



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Agenda: Regular Meeting 002-2025

June 25, 2025

Kugaaruk, Nunavut



	No:	Item:	Tab:	Presenter:	Maximum Time
9:00 - 9:02 AM	1	Open Meeting		Chairperson	2 Minutes
9:02 - 9:05 AM	2	Agenda: Review and Approval of RM002-2025	1	Chairperson	1 Minute
	3	Communal Fish Plan Pilot by the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization	2	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. & Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization	
	4	Community-Based Monitoring Network Update	3	NWMB Staff	
	5	Policy and Funding Limit Change to: 1) Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund and 2) Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Research Fund	4	NWMB Staff	
	6	Update of Nunavut Wildlife Regional Research Priorities	5	NWMB Staff	
	7	Update of NWMB Strategic Plan 2024-2029	6	NWMB Staff	
	8	Notice of NWMB's 2025 Rules of Procedure	7	NWMB Staff	
	9	Basic Needs Level Update	8	NWMB Staff	
	10	Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Annual Report	9	NWMB Staff	
	11	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) Camp Update (Video)		NWMB Staff	
	12	Adjournment of RM002-2025			

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Nirlungayuk
Director, Wildlife and Environment Department
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated



Mark Kitabuk
Manager, Pangnirtung HTO

Enc. Information Memo

cc. Justin Turple (justin.turple@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Zoya Martin (zmartin@gov.nu.ca)

Information Memo
Communal Fish Plan Pilot by the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization

Submitted to the NWMB by NTI and Pangnirtung HTO
May 2, 2025

Communal Fish Plan Proposal

The Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization (“Pangnirtung HTO”) is developing a Communal Fish Plan (“CFP”) to pilot this proposed new fisheries management tool.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (“NTI”) proposed the CFP in 2013 as a new tool that Inuit could use to manage their own fisheries, particularly where Inuit have the right under section 5.7.26 of the Nunavut Agreement to fish without a licence. NTI, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and co-management partners have been attempting to establish new fishery regulations for Nunavut since 1999, with the current round of efforts started in 2018. The Nunavut Fishery Regulations Working Group (“NFR Working Group”) is supportive and proposes building CFPs into the new *Nunavut Fishery Regulations*. It shared this proposal in the January 2025 public consultation document, *Policy Intent for Nunavut Fishery Regulations* (“Policy Intentions Paper”). In March and April, the NFR Working Group held three regional engagement sessions about the Policy Intentions Paper to which all Nunavut HTOs/communities were invited. At those sessions, Inuit representatives expressed interest in – and in many cases, enthusiasm for – the CFP proposal.

The NFR Working Group is proposing that CFPs be mandatory for “Bulk Sales” once the *Nunavut Fishery Regulations* are finalized and in force. The Policy Intentions Paper defines Bulk Sales as follows:¹

Bulk Sales means the selling of fish other than cetaceans or walrus by Inuit to a (i) fish processing plant, (ii) buyer that will resell the fish (such as a restaurant or store), or (iii) buyer that will use the fish in a for-profit business (such as a work camp) or a not-for-profit entity (such as hospital or educational institution). Bulk Sales do not include (i) sales to Indigenous Wildlife Management Organizations for the purpose of distribution free of charge to Inuit or (ii) sales to supply the Nunavik Inuit Hunter Support Program under section 29 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*.

¹ The definition of “Bulk Sales” is expected to evolve based on feedback from the Nunavut engagement sessions and the NFR Working Group may also find a different term to replace “Bulk Sales”.

Under the NFR Working Group's policy proposal, fisheries destined for Bulk Sales that Inuit have the right to fish without a licence would need to be managed with a CFP.

The NFR Working Group has developed a draft template for Bulk Sales CFPs. A copy of the template is attached to the back of this memo for reference.

Pangnirtung's CFP Pilot

The Pangnirtung HTO is preparing a CFP to manage the commercial Cumberland Sound Arctic char fisheries that its members will pursue this summer, using the draft CFP template provided by the NFR Working Group.

The CFP will cover waterbodies in the vicinity of Pangnirtung that Schedule V of the *Northwest Territory Fishery Regulations* opens to Arctic char commercial fishing and that DFO licenses, plus some exploratory fisheries that DFO has authorized Pangnirtung to pursue. All of these exploratory fisheries have been in place for years - and in some cases, decades - without changes to the catch limits due to a variety of factors, including DFO's past inability to make changes to the regulations and, in recent years, a focus on developing the new NFRs. The CFP will respect the established harvest limits for all those commercial and exploratory fisheries as well as the existing mesh size rules. As done in previous years, DFO will issue a variation order to open the season in August, and the HTO will choose the start date within that opening and based on the moon and tide cycles.

The Pangnirtung HTO, NTI and DFO all agree that the development, adoption, and implementation of this first CFP will help test the CFP concept and identify potential adjustments to the proposed Regulations and template. It will hopefully also build comfort with CFPs within all three organizations as well as within the NFR Working Group. It is important to pilot the CFP tool before the NFR Working Group finalizes its regulatory proposal, which it intends to do by the end of this year.

Legal Implications of CFP Pilot

Pangnirtung's CFP will maintain the existing rules for commercial fisheries established by Schedule V of the *Northwest Territory Fishery Regulations*. The applicable Schedule V quotas will not be exceeded, and the applicable exploratory fisheries quotas will remain the same in 2025. As such, no decisions from the NWMB are required.

Because the current fishery regulations do not recognize CFPs as a management tool, DFO will authorize the fishery with an existing parallel management tool: an *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licence* issued under the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations* that will align with Pangnirtung's CFP and allow the HTO to manage the quotas

at the community level. For clarity, after the new *Nunavut Fishery Regulations* come into effect, an *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licence* will not be required to accompany a CFP.

NTI and Pangnirtung HTO welcome DFO's support for this CFP pilot. At the same time, Inuit participation in the pilot does not change NTI's legal position, on behalf of Inuit rights-holders, that Inuit have the rights to harvest Arctic char up to the full level of their economic needs (subject to any applicable Total Allowable Harvest/Basic Needs Level) (section 5.6.1) and to dispose of that catch to anyone, inside or outside of Nunavut (section 5.7.30), without a licence (section 5.7.26).

Communal Fish Plan

Name and number the CFP, for identification purposes

Adopted by

HTO or RWO name, main phone #, and “general” email address

For

Name of fish stock or population

Geographical Scope: Describe in words the waters where the CFP will apply with both a written description (for example, using Inuktitut place names and/or naming all creeks, rivers, lakes and/or bays) **AND** provide a visual outline (like a scanned paper map or a ‘Google map’ screenshot outlining the area).

Regulated Harvesters: All Inuit right-holders enrolled under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Start Date: *Date CFP takes effect and, if any, end date (end date is optional).*

1. CFP Context and Objectives:

- a. *Context: Explain why HTO or RWO is adopting CFP, including to enable Bulk Sales. Context may include Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit that informs the CFP, and it may summarize the CFP development process.*
- b. *Objectives: Explain what HTO or RWO seeks to achieve with CFP. For example:*
 - *managing a sustainable commercial fishery and getting fish to markets;*
 - *managing mixed commercial and domestic fisheries to promote long-term sustainability;*
 - *promoting harvesting that is safe and in keeping with Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Maligait.*

2. Harvest Limits and Type of Fishery

- a. *Specify any applicable Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and (Adjusted) Basic Needs Level (A/BNL) set by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (Board) and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Minister) for the stock or population. CFP will need to respect this harvest limit.*

- b. *Whether or not there is a TAH and A/BNL for the stock or population, specify a harvest limit that covers maximum quantity that may be harvested specifically for Bulk Sales.*
- c. *Describe the type of fishery for the maximum harvest quantity:*
 - a. *Allocating portions of that maximum quantity to specific harvesters, families or households AND/OR*
 - b. *Describing another type of fishery (for example, a competitive fishery that will close once the total harvest is reached or nearly reached, or a lottery that the HTO or RWO will run before each opening to assign portions of the harvest to individual harvesters).*

3. Other Management Measures

- a. *Optional content: specify any conservation and other management measures. For example: allowed or prohibited fishing methods (like netting, weir) and gear (such as gillnets, kakivak), seasonal closures, no-harvesting zones (which must be described clearly and visually), bag/trip limits, minimum size, fishing gear characteristics (like mesh size of gillnets), deployment/effort limits (such as how long net can be in water), rules about wastage, rules for human safety, rules for gear identification.*
- *Note about compliance with other harvesting rules: CFPs must be consistent with, and harvesters must follow, any Non-Quota Limitations (“NQLs”) established by the Board and Minister. This means CFP measures may go beyond any applicable NQLs or cover different matters, but they cannot conflict with existing NQLs. HTO or RWO may choose to remind harvesters in the CFP of their obligation to comply with any applicable NQLs established by the Board and Minister.*
- *Note about potential catch certification or market requirements: In deciding whether to establish any management measures in the CFP, HTOs and RWOs should consider whether intended purchasers require any particular NQLs to be in place. If so, including these in the CFP and promoting compliance will help ensure market access.*

4. Harvest Monitoring and Reporting

- a. *Establish harvest monitoring and reporting program, at least for the Bulk Sales component of the fishery. At a minimum, the program must require harvesters to report the information set out below upon sale of harvest.*

b. Harvesters must report, for each harvest:

- i. Species;**
- ii. Name and number of CFP under which harvest occurred;**
- iii. Amount caught (in numbers or weight);**
- iv. Estimated lost catch and bycatch, if any;**
- v. Fishing method or gear used;**
- vi. Date of catch (year, month, date(s));**
- vii. Location of catch; and**
- viii. Harvester's first and last name (this information serves to confirm their right to harvest under CFP).**

c. Harvester must report the above harvesting information to the [HTO or RWO] within [specify timeframe].

➤ *Note: if a processing plant is buying some or all the harvest, they may help collect the harvest information from harvesters, as long as the HTO or RWO remains responsible for obtaining the harvest information for all Bulk Sales under the CFP.*

d. Harvesting information received by [HTO or RWO] will be shared with Department of Fisheries and Oceans pursuant to an information-sharing agreement that maintains Inuit ownership of information and maintains anonymity of harvesters unless names are required for catch certification or enforcement action.

e. Optional: CFP may require harvesters to provide further information or may provide more direction on recording and reporting of harvest information.

f. Optional: CFP may establish a monitoring program that the HTO or RWO will conduct in addition to reporting by individual harvesters.

g. Optional: CFP may establish a sampling program to be conducted by harvesters or HTO or RWO.

➤ *Note about compliance with other rules: CFPs must be consistent with, and harvesters must follow, any monitoring and reporting obligations established by Board and Minister. HTO or RWO may choose to note this fact in the CFP.*

➤ *Note about potential catch certification or market requirements: In setting monitoring and reporting requirements, HTOs and RWOs should consider whether intended buyers have any requirements for monitoring and reporting that should be included in CFP and implemented in order to help ensure market access.*

5. Compliance

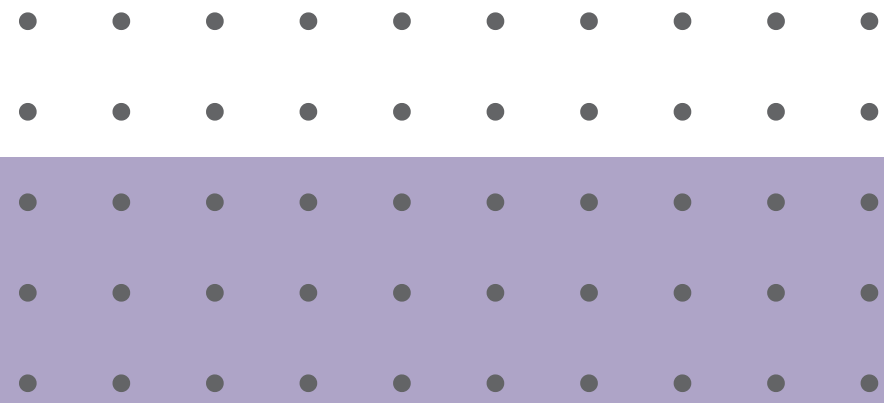
- a. **Enforceability under Fisheries Act:** *If none of CFP is enforceable under Fisheries Act, say “none”. Otherwise, identify all the CFP provisions that will be enforceable under the Fisheries Act.*
- b. **HTO/RWO measures to promote compliance:** *Describe what measures HTO/RWO may take to promote harvester compliance with all CFP requirements including any potential consequences for non-compliance. This should include referencing any general HTO or RWO by-law that sets out potential consequences for non-compliance with HTO/RWO harvesting rules.*

6. CFP Evaluation

- a. After the fishery under the CFP, the HTO/RWO will meet to discuss the performance and implementation of the CFP to see how it worked and whether the CFP achieved its objectives.
- b. The HTO/RWO will decide whether to maintain the CFP, terminate it, or amend it.

