

Integrated Fishery Management Plan for Walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area



Hunters & Trappers Organizations Consultations
May 28-June 4, 2014

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Canada

 Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada

Discussion Topics

- Why changes are needed to walrus co-management
- History of the Walrus Working Group
- Overview of the draft Walrus Management Plan
- Main changes being proposed
- Next steps

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Canada

 Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada

Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Increased national and international interest in how the walrus fishery in Nunavut is managed.

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Canada

Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES):



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Canada

Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Parties will meet again in 2016.
 - Likely the USA will consider another proposal to uplist.
 - Working towards having a management plan in place by the next CITES meeting.

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Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Increased national and international interest in how the walrus fishery in Nunavut is managed.
- Demonstrate sustainable harvesting
- Strengthen walrus co-management consistent with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Incorporate best available scientific and Inuit knowledge.

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Canada

Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):



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Development of the IFMP

Walrus Working Groups were formed to lead the development of the IFMP. Members include:

- Regional Wildlife Organization (QWB): Co-Chair
- Local Hunters & Trappers Organizations (HTO): Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (participants)
- DFO- Co-Chair
- Other invited participants: Elders, Industry, QIA



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Walrus Working Groups

- The goal of the Working Group was to develop an IFMP that would identify the main objectives, management measures and requirements for a sustainable walrus fishery in the Nunavut Settlement Area.



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History of Walrus Management Plan Development

Type of Meeting	Year	Outcomes
Working Group (Foxe Basin)	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Foxe Basin Walrus Working Group Agreement to develop an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan; Sharing of hunter perspectives; Mapping walrus areas based on traditional knowledge; Review of current science information
Working Group (Foxe Basin)	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Terms of Reference; Discussed important management goals, and objectives; Science update
Working Group (Foxe Basin)	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by industry group on shipping; Science update; survey design

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Type of Meeting	Year	Outcomes
Working Group (Baffin Bay)	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Baffin Bay Walrus Working Group; Agreement to develop an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan; Developed Terms of Reference Mapping walrus areas based on traditional knowledge Science review and update on surveys;
Working Group (Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay)	2010 (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritized the Management Goals and Objectives; Reviewed and amended the walrus maps; Science review and update on surveys; Discussed the establishment of harvest levels (TAH and BNL) Discussed the NWMB process to approve the Management Plan

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Type of Meeting	Year	Outcomes
Community Consultations (Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay)	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement to move forward with the Management Plan as outlined; Reviewed maps; Update from DFO Science on surveys; Reviewed prioritized tables of walrus management objectives and goals; Main concerns identified.

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Type of Meeting	Year	Outcome
Working Group (Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay)	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Management Plan presented and discussed; • Discussed proposed changes to the management regime for walrus; • Discussed recently published DFO Science; • HTO representatives believe the numbers in the science advice are too low; • Discussed struck and lost rates; • Combined the Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay Working Groups into one Working Group • Next steps: community consultations

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Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Layout

1. Overview of the Fishery
2. Stock Assessment, Science and Traditional Knowledge
3. Economic, Social and Cultural Importance
4. Management Issues
5. Objectives
6. Harvest Levels and Allocation
7. Management Measures
8. Shared Stewardship Arrangement
9. Compliance Plan
10. Performance Review

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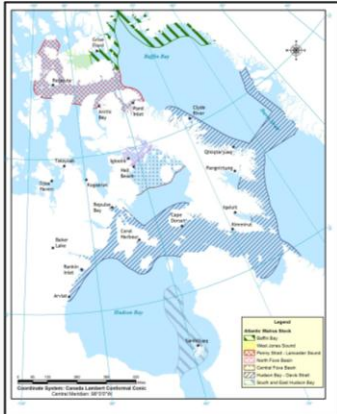
2. Stock Assessment, Science and Traditional Knowledge

Two walrus populations in the Eastern Canadian Arctic:

1. High Arctic
2. Central Arctic;

Seven stocks

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2. Stock Assessment, Science and Traditional Knowledge

Traditional Knowledge

- Knowledge has been shared through workshops, interviews, community consultations and questionnaires
- Inuit recognize different walrus stocks
- Has assisted with stock delineation

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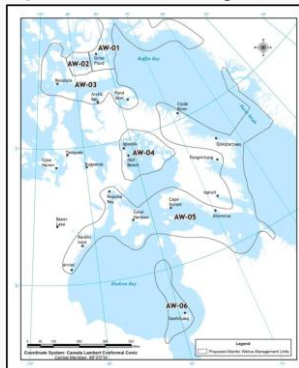
Recent Science Advice

- In November 2013, the Department published a Science Advisory Report that identified population abundance estimates and Total Allowable Removal levels for four (4) of the six (6) Management Units.

