	co-management	partner	marine	mammal	struck	and	loss	worksho

Decision: X

Background: Co-management partners held a narwhal working group meeting held on February 6th-7th 2012 in Ottawa to discuss the 3rd draft of the narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP). At the meeting, there was a detailed discussion pertaining to reducing struck and loss¹. NWMB staff suggested that a proposal could be put forth to the Board to consider holding a struck and loss workshop in Nunavut to address this management concern.

Struck and loss is perceived as a problem for hunters, managers and the public. It is clearly understood that hunters make all attempts to reduce struck and loss rates. However, in order to make sustainable management decisions when establishing or modifying total allowable harvests, the managers of the resource (i.e. NWMB, DFO, RWOs, HTOs) require reliable struck and loss information to inform these decisions.

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) frequently holds workshops to address issues surrounding struck and lost in marine mammals, however there has never been a Nunavut forum to discuss issues and solutions. An NWMB funded workshop, in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), would provide such a forum.

Recommendation: This proposal is at the very early stages of development, and the NWMB staff require direction from the Board on whether this is an initiative with which the Board would like to proceed.

The recommendation from NWMB staff is that the Board approve the following:

Draft Resolution:

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve:

- 1. A funding commitment of \$100,000 to conduct a workshop in Nunavut on marine mammal struck and loss;
- 2. That the funding commitment be conditional on the following:

¹ Stuck and loss can be defined as the following: An animal is said to be "struck" when it is hit by a weapon (e.g. harpoon) or by a projectile (e.g. bullet). An animal is said to be "lost" when it either (a) is injured and escapes the hunter or (b) is killed but not landed or lost during the landing process.

- a. The formation of a working group with NTI and DFO to prepare a draft agenda and discuss workshop participants;
- b. The provision of a report to the NWMB following the workshop that identifies issues and recommendations on how to move forward with addressing marine mammal struck and loss management issue.

Consultations: Anna Magera, Fisheries Management Biologist, NWMB; Rebecca Jeppesen, Director of Wildlife Management;

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Date: February 14th, 2012