7. Endorsement

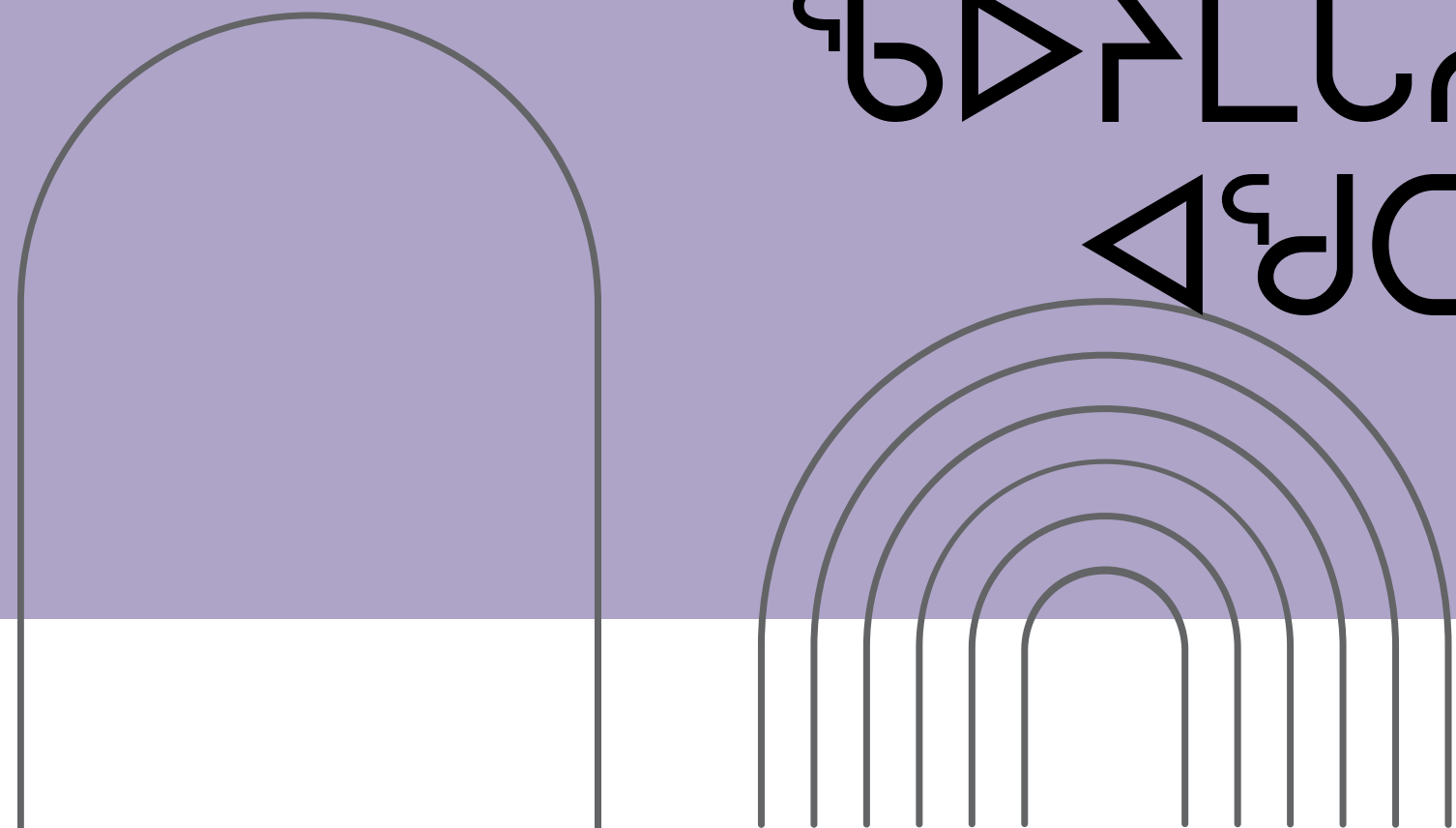
- a. **Date of adoption of CFP:** *Specify date of HTO or RWO decision to adopt CFP and resolution number, if any. HTO or RWO may also attach the resolution to the CFP.*

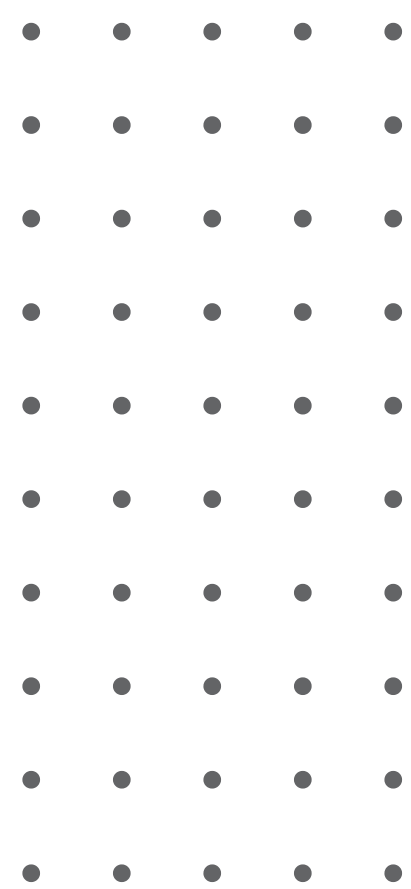


COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING NETWORK

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June 2025





01.

ARVIAT VISIT

02.

CORAL HARBOUR LAUNCH

03.

IGLOOLIK & SANIRAJAK LAUNCH

04.

NEW LIAISON OFFICER - KUGAARUK

05.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

06.

TRAINING OOLEENA

07.

MITIQ PROJECT IN KINNGAIT

08.

BOARD REPORT

09.

SIKU UPDATE

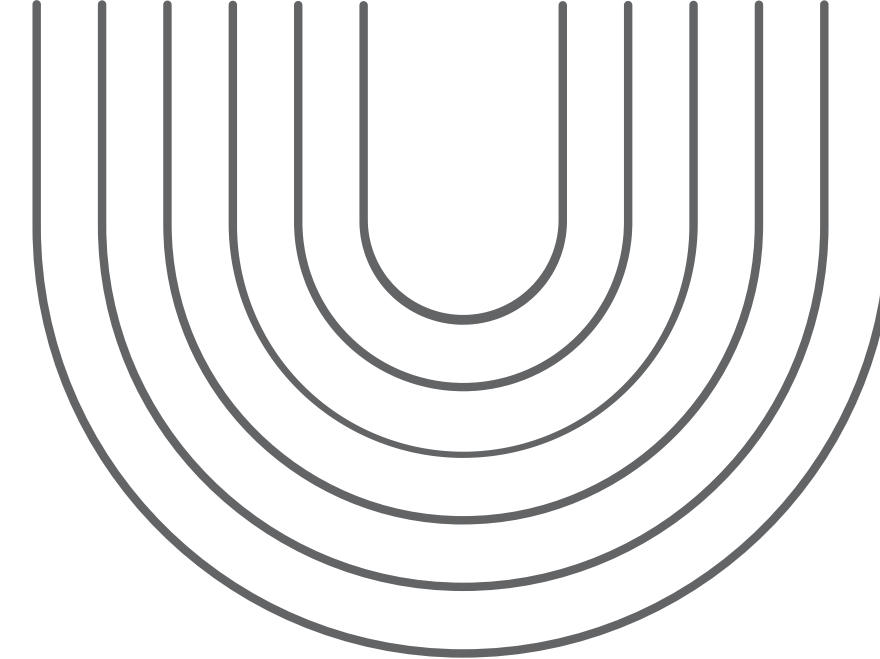


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ARVIAT VISIT

Data validation

Recognition Awards

Grand Prize Draw - Jimmy
Napayok

Community Feast



CORAL HARBOUR LAUNCH

Liaison Officer - Jonathan
Emiktowt

Recruiting 40+ new
participants

Community Feast







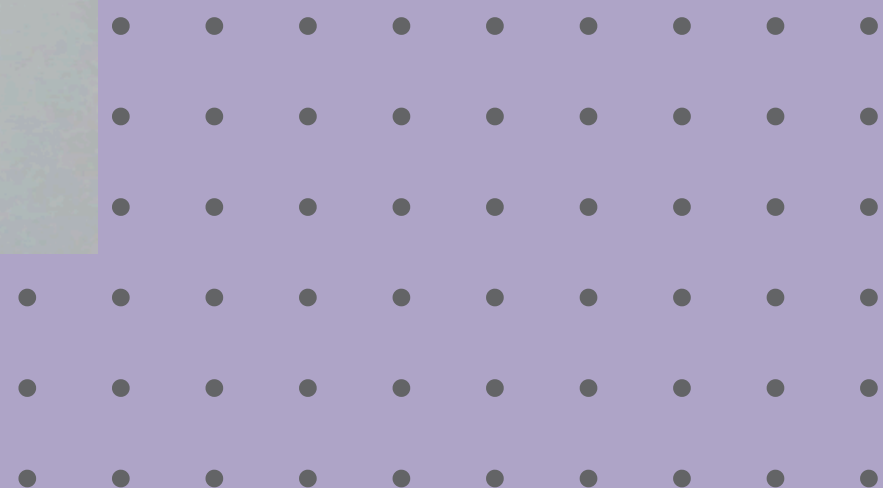


IGLOOLIK & SANIRAJAK



NEW LIAISON OFFICER KUGAARUK

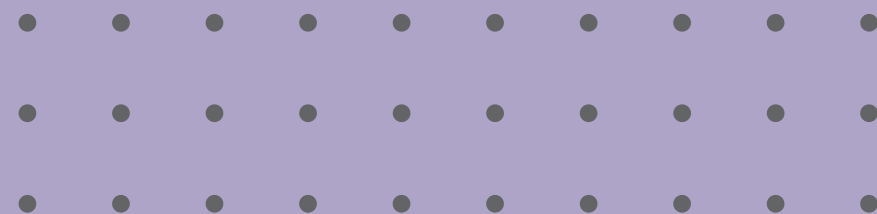
Gordon Kukkuvak



LIAISON OFFICER STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

- Joshua Akavak - Clyde River
- Mark Shamee - Arviat
- Chris Kringayark - Naujaat
- Richard Amaroalik - Igloolik
- John-Bryan Idlout - Taloyoak

