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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Allison McPhee
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N6

February 12, 2016

Sent by email to: Allison.mcphee@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Walrus Management Plan

Hello Allison,

Thank you for presenting at the QWB's November 2015 AGM. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board appreciates the work you have done on the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, or the Walrus Management Plan. You have worked with North Baffin and Foxe Basin communities throughout the span of this plan, and have efficiently included QWB members and staff. This is an important plan and your commitment to inclusion is commendable.

Throughout the development of this management plan, delegates, members of our board, and the communities involved worked to develop an effective plan that reflected the specific experiences and history of their communities.

Recently the QWB Board was informed that this management plan is being brought forward as a Nunavut Wide Management Plan. This does not make sense, as the plan in its current form was developed with specific communities. Many other communities in the Qikiqtaaluk and the other regions in Nunavut, especially Kivalliq, also harvest walrus and were not involved in the development of this plan.

In discussions after your presentation at the AGM, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board adamantly stated that the communities in Qikiqtaaluk (other than Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay), Kivalliq communities and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board must be properly consulted before this plan can be presented as a Nunavut wide plan. Although you have stated what this will be the case, QWB recommends that this commitment be expressed explicitly in the plan.

For example, in the overview section of the plan, a paragraph could be included that states:



“This plan was developed with specific Nunavut communities who harvested from subpopulations that have available scientific research. This plan will continue to develop and grow to involve more Nunavut communities as research on additional sub population becomes available.”

Another addition could be added to Section 6 “Access & Allocation”, with the heading “new science and the inclusion of additional communities within this plan”. This section would outline the process that DFO would initiate once new science on subpopulations was completed, namely, consultations with impacted communities, the formation of a new working group, and the sharing of traditional knowledge and harvesting practices.

QWB also understands that some communities and regions do not actively harvest walrus, and therefore, may not have any concerns with having their community represented under this plan. We respect those decisions, but we do require that all Hunter and Trapper Organizations be given the opportunity to engage with this plan if they wish.

Once the Department of Fisheries commits in writing to acknowledge these conditions then the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board will fully support the new Walrus Intergraded Fisheries Management Plan.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact our staff members: Jason Mikki, Regional Coordinator: 928-8430, email: nqwb@niws.ca or Jackie Price, Research & Planning Coordinator: 979-6430, email: jprice@niws.ca

Sincerely,


James Qillaq, Chair
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

cc: Peter Kydd, Director of Wildlife NWMB
Paul Irgaut, Director of Wildlife & Environment NTI
Hunters’ & Trappers’, Qikiqtaaluk region