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Proposed Walrus Management Units



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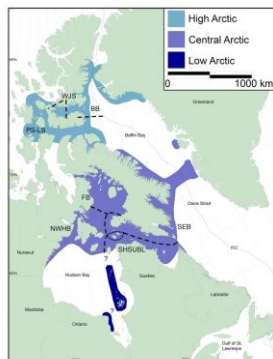


Figure 4. Approximate distribution of the Atlantic walrus populations in Canada. Walrus management units within these populations include: SEB = South and East Baffin, NWLB = North and West Baffin Bay, PS-LB = Frobisher Bay/Lancaster Sound, SEB = South and East Baffin, and SEB-LB = South and East Baffin Bay/Lancaster Sound. Question marks (?) indicate uncertainty with respect to distribution and/or movements.

Stewart, B., and Higdon, J. (authors of draft COSEWIC Status Report on Atlantic Walrus in Canada – draft report in preparation 2014)

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Population	Stock	Management Unit	Nunavut Harvesting Communities	Nunavik Harvesting Communities	International Harvesting Communities
High Arctic	Baffin Bay	AW-01	Grise Fiord		Avanersuaq (Greenland)
	West Jones Sound	AW-02	Grise Fiord		
	Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound	AW-03	Resolute Bay Arctic Bay Pond Inlet		
Central Arctic	Northern Foxe Basin Central Foxe Basin	AW-04	Igloodik Hall Beach		
	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	AW-05	Clyde River Qikiqtarjuaq Igloodik Pangnirtung Arviat Cape Dorset Chesterfield Inlet Coral Harbour Kimmirut Rankin Inlet Resolute Bay Whale Cove	Puvirnituq Akulivik Ivujivik Salluit Kangirsualujuaq Kuujuaq Tasiujaq Aupaluk Kangirsuk Quaqtaq Kangirsujuaq	Sisimiut (Greenland)
Unknown	South and East Hudson Bay	AW-06	Sanikiluaq	Inukjuak Kuujuaq Umiujaq	22

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- When establishing Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) levels, the NWMB will consider the best available information: TEK, IQ and Science.
- DFO will be recommending sustainable harvest levels based on recent peer-reviewed Science advice.
- The advice will be in the form of Total Allowable Landed Catch (TALCs) recommendations.

TALCs

- Abundance estimates are produced from aerial surveys
- Potential Biological Removal is used to determine Total Allowable Landed Catch for each Management Unit
- Other known human losses are removed from the PBR before Total Allowable Landed Catch levels are recommended. This would include struck and lost rates.

Recommended Harvest Levels (Total Allowable Landed Catch)

Population	Stock(s)	Management Unit	Survey year	Abundance estimate highest adjusted	PBR/TAR highest adjusted	TALC Range of struck and lost rates		
						15%	23%	30%
High Arctic	Baffin Bay	AW-01	2009	1,251	11	9	8	8
	West Jones Sound	AW-02	2008	503	8 (17)	7 (14) ¹	6 (13) ¹	6 (12) ¹
	Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound	AW-03	2009	727	12 (24) ¹	10 (20) ¹	9 (18) ¹	8 (16) ¹
Central Arctic	Northern Foxe Basin	AW-04	2011	10, 379 (13, 452)	135 (166) ²	115 (141) ²	104 (128) ²	95 (116) ²
	Central Foxe Basin							
	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	AW-05	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	South and East Hudson Bay	AW-06	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Using a Recovery Factor of 1.0 in the PBR calculation.² Assuming the tagging data from a single haul-out was representative of other haul-outs in Foxe Basin.

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Landed Catch (Subsistence Harvests and Licensed Sport Hunts) of Walrus in Nunavut, 1997-2012

Landed Catch (Subsistence Harvests and Licensed Sport Hunts) of Walrus in Nunavut, 1997-2012													
Community	Quota		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09
	Sp	Sb	Sp	Sb	Sp	Sb	Sp	Sb	Sp	Sb	Sp	Sb	Sp
Grise Fiord	7	0	7	0	2	0	4	NR	NR	NR	7	2	4
Total AW-01 & AW-02	7	0	7	0	2	0	4	NR	NR	NR	7	2	4
Arctic Bay	10	0	10	0	NR	0	1	NR	0	NR	0	1	0
Pond Inlet	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	NR	NR	NR	3	0	NR
Repulse Bay	6	0	6	0	1	0	1	NR	NR	NR	2	0	2
Total AW-03	7	0	7	0	2	0	2	NR	NR	NR	7	2	2
Hall Beach	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	NR	NR	NR	0	0	1
Iqloolik	14	0	14	0	12	0	104	NR	54	NR	89	0	85
Total AW-04	15	0	15	0	13	0	105	NR	54	NR	89	0	86

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Basic Needs Level (BNL)

- Agreement by the NWMB and the Minister of DFO that for walrus, narwhal and beluga, the BNL would equal the TAH.
- Once a TAH is established for a walrus stock or population, the BNL=TAH.