- Rebecca Jeppeson - NWMB Contractor



WHAT WE HEARD

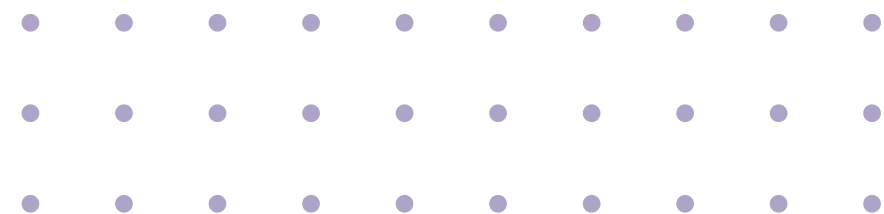
IMPROVEMENTS

COMMUNICATE THE PROGRAM

- PAMPHLETS
- POSTERS
- HANDBOOKS

CONNECTION WITH THE HARVESTERS

STRAIGHT LINES WHILE RECORDING TRACK



WORKING WELL

THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM WORKING WELL

GENERIC TRAINING TO THE LIAISON OFFICERS

SMART IS EASY TO NAVIGATE

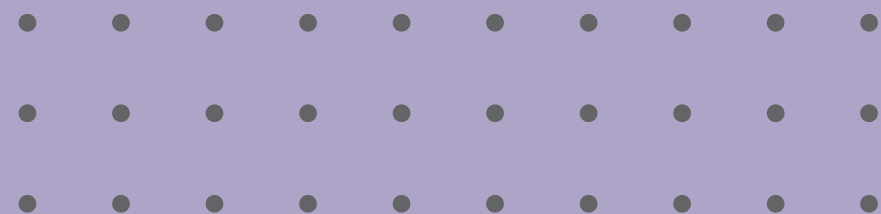
BECKY TRAINING OOLEENA



PHASE 1 - RUN REPORTS

PHASE 2 - ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

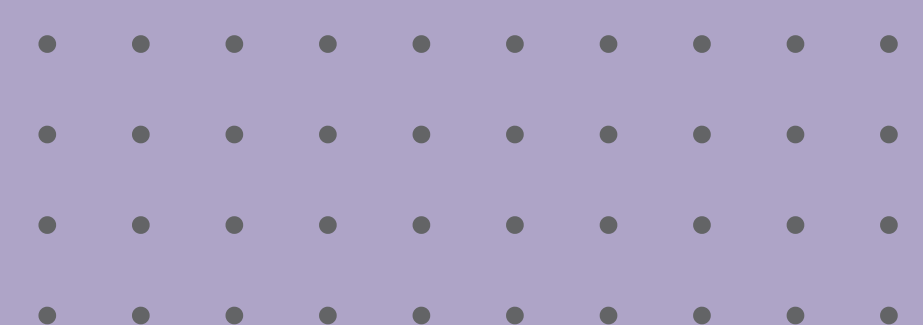
PHASE 3 - DATA MANAGEMENT



MITIQ PROJECT

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Carleton University
PhD Student KT Miller
Geography & Environmental
Studies
Kinngait
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Cambridge Bay

Naujaat

Kugaaruk

Taloyoak

Arviat

Sanirajak

COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING NETWORK TRI-ANNUAL REPORT

