

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: NWMB implementation of s.5.6.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

Background:

Nunavut Land Claims Agreement s.5.6.25 provides *“The NWMB shall establish the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus by March 31, 1997; taking into account the fact that they are in short supply in some areas and therefore that the harvest by Inuit has been and is artificially low in relation to their needs and does not necessarily reflect their full level of needs.”*

On June 17, 2011, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) signed an agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) whereby DFO and NTI, in collaboration with co-management partners, agreed to address the establishment of Basic Needs Levels (BNLs) for beluga, narwhal and walrus within the Nunavut Settlement Area prior to the establishment of Total Allowable Harvests (TAH) by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

DFO is prepared to move forward with endorsing the concept that, for beluga, narwhal and walrus, Inuit Basic Needs Level= Total Allowable Harvest in the Nunavut Settlement Area, provided that regulatory measures for the sustainable harvesting of narwhal, walrus and beluga are implemented.

As with all marine species, the setting of a TAH must be based on the principle of conservation. In addition to TAH, accompanying management measures need to be in place, and reflected in regulation, for all stocks and populations of beluga, narwhal and walrus, so that Canada can demonstrate that the harvests are sustainable and can continue to meet its domestic and international obligations for the responsible management of these species.

Fisheries & Oceans Canada

May 28, 2012