4. Management Issues

Improvements to some aspects of walrus management are needed to demonstrate sustainable harvesting:

- Updated abundance estimates
- Establishing sustainable harvest limits
- Ensuring harvests are within limits
- Improved harvest reporting
- Impacts from shipping, development and tourism
- Hunter Training
- Reduced hunting losses
- Sport hunt

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5. Objectives for the Fishery

- Long Term Objectives
 - To guide management of the fishery. What we want to achieve with our management regime
- Short Term Objectives
 - To address specific management issues over the next 3 to 5 years

(Table 3, Page 19 IFMP)

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6. Harvest Levels and Allocation

Outlines the harvest levels and allocations among users.

For Management Units without an established TAH:

- Current regulatory quotas identified in the Marine Mammal Regulations apply.

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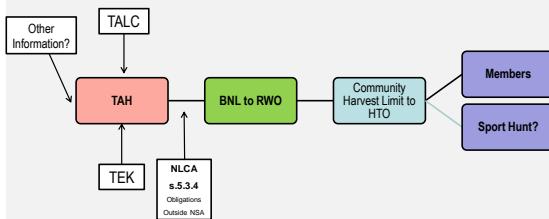
6. Harvest Levels and Allocation

For Management Units with an established TAH:

- Decision by NWMB and Minister of DFO that for walrus, the BNL will **equal** the TAH.
- The BNL will be allocated by the RWOs to the HTOs in the form of Community Harvest Limits.

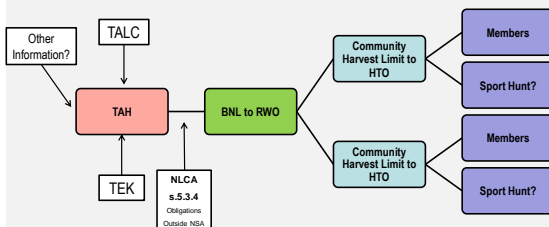
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Walrus Harvest Allocation – Management Unit



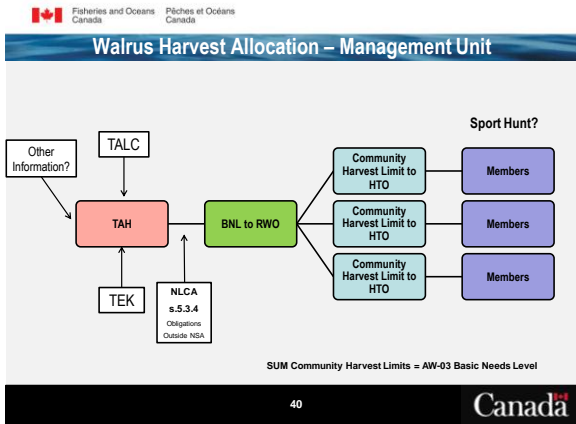
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Walrus Harvest Allocation – Management Unit



SUM Community Harvest Limits = Basic Needs Level

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Sport Hunt

- The Walrus Working Group will be developing a TAH/BNL Walrus Sport Hunt policy that will outline the information DFO requires to issue a Marine Mammal Fishing Licence for walrus.

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Canada

Walrus Harvest Tags

- Walrus Working Group discussed options for ensuring effective management/allocation of new harvest levels.
- A type of harvest tag was suggested.
- A Walrus Harvest Tag would be similar to that currently used for other species.
- A Walrus Harvest Tag would not be a licence to hunt and would be issued without fee or administrative charge.

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Canada

Walrus Harvest Tags

- Walrus Harvest Tags would be provided to the RWO for each Management Unit.
- The RWO would allocate the Walrus Harvest Tags to the HTOs.
- The HTOs would allocate the Walrus Harvest Tags to their members.