Kugluktuk

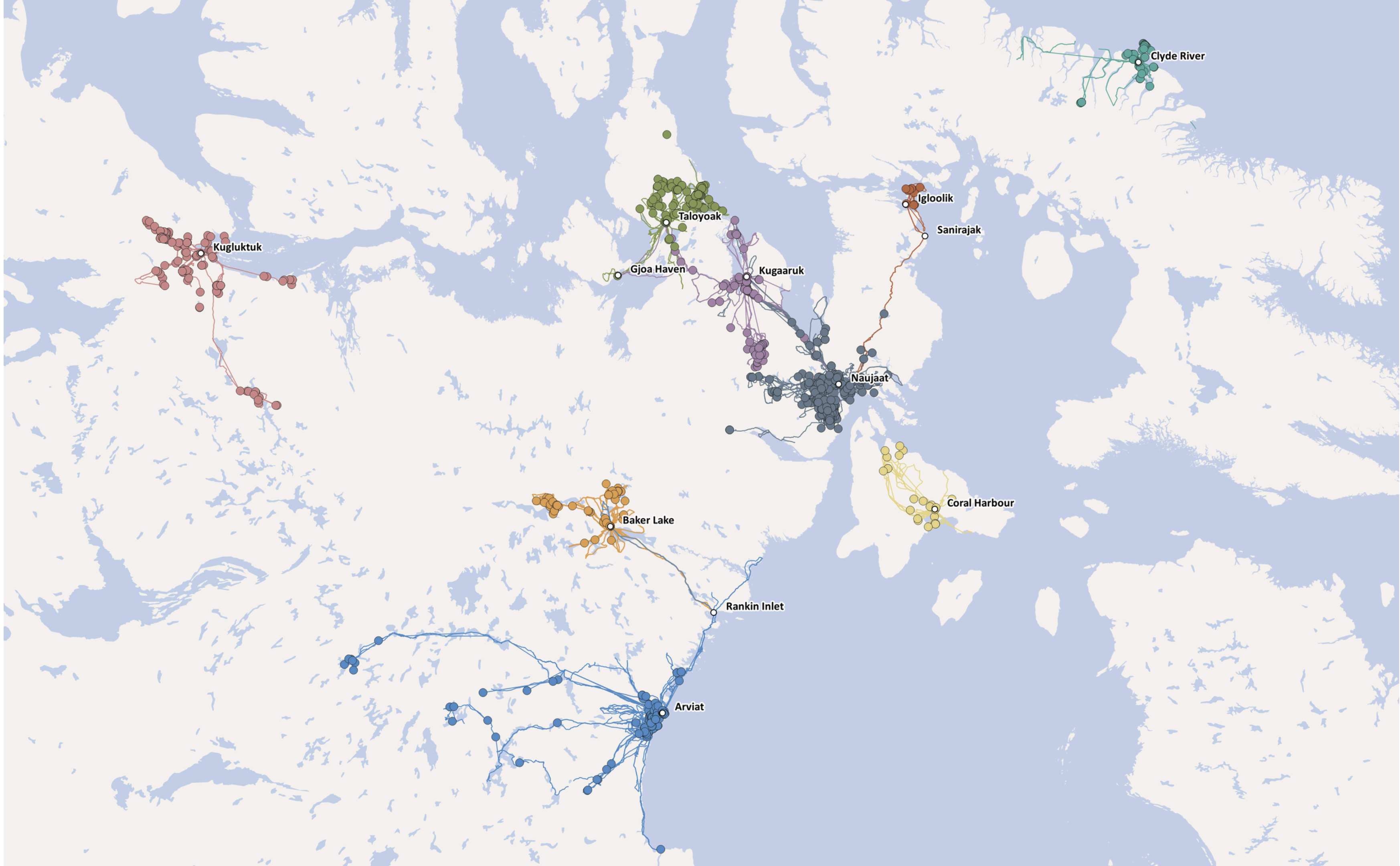
Coral Harbour

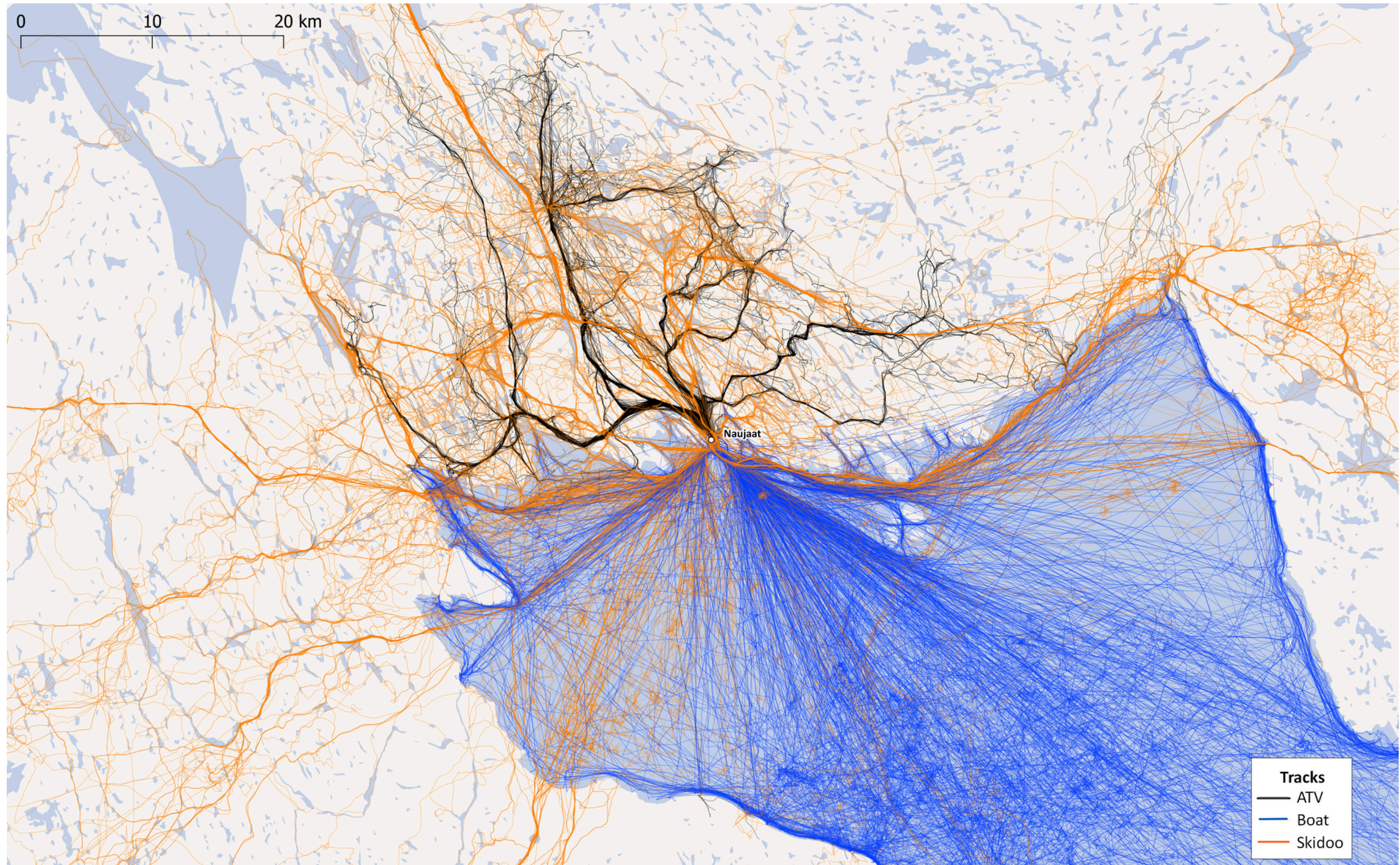
Sanikiluaq

Clyde River

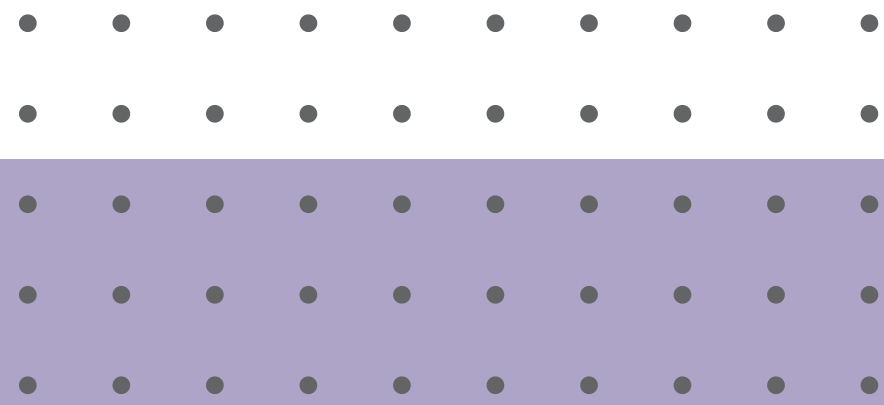
Igloolik

Baker Lake

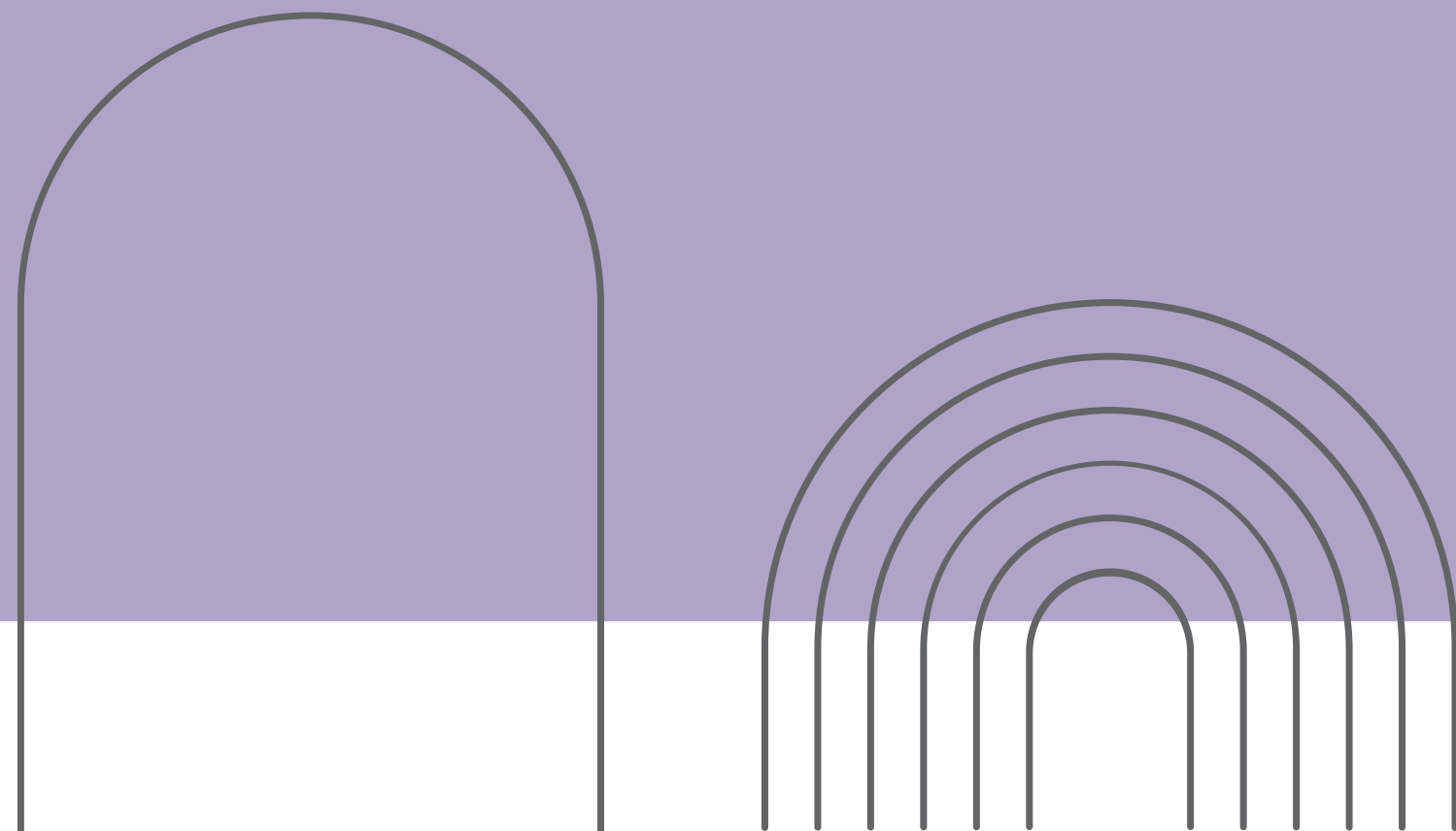




CBMN Tracks in Naujaat



THANK YOU





Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Community-Based Monitoring Network

Community-Based Monitoring Network Tri-Annual Report



Date Range: Jan. 1, 2025 to Apr. 30, 2025

Issue

This report summarizes the data collected by Community-Based Monitoring Network participants and other program activities over the past few months, including dates Jan. 1, 2025, to Apr. 30, 2025. It is intended to give the Board an overview of recent activities within the program and is not a fulsome review of all the data.

Overview

There were 154 active participants during this reporting period. The core communities are Arviat, Coral Harbour and Igloolik and Sanirajak treated as one core community. The satellite communities are Nauyasat, Baker Lake, Clyde River, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, and Taloyoak.

Community Visits

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board staff travelled to Arviat from March 24 to March 29 to validate data, distribute recognition awards, and complete the grand prize draw. The grand prize winner, Jimmy Napayok, was awarded \$18,000.00, which he put towards an ATV. NWMB staff also held a participants feast to celebrate the Community-Based Monitoring Network and the success that harvesters had accomplished over the past year.

From March 29 to April 3, staff travelled to Coral Harbour to launch the program in the community. Staff trained Jonathan Emiktowt, the community liaison officer and registered over 40 new participants. By the end of the month, 12 harvesters had begun collecting data.

Igloolik and Sanirajak were also visited to launch the program in Sanirajak and re-vamp the program in Igloolik. Tommy Isigaitok, was hired to be the new Community Liaison Officer supporting both communities. NWMB staff are hopeful that the data generated from the CBMN in Igloolik and Sanirajak, can serve as a valuable baseline for measuring the potential impacts of the Steensby railway development on wildlife in North Baffin.

Strategic Planning

The CBMN program has grown considerably in the past few years and is on a trajectory to continue expanding across the Territory in the coming years. Recognizing the need to ensure long-term sustainability and effective growth, staff typically hold strategic planning workshops every three to four years to guide the future scaling of the program. In March 2025, Liaison Officers and the CBMN contractor, Becky from NovaSila, joined NWMB staff in Iqaluit for a strategic planning workshop. The goals of the workshop were to 1) create an opportunity for all administrators of the CBMN to meet and interact in person; 2) gather the perspectives of the Liaison Officers on how the program is running in their communities; 3) collectively brainstorm ideas to be considered when planning the future of the program. The incentive program was a raved topic among all Liaison Officers. Harvesters really value the incentives as it supports their ability to be on the land, harvest for their families, and practice their culture. Liaison Officers suggested that communication within the communities through materials such as pamphlets or posters could help promote the program. Liaison Officers will also like to share harvest and observation reports with their Hunters and Trappers Organization to ensure data is shared with the community. The strategic plan will be captured in a handbook that the Community-Based Monitoring Network Coordinator is developing. This handbook will serve as a guide for how the program is managed by NWMB staff, its contractors, and Liaison Officers.

Special Project

NWMB has partnered with Carleton University on the Mitiq Project. This project is led by Ph.D. student Kt Miller. Her research focuses on the cost of harvesting when hunting for mitiq in Kinngait, Nunavut. The researchers will be working with harvesters in the community to collect harvest and observation data using the CBMN SMART app. Research will begin in June 2025 during the spring, summer, and fall until 2028. This project will allow the CBMN to expand its database to include data from Kinngait and will also serve as a CBMN pilot for quantifying the cost of harvest. The Kinngait harvesters participating in the project will be enrolled into the CBMN and will benefit from gas incentives provided to satellite communities.

Data Summary

Table 1. Harvest effort summary for core and satellite communities (January to April, 2025)

Community*	Active Harvesters	Number of Patrols	Distance Travelled (km)	Total Harvests	Total Observations	Total Number of Records
Arviat	34	205	26,169.93	167	45	193
Baker Lake	4	83	12,954.71	49	12	58
Clyde River	7	61	6,534.03	45	7	48
Igloodik	2	21	2,774.49	10	1	10
Kugaaruk	24	223	31,845.16	117	29	134
Kugluktuk	4	51	7,879.91	69	73	141
Naujaat	53	579	75,820.57	347	38	371
Taloyoak	14	149	19,138.15	90	37	115
Coral Harbour	12	40	5,851.42	29	1	29

*Arviat, Igloodik, Sanirajak and Coral Harbour are core communities.

Table 2. Incentives summary for core and satellite communities (January to April, 2025)

Community*	Gas incentive paid out
Arviat	\$11,550.00
Baker Lake	\$4,900.00
Clyde River	\$2,800.00
Igloodik	\$1,300.00
Kugaaruk	\$11,325.00
Kugluktuk	\$3,250.00
Naujaat	\$25,725.00
Taloyoak	\$7,225.00
Coral Harbour	\$2,800.00
Total	\$70,875.00

*Arviat, Igloodik, Sanirajak, and Coral Harbour are core communities.

Figure 1. Routes travelled by Arviat participants (January to April, 2025)

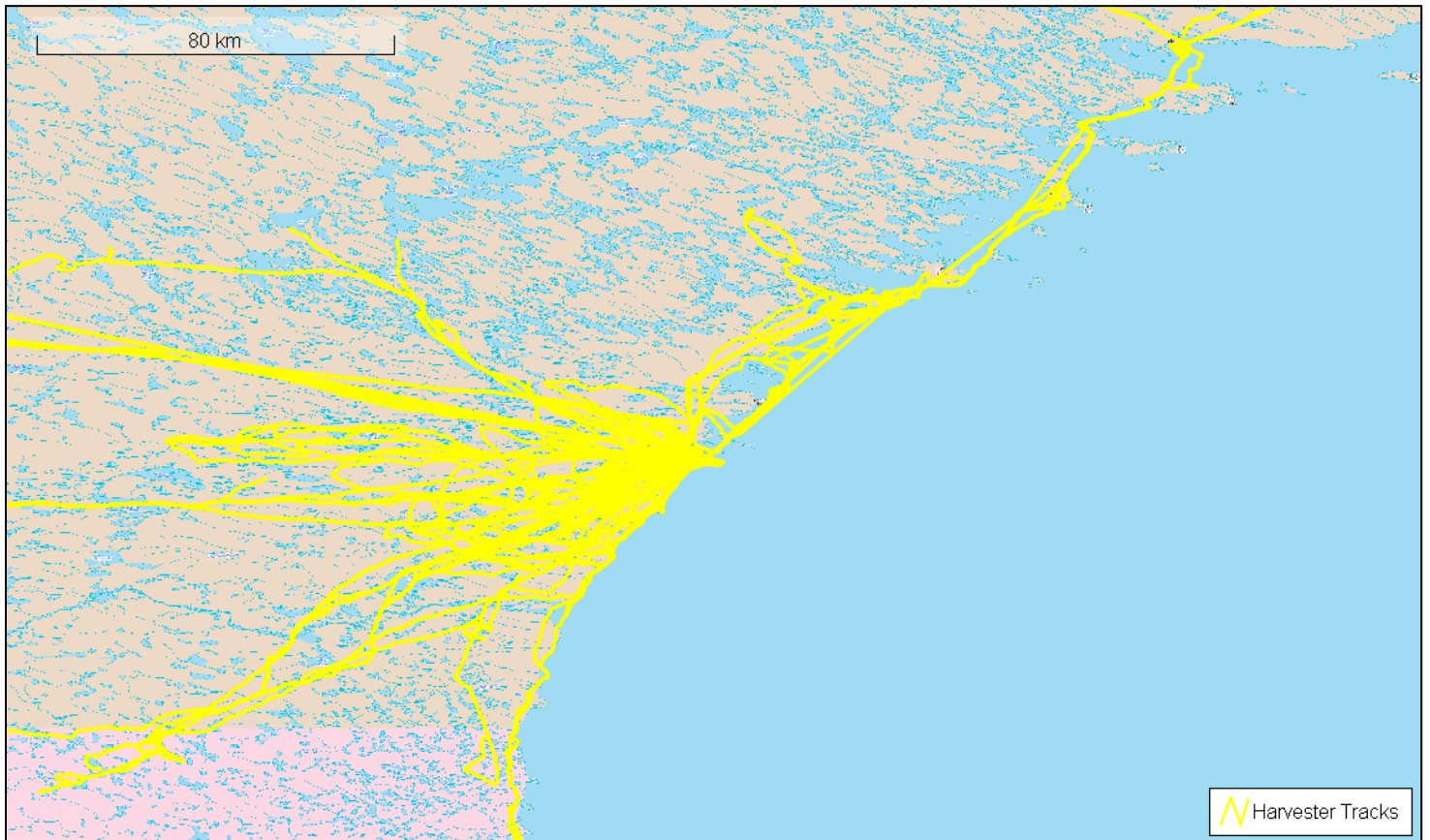
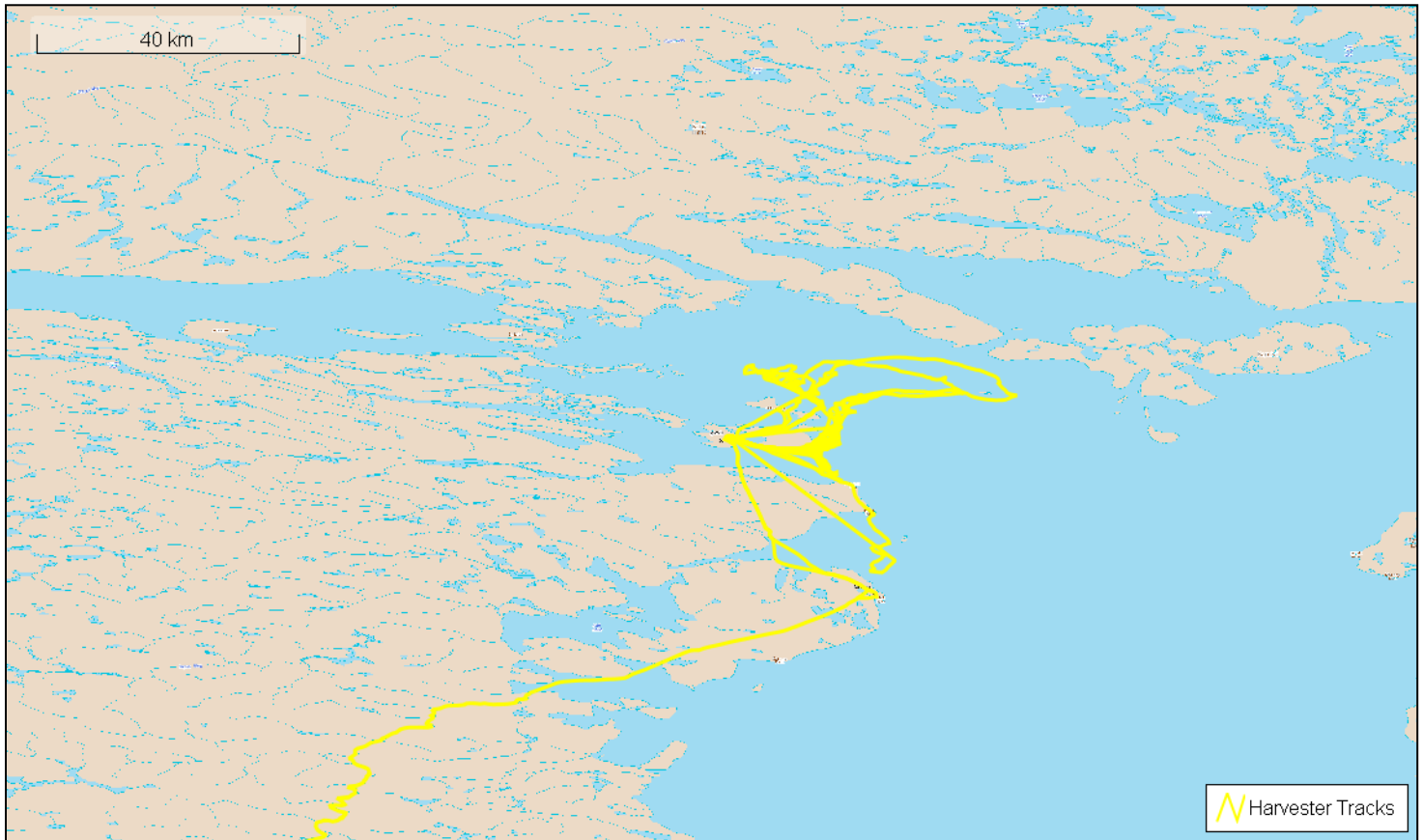
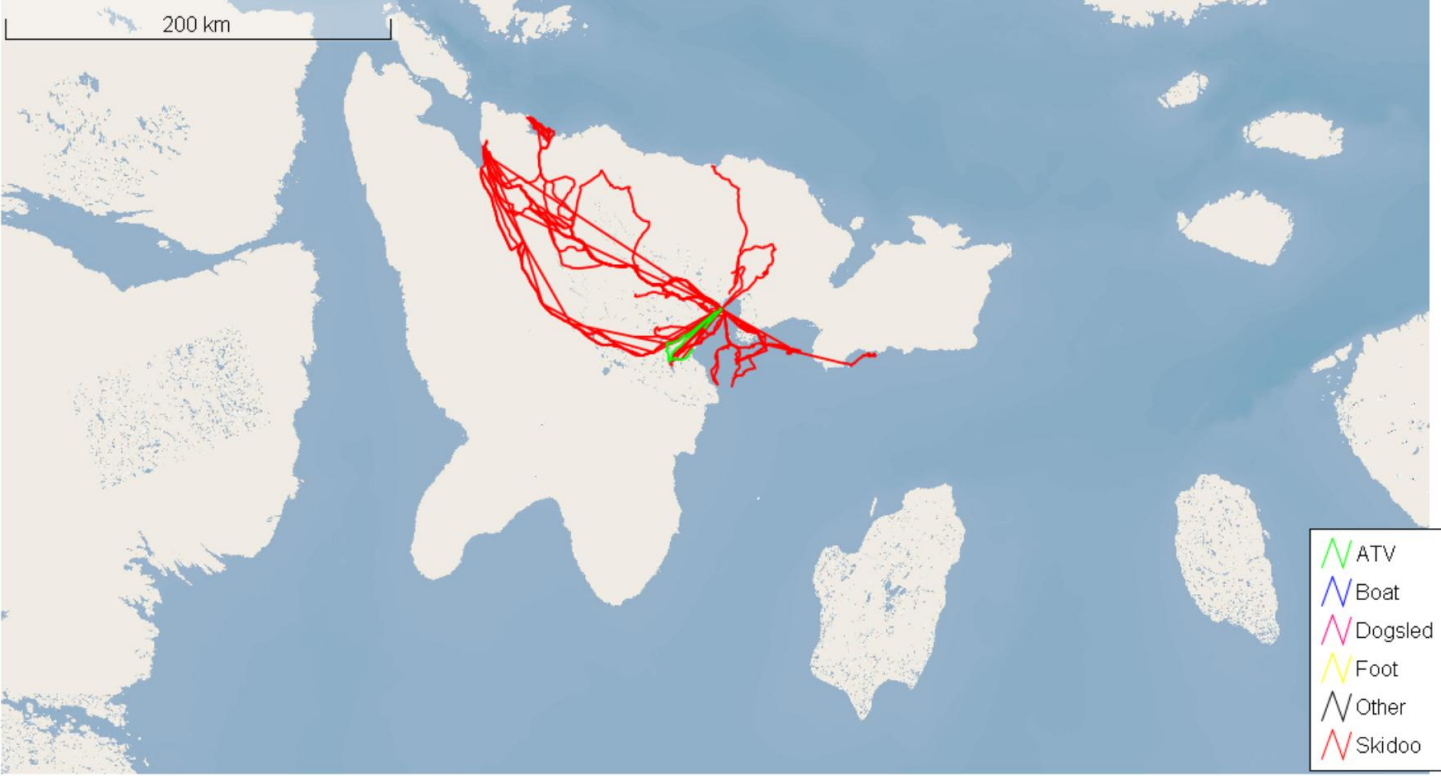


Figure 2. Routes travelled by Igloolik participants (January to April, 2025)



Routes travelled by Coral Harbour participants (January to April, 2025)

200 km



- ATV
- Boat
- Dogsled
- Foot
- Other
- Skidoo

Appendix 1

Table 3. Species recorded in core communities (January to April, 2025)

Species	Individuals Harvested			Total Number Harvested	Individuals Observed			Total Number Observed
	Arviat	Igloolik	Coral Harbour		Arviat	Igloolik	Coral Harbour	
Arctic char			5	5				0
Arctic fox	24		1	24	4			8
Arctic hare					2			2
Bearded seal			3	3				0
Canada goose					1			1
Caribou	132		7	144	10163			10280
Grayling	3			3				0
Harp seal								0
Lake trout	4			4				0
Muskox					40			40
Other / unknown goose					1			1
Polar Bear		1		1				1
Ptarmigan			2	2	1			1
Raven					2			2
Red fox								0
Ringed seal		8	4	12				0
Sculpin	1			1				0
Walrus		1		1				0
Wolf	9			9	6			7
Wolverine	6		1	7	1			1

Table 4. Summary of species recorded in satellite communities. Quantities represent the number of individuals recorded (harvests + observations).

Species	Baker Lake	Clyde River	Kugaaruk	Kugluktuk	Taloyoak	Naujaat	Total Number Recorded
Arctic char		143	604	4	169	94	1014
Arctic fox			1	10	4	9	24
Arctic hare		1		2	2		5
Brown / Grizzly Bear				8			8
Caribou	427		105	207	18	434	1191
Cod		1					1
Cross fox			1	1			2
Falcon				1			1
Golden eagle				3			3
Lake trout	4		1	38	38	2	83
Moose				32			32
Muskox	37		1	302	44		384
Muskrat				1			1

Other fish / unknown species				3			3
Other terrestrial mammal				2			2
Owl	1				1	1	3
Polar Bear		4	6		9	2	21
Ptarmigan		48	3	30	6		87
Raven				1	1		2
Red fox				12		2	14
Ringed seal		21	4	4	35	23	87
Snow bunting				1			1
Unknown Bear			1				1
White fish			4				4
Wolf	23		18	20	8	29	98

Figure 4. Routes travelled by Baker Lake participants (January to April, 2025)

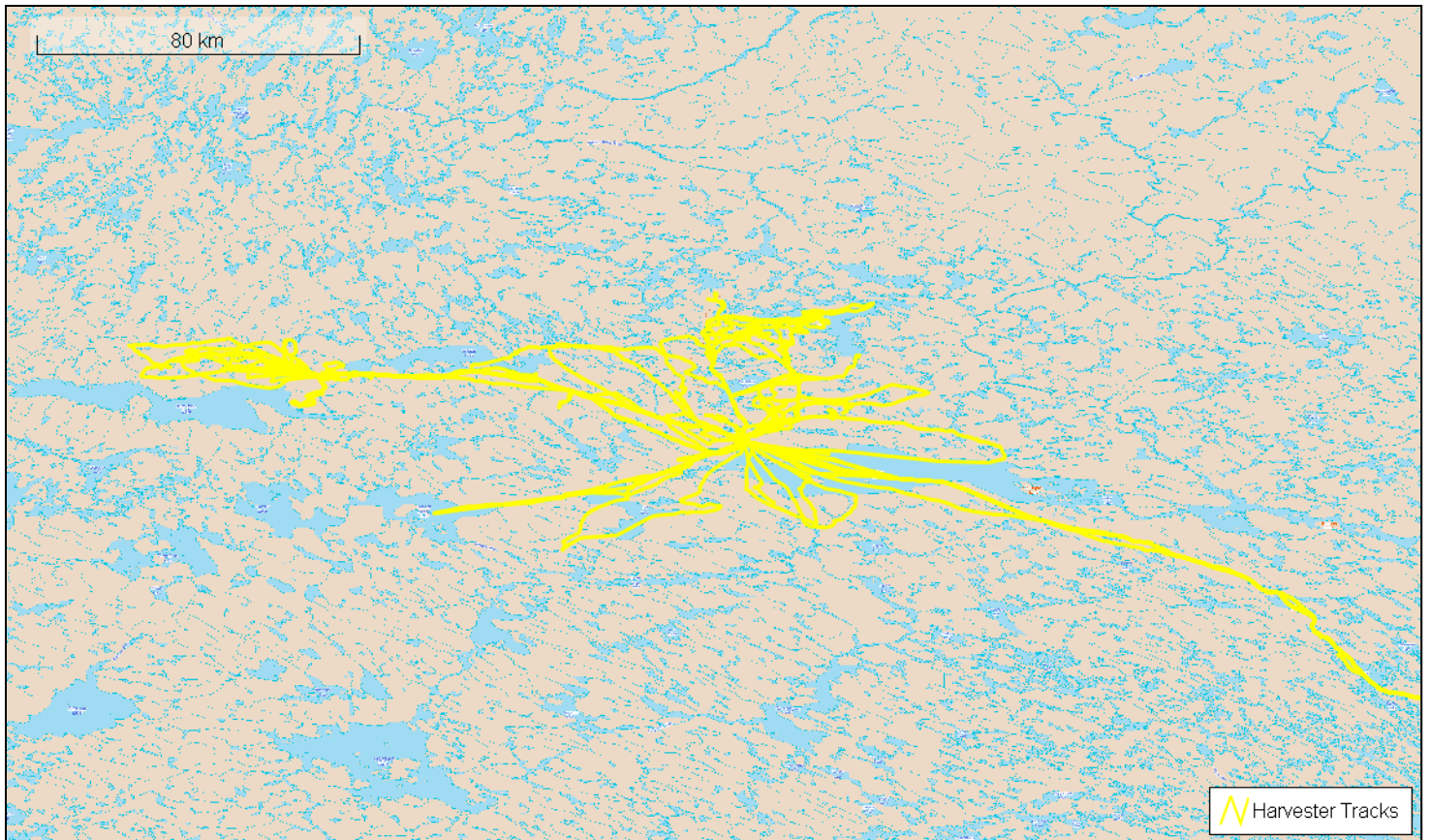


Figure 5. Routes travelled by Clyde River participants (January to April, 2025)