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Walrus Harvest Tags

- Walrus hunters would pick up a Walrus Harvest Tag from the HTO office.
- Each Walrus Harvest Tag would provide for harvesting of one walrus (male or female or calf) in a specific Management Unit.
- Hunting could occur at any time during the year established by the HTO (e.g. Jan.1-Dec. 31 or April 1- March 31)

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WALRUS HARVEST TAG: AW-01-2014- 001	WALRUS HARVEST TAG: AW-01-2014- 001
Keep for personal record (MMR s. 17)	Return to HTO for validation
MANAGEMENT UNIT: AW-01	MANAGEMENT UNIT: AW-01
This Walrus Harvest Tag validates the harvest of one (1) walrus at any time between Jan 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 for Management Unit AW-01.	This Walrus Harvest Tag validates the harvest of one (1) walrus at any time between Jan 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 for Management Unit AW-01.
Sex: Male Female	Sex: Male Female
Age: Adult Juvenile Calf	Age: Adult Juvenile Calf
Struck & Sunk: No Yes Number:	Struck & Sunk: No Yes Number:
Date Harvested:	Date Harvested:
Location Harvested:	Location Harvested:
Hunter Name:	Hunter Name:
Hunter Signature:	Hunter Signature:

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7. Management Measures

- Outlines the “controls” for the fishery to ensure sustainable harvesting, including conservation and ecosystem management measures.
- Many measures are already in place
- Additional measures and actions are needed to address management issues in the fishery

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Existing Management Measures

Management Measure	Applicable Legislation/ Regulation
Harvest Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Inuk may, without a licence, fish for food, social or ceremonial purposes for four (4) walrus in a year except where community quotas exist (Coral Harbour (60), Sanikiluaq (10), Arctic Bay (10) and Clyde River (20)). (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 6 and 26).
Monitoring and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest information must be reported (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 17; Fisheries Act s. 61; and the NLCA s. 5.7.43).
Licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister may issue a marine mammal fishing licence (e.g. sport hunt) (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 4). • The Minister may issue a licence for certain activities such as for tagging (satellite tracking), live capture, biopsies (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 11).
Humane Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunters shall only kill a walrus in a manner that is designed to kill it quickly (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 8). • No person shall disturb a walrus except when hunting for walrus (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 7).
Closing the Fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the quota is reached, the fishery will be closed (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 26)

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Existing Management Measures

Management Measure	Applicable Legislation/ Regulation
Reducing Loss Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunters must have all necessary equipment on hand to retrieve a hunted walrus (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 9). • Hunters that kill or wound a walrus must make all reasonable efforts to retrieve it without delay, must not abandon or discard it, or waste any edible part of a walrus (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 10). • Hunters are to use a rifle or shotgun with the following restrictions: a) a rifle and non-full metal jacketed ammunition that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds; or b) a shotgun and rifled slugs that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 25).
Sale and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Marine Mammal Transportation licence is required to transport walrus or walrus parts from one province to another (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 16). • A CITES Export Permit is required to transport walrus products outside of Canada.
Protection of walrus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No person shall carry on any work that results in serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery, or to fish that support such a fishery (Fisheries Act s. 35).

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Additional Proposed Management Measures

Management Measures	
Harvest Levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish TAH levels for four (4) of the six (6) Management Units. 2. Harvesting cannot exceed the sum of the community harvest limits or the TAH.

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When is Hunting Over?

1. Once the Community Harvest Limit has been reached, no further hunting is allowed, unless authorized by the RWO.
 - The RWO may approve the transfer of Walrus Harvest Tags between communities in the same Management Unit.
 - If approved, additional Walrus Harvest Tags will be provided to the HTO, by the RWO, to allow hunting of additional walrus.
2. When the sum of the Community Harvest Limits for a particular Management Unit is reached, no further hunting is allowed; **or**
3. When the Hunt Season is over

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Additional Proposed Management Measures

Management Measures	
Walrus Harvest Tag	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Where a TAH has been set for a stock or population, establish a Walrus Harvest Tag system to improve the management, allocation, reporting and monitoring of walrus harvest levels.

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Additional Proposed Management Measures

Management Measures	
Harvest Reporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. HTOs notify RWO and DFO when Community Harvest Limit is reached; 5. RWOs notify DFO when the Sum of the Community Harvest Limits is reached in each Management Unit; 6. HTOs to provide DFO with a completed summary of Walrus Harvest Tag returns from their members (monthly and at end of each hunt season); 7. Reporting of all other walrus is required (NLCA s.5.7.43), such as walrus caught in fishing nets or those struck by ships.

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Additional Proposed Management Measures

Management Measures	
OTHERS?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. HTOs develop Community Hunting Plans and rules to regulate walrus harvesting practices and techniques among their members (sport hunt, struck and lost, youth training).

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Next Steps

1. Community Meeting: comments on the proposed changes to walrus management and the IFMP.
2. Send out written community consultation booklets to other communities in the NSA.
3. Consolidate comments and revise IFMP.
4. Review by Walrus Working Group
5. NLCA process

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* This timeline is provided as a guide to identify the steps and processes involved in developing the walrus IFMP. The dates provided represent a best-case scenario and are largely dependent on process timelines identified in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement or the NWMB Governance Document.