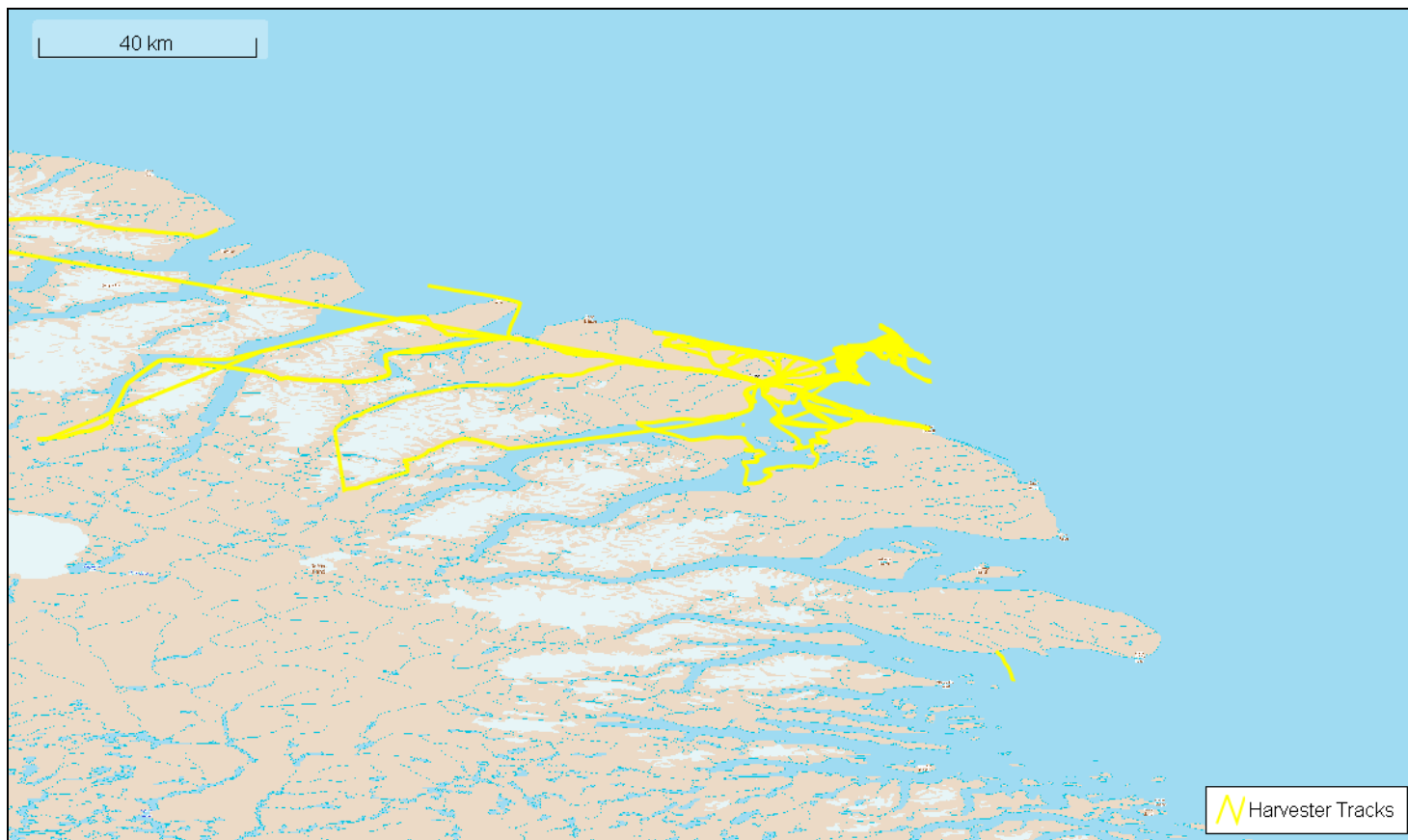


Figure 6. Routes travelled by Kugaaruk participants (January to April, 2025)

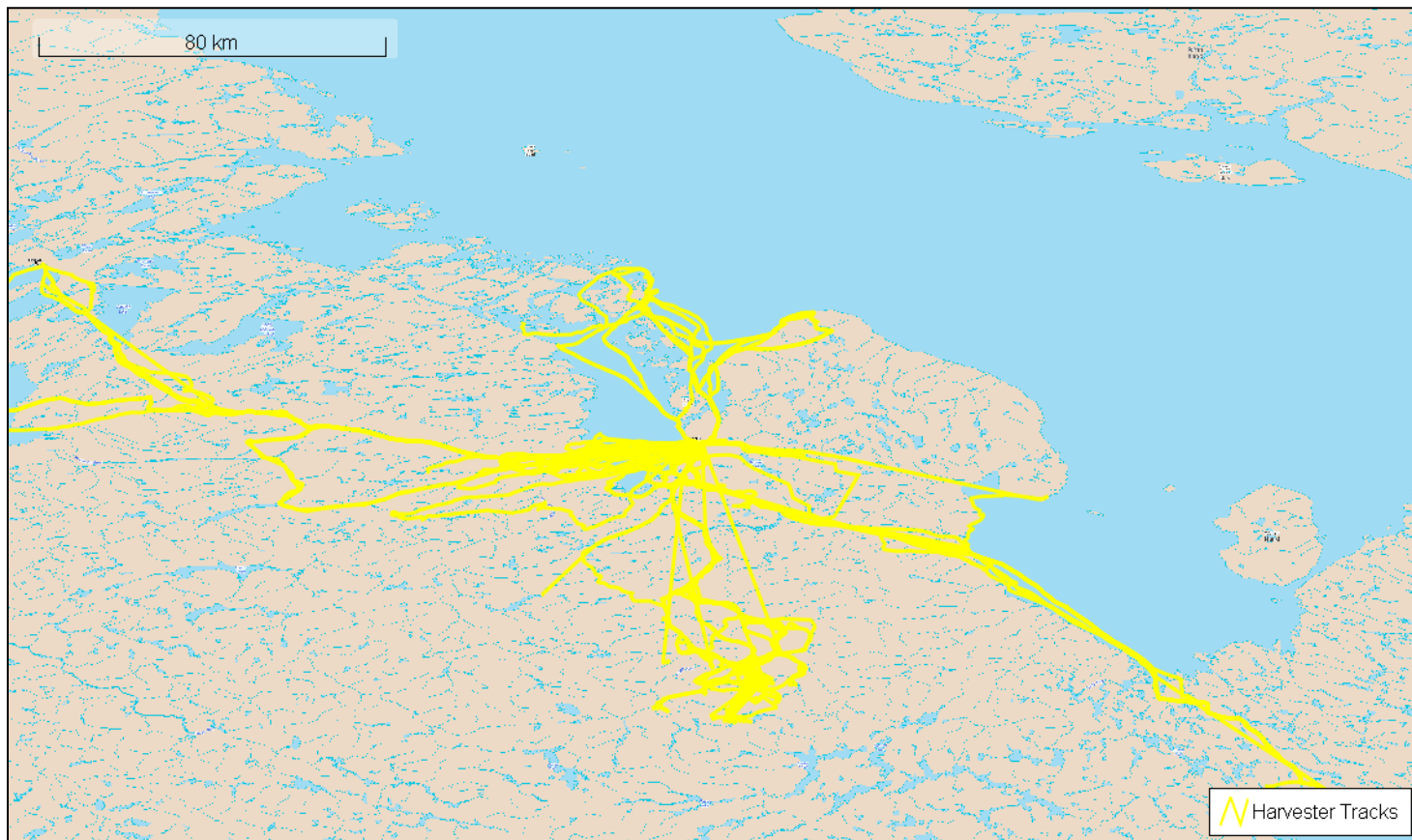


Figure 7. Routes travelled by Kugluktuk participants (January to April, 2025)

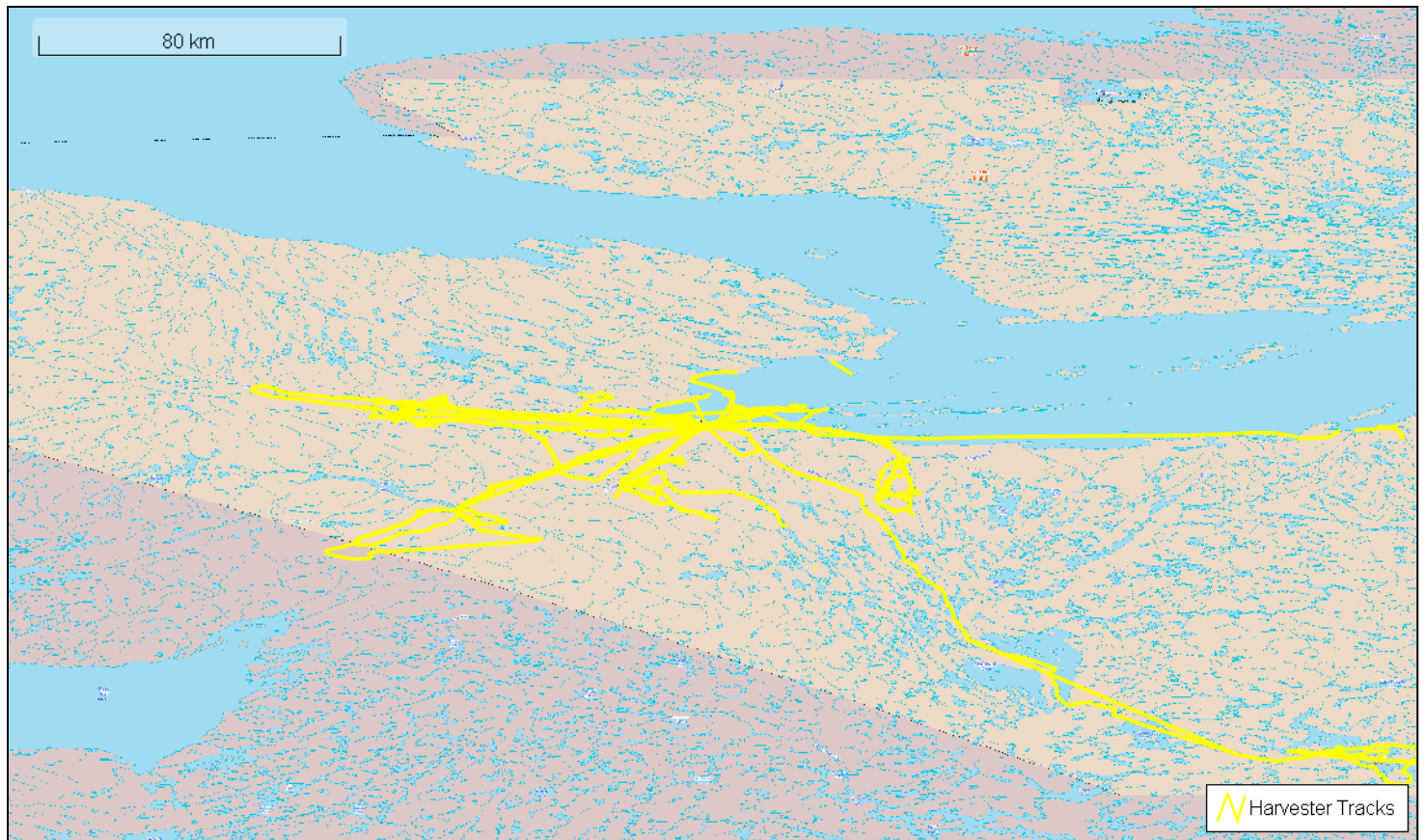


Figure 8. Routes travelled by Taloyoak participants (January to April, 2025)

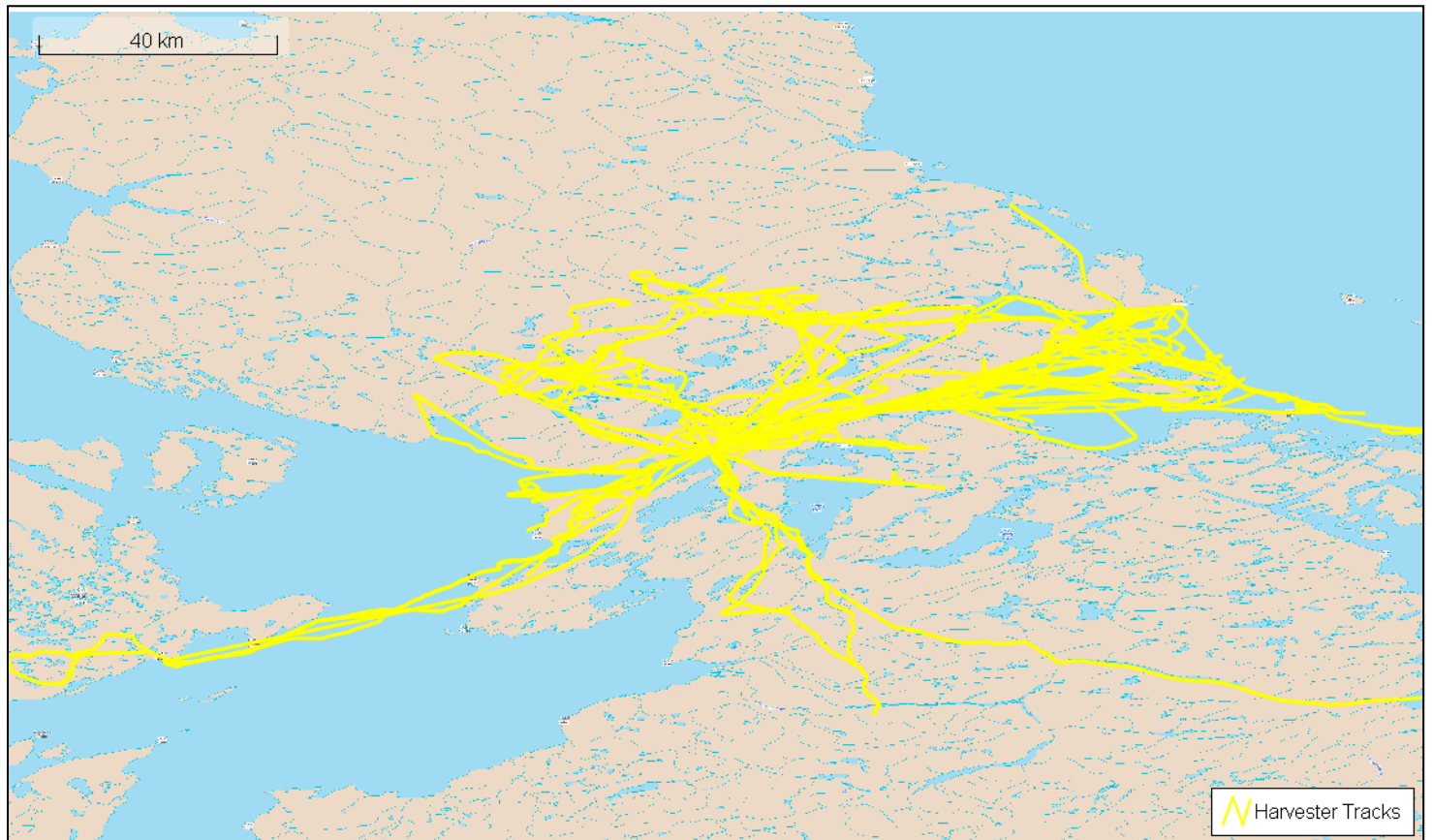
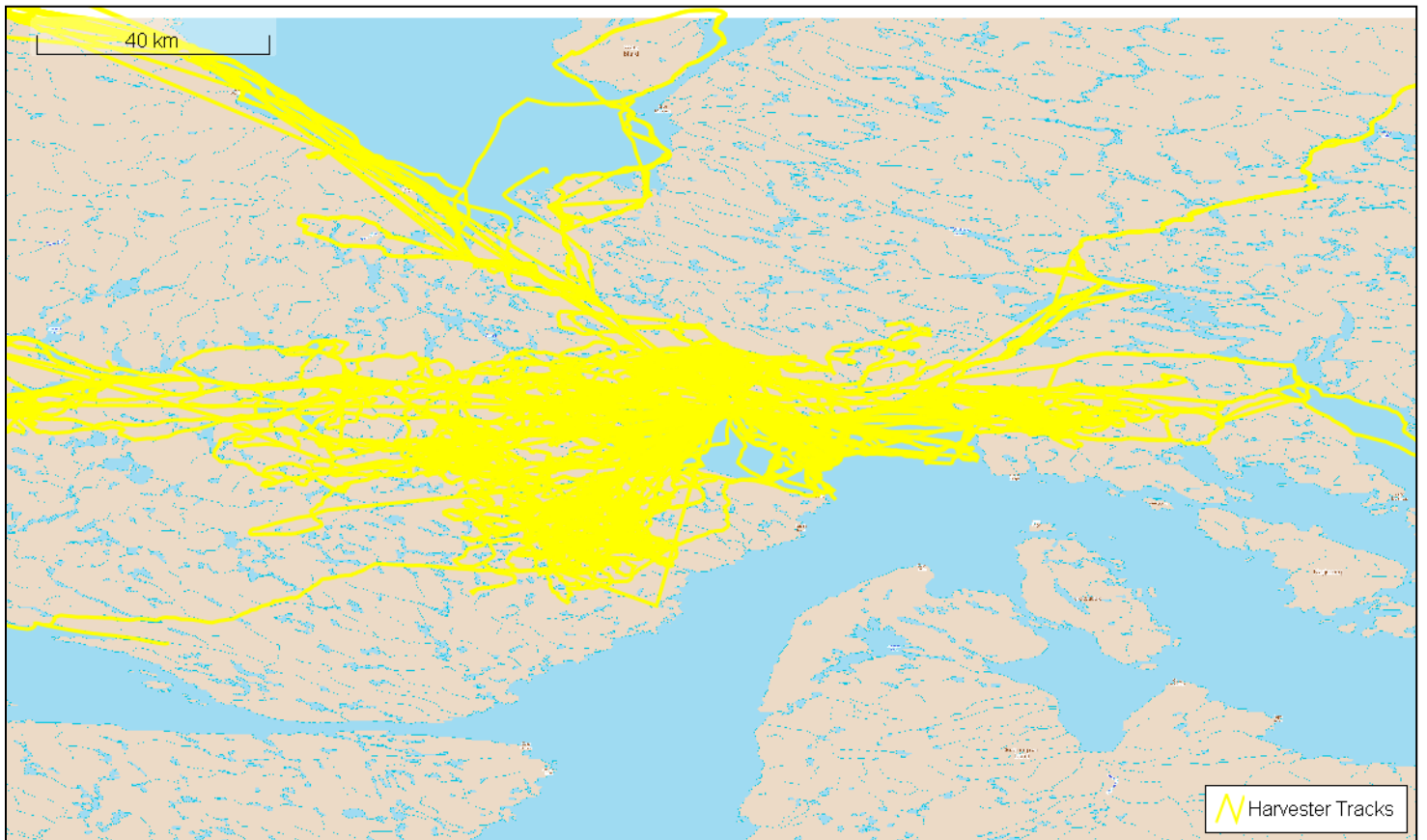


Figure 9. Routes travelled by Naujaat participants (January to April, 2025)



Appendix 2

Interpreting the dataset and recognizing its limitations.

1. **Data Accuracy:** While the data entered into the CBMN database has been screened and checked for accuracy to the best of the ability of the NWMB, the NWMB makes no warranties or guarantees as to the accuracy of the data provided to the recipient; this applies to spatial accuracy, species identification, and other qualitative and quantitative attributes.
2. **Data Currency:** The dataset contains only those records entered by participating harvesters as of the date the dataset was provided to the recipient.
3. **Data Limitations:** The dataset is limited to observations that participating harvesters voluntarily collect and upload to the CBMN database. Lack of records on a species, or at a specific location does not mean the species are absent. The dataset should not be relied on as a definitive statement of the presence or absence of a wildlife species at a given location and should not be substituted for comprehensive on-site surveys. Additionally, the number of harvesters participating in the CBMN at any one time does not represent the number of active harvesters in the community, nor is it intended to, given that participation in the CBMN is voluntary. Therefore, the dataset can not be used to estimate community offtake for any specific species or groups of species at any point in time.
4. **Data Purposes:** The dataset is not intended to be used for regulatory, permitting, or commercial purposes. It is intended for informational and educational purposes only, and to assist in natural resource management, land management, conservation planning, and biological and ecological research.
5. **Data Purposes:** The NWMB is legally required to protect the identity of participating harvesters and shall not make available harvester names, and identification numbers associated with the dataset, unless required by law or with the approval of the affected harvester.

No data from the dataset, or products derived from the dataset, may be included in publications or other copyrighted materials without the express permission of the NWMB and the relevant harvesters.

**SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

FOR

Information:

Decision: X



Revisions to NWMB policies governing the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Research Fund and the Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund

Issue

The NWMB created the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Research Fund (IQRF) and the Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (NWSF) to fund community-based wildlife research projects, including projects that gather Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or Inuit knowledge to assist in the management of Nunavut's wildlife. Funding is mostly allocated to Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Regional Wildlife Organizations, community-based Inuit organizations, and residents of Nunavut. The funds are administered following NWMB's internal funding policies and guidelines, which were last updated in 2019.

NWMB staff are proposing that the Board review and update these policies, particularly in the following areas:

- An adjustment to the maximum amount of money available per project
- A change from no deadlines to a bi-annual call for applications
- Discontinue the request for interim financial and project reports
- Making HTO support a mandatory requirement

The current version of the NWSF and IQRF policies are attached.

<p style="text-align: center;">NUNAVUT WILDLIFE INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT RESEARCH FUND FUNDING GUIDE</p>
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INTRODUCTION

Article 5.2.37 of the *Nunavut Agreement* states that "*there is a need for an effective system of wildlife management, and to be effective, the system of management requires an efficient, coordinated research effort*".

Research using both Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific knowledge is necessary to ensure that wildlife resources are harvested in a knowledgeable and sustainable way so that Nunavummiut can continue the hunting and fishing that is so essential to their way of life. It is anticipated that collecting Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and traditional ecological knowledge from Nunavummiut through research will assist the NWMB and co-management partners in their decision-making process. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit will also improve the NWMB's ability to fulfill its vision of "conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific knowledge" by providing a way for Inuit to have their knowledge recorded and catalogued.

The Nunavut Wildlife Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Research Fund (IQRF) was created by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to fund community-based management and research projects in Nunavut, in particular projects led by Inuit beneficiaries and/or Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs).

The IQRF provides an annual allocation of studies funds to encourage Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, and individuals to undertake and lead research projects through the use of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit or traditional ecological knowledge that directly address community needs and concerns related to the management of wildlife in Nunavut.

The NWMB has a lead role to play in this area and is committed to making wildlife research responsive to the needs and concerns of the people of Nunavut.

Each year in December, the NWMB determines the amount of funding that will be available for the IQRF. The NWMB may increase the funding for the IQRF during the Board's consideration of applications on a case by case basis.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, and individuals eligible for funding under the IQRF include, HTOs, Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), and residents of Nunavut. To be eligible the research must be conducted within the Nunavut Territory and must contribute to the management of Nunavut's wildlife.

Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, and individuals are not limited in the number of applications they submit for IQRF funding. However, applicants should consider that there is a limited amount of funding available to be distributed each year. By submitting a proposal, the organization or individual is committing to the time required to complete the project.

Government and non-governmental organizations, including educational institutions and private companies, are not eligible for IQRF funding. The NWMB encourages cooperative research with Government and non-governmental organizations but projects funded under the IQRF must clearly be led by Nunavut Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, or residents of Nunavut and must directly address community needs and concerns.

The IQRF does not require a minimum contribution from an applicant when submitting a proposal.

The IQRF will not fund budget items which do not directly support a proposed research project. The following are examples of budget items that the NWMB will not fund:

- equipment purchase and leasing;
- maintenance cost of equipment already owned;
- funding for equipment or supplies for future years of research if not occurring in the funding year (e.g. large fuel purchases);
- administration fees (e.g. cost for use of paper for photocopying, fax, or mail)
- capital works and/or general infrastructure costs.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE / FORMAT

Applications may be submitted at any time, as there is no submission deadline. The Board may consider proposals at their quarterly meetings in March, June, September and December of each year. The Board may also consider proposals during teleconferences, virtual, or in-person meetings outside of the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

Applications can be submitted in Inuktitut or English and must comply with the format, content and submission requirements as specified in the application form. An application form can be downloaded from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) or by contacting the NWMB. A proposal should be submitted as a mature research plan ready for implementation. All details in the application must be current at the time of the submission and must be focused on the current funding year and not the long-term research plans for the project. Applicants are responsible for completing the application form checklist and ensuring that their applications are complete. NWMB staff may contact applicants to obtain more information concerning their applications during the evaluation process.

Applications must be submitted by a designated project leader who must take responsibility for the proposed project and the communication of the results. The NWMB defines a project leader as an individual who will: (1) be responsible for the direction of the proposed project; (2) assume the administrative and financial responsibility of the project; and (3) receive all related correspondence from the NWMB. In submitting a proposal, the organization or individual and project leader are consenting to the application being publicly available.

At the time of submission of an application all obligations regarding previously funded projects involving the Inuit organization, community-based organization, or individual must have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the NWMB. Such obligations include the provision of progress interim reports, interim financial reports, final financial reports and final reports. Any outstanding obligations will be factored into the scoring of the application by NWMB staff and may not be eligible for further funding. Applications will be disqualified if the applicant fails to meet all reporting obligations regarding previously funded projects and may not be eligible for future

funding.

Additions, deletions and modifications will not be accepted after submission, unless invited or pre-approved by the NWMB. Proposals may be withdrawn by providing written notice to the NWMB.

All applications will be assessed for completeness and issued an IQRF project number and the associated organization/project leader will be notified of this number for future communication. The organization/project leader are expected to use this IQRF project number in all future communications with the NWMB.

FUNDING LEVELS

The amount of funding available from the IQRF for the funding year will be decided annually by the Board as part of the annual budget review process in December. The NWMB will consider all eligible applications that meet the submission requirements based on their merits and in light of the funding available. Due to limited funding the NWMB may be unable to fund all worthy applications.

In selecting projects for IQRF funding, the NWMB strives to fund projects that are clearly led by Nunavut Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, or residents of Nunavut and must directly address community needs and concerns. Additionally, the NWMB funds projects that will directly address the identified NWMB and regional wildlife management and research priorities (please refer to the current *NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* and *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* available from the NWMB and in future online at www.nwmb.com).

Applicants may request IQRF funding in two ways:

1. Single year funding
2. Preliminary study funding

The IQRF does not provide multi-year funding; therefore, a separate application is required for each year if the project requires more than one year to complete the project objectives.

SINGLE-YEAR FUNDING

Individual projects may request single-year funding up to **\$30,000**.

The NWMB recognizes the complexity of wildlife research and understands that most wildlife research projects are not completed in a single year. Applicants should be aware, however, that the NWMB will not fund projects that are long-term continuous monitoring projects.

Applicants may apply for single-year funding for a project that was previously funded. However, receiving funding during one funding period does not guarantee that the project will be funded in future years. In addition, each year's application must state the rationale and research plan for that funding year.

PRELIMINARY STUDY FUNDING

Individual preliminary studies may request up to **\$7,500**.

Preliminary studies should be designed to allow for community consultation and/or the formation of a project design in consultation with co-management partners or consultants prior to a full funding request. The maximum amount of preliminary study funding that can be awarded each funding year is 25% of the total funds available to allocate.

Examples of project focuses that would be eligible for preliminary study funding are the following:

- Contracting of consultants or Government departments to assist in development of research design;
- consultation on research methods prior to development of research project;
- consultation on community support for a proposed study;
- consultation on level of community involvement and participation in a research project;
- consultation on how to include Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) in a research project.

While research may be undertaken during this preliminary year of work, it will not be a requirement of the funding. A single project will only be eligible for preliminary study funding once. The NWMB expects that the results obtained while receiving preliminary study funding will lead to the development of a research project in future years.

All successful applicants of preliminary study funding are required to fulfill the IQRF reporting requirements.

UNUSED FUNDS

Successful applicants should be aware that any funds remaining unused at the end of the project must be returned to the NWMB with the Final Financial Report.

The IQRF does not allow the carry-over of funds from one year to the next.

MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The NWMB will establish its own Wildlife Management and Research Priorities and will develop Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities through the completion of regional workshops once every three years.

Proposals will have a better chance of being funded if they address an NWMB or regional priority (please refer to the current *NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* and *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* available from the NWMB and in future online at www.nwmb.com). Applicants must clearly indicate how the project will address one of the priorities in the appropriate section of the IQRF application.

The NWMB accepts a broad and simple definition of research as simply "finding things out". This can be done by gathering of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ)/Traditional Ecological Knowledge

(TEK). The NWMB encourages the use of available IQ/TEK in research to the extent possible and demonstration that this information has been considered in the study's goals, objectives, and design.

The NWMB expects that the relevant HTO(s) or RWO(s) will assist with the identification of appropriate knowledge holders to obtain information. In addition, projects that include or incorporate TEK/IQ should commit to identifying key informants in reports, presentations, and publications, unless confidentiality has been specifically requested.

The NWMB is not an economic development agency; hence resource development activities such as experimental harvesting programs, product development and marketing studies will generally not be considered for funding. Similarly, the NWMB is not primarily focused on effects to human health or related issues. Research on contaminants, animal health and diseases, etc. will be considered insofar as they concern the productivity or health of the wildlife populations themselves, which must clearly be outlined in the application.

Projects that involve the compilation of existing data will not be funded, unless this is an integral part of a project which is judged to be necessary in meeting wildlife management and research priorities. In such cases, the proposal must include a detailed basis for and statement indicating, the management or research objectives to which the data would contribute and provide the specific questions to be addressed. Projects that involve the development of research aids and tools (including computer programs), must include a detailed basis for, and statement indicating, the research objectives to which these activities would contribute and provide the specific research questions to be addressed.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS:

The NWMB anticipates that most research will be done with the cooperation and active participation of local people. For IQRF projects that affect more than five communities, a letter of support from the affected RWO(s) is required. If less than five communities are affected, a letter from each community HTO is required.

In cases where the project leader is denied or is unable to obtain a letter of support from the RWO(s), the NWMB will still consider to fund a project if the applicant has done a conscientious job of consulting, and there are no objections from the communities (although communities may not have sent a letter of support).

The NWMB requires the following demonstration of conscientious consultation, when RWO letters of support have not been obtained:

1. Details of the attempted consultation;
2. Evidence of adequate communications with the affected HTO(s)/ RWO(s):
 - a. all the information provided to them; and
 - b. a reasonable opportunity to express their interests and concerns;
3. All HTO and RWO responses to follow-up communications.

The NWMB expects that organizations will report the results of their work to local communities. Plans for community reporting must be provided in the application. Copies of community reports must also be provided to the NWMB. The NWMB recommends that all projects provide in-

community reporting of the results but understands that due to logistics and costs that this is not always possible.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following reports are required by the NWMB:

Quarterly Application Deadline	Interim Project Update and Financial Report	Final Project and Financial Report
March	January 15 th	June 30 th
June	April 15 th	September 30 th
September	July 15 th	December 31 st
December	October 15 th	March 31 st

It is the responsibility of the project leader to coordinate the submission of these reports. Failure to submit the required reports on time or in the proper format identified in this funding guide will result in the rejection of future funding requests from the Inuit and/or community-based organization or the individual.

Reports may be submitted by e-mail (preferred), fax or regular mail. If submitting electronically, do not send additional hard copies. Receipt of all reports will be acknowledged by the NWMB when received. For electronic submissions, the file names of each report should follow the following format: <IQRF project number> <organization> <type of report> <date of submission (year/month/day)> (e.g. 2018-001-Grise Fiord HTO-Interim project report-100115).

Requests for extensions of the IQRF reporting requirements will be considered on a case by case basis, if a persuasive argument can be made for granting an extension. Requests for extensions must be made to the NWMB in writing two weeks in advance of the deadline of a report. If a request for extension is granted an agreed upon deadline for the report will be negotiated with the project leader and the NWMB.

All reports that are submitted after the deadline that were not previously granted an extension will be considered late and this will be factored into future funding requests as a penalty during the application scoring process. New project proposals will not be accepted from applicants with outstanding reports. Applicants who submitted reports late during the previous funding period will be deducted 4 points for interim reports and 6 points for final reports.

Projects that are approved outside of the NWMB's quarterly meetings will be assigned reporting deadlines as though the project was approved at the next scheduled quarterly meeting (i.e., March, June, September, and December). For example, a project considered by the NWMB in April would have reporting requirements applied for June in the table above. NWMB staff will notify project leaders of the deadlines for their financial and project reports.

INTERIM PROJECT UPDATE

The purpose of this update is to provide the NWMB with information on the progress of the project before new proposals are considered for the coming year. Interim Project should follow the format provided below.

There is no particular format for the interim updates, but should provide an indication of

completed work, ongoing and planned work that has not yet been completed, known or anticipated results, employment and training provided to Nunavut residents and future plans. Interim updates do not need to be as detailed as final reports and should not exceed 4 pages. The following items are required to be included at the beginning of the interim updates.

Required information for Interim Project Updates:

1. IQRF Project Number: (e.g. IQRF 2018-001)
2. Project Title: Provide a one to two sentence title as identified in your application for funding.
3. Project Leader: Provide name and contact information, including a telephone and email where you can be reached.

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Final project reports will be used by the NWMB as the basis for making decisions about the wildlife population in question, if required. Final project reports are, and should follow the format provided below.

Final project reports should provide all relevant results and conclusions from the research. The final project report should be as detailed as possible, including all technical information. There is no page limitation for final project reports.

All IQRF final project reports will be uploaded to the NWMB's website.

Required format for Final Project Reports:

1. IQRF Project Number: (IQRF 2018-001)
2. Project Title: Provide a one to two sentence title as identified in your application for funding.
3. Project Leader: Provide name and contact information, including a telephone and email where you can be reached.
4. Summary: Provide a non-technical summary of your project.
5. Project Objectives: Provide an analysis of the project objectives and achievements.
6. Materials and Methods: Provide information on materials and methods used during the research project.
7. Results: Provide analysis of results of the research, include all data collected.
8. Discussion/Management Implications: Provide explanations as to the possible current and future management implications arising from your research. Include recommendations pertaining to the NWMB's mandate.
9. Reporting to communities/resource users: Provide an updated schedule of consultations as per 5.2 of the IQRF application. Indicate any status or changes to schedule.
10. References

INTERIM AND FINAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

These reports should include projections of expenditures to the end of the fiscal year if research

is still on-going.

Interim and final financial reports are required and are to be included with the Interim Project Update and the Final Project Report; both reports must follow the format provided below. Interim financial reports should not exceed 2 pages. The interim financial report may also serve as the final financial report if all research and expenses are complete prior to submission of the interim report. If the interim financial report is to serve as the final financial report, this must be confirmed to the NWMB in writing when the department provides its package to the NWMB.

Any significant variance (\$1000 or 10% on any line item) from the budget in the original proposal accepted by the NWMB must be explained.

Required format for Financial Reports:

1. IQRF Project Number: (IQRF 2018-001)
2. Project Title: Provide a one to two sentence title as identified in your application for funding.
3. Project Leader: Provide name and contact information, including a telephone and email where you can be reached.
4. Original Project Budget: Provide a copy of the original budget from the application approved by the NWMB. Line items can be explained or expanded on using footnotes.
5. Original Contributions: Provide a table summarizing contributions of the NWMB and others, from the application approved by the NWMB with explanations of any variation from the original proposal.
6. Explanation of changes: Provide a list of any changes in the original project budget or original contributions.
7. Financial Report: Provide a financial report using the below format.

Budget Item	Budgeted	Disbursed	Variance
TOTAL			

Balance, if any, to be returned to NWMB: _____

8. Explanation of variances: Provide a list of explanations of variances, if applicable.
9. Verification of information provided: Use the below statement and provide signature at end of report:

I certify that this is an accurate statement of the Board project funds received and disbursed in accordance with the joint contribution agreement.

Project leader

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The evaluation process of applications for IQRF funding involves a two-fold review process, which includes scoring of the proposals by NWMB's Wildlife Section staff and then a review by the members of the NWMB at its March, June, September, and December meetings.

The NWMB's Wildlife Section evaluation is based on a set scoring system using four main criteria to determine a total score out of 100:

1. Research Priority (20 points)
2. Quality of Research (25 points)
3. Applicant Priority (20 points)
4. Training and Employment (20 points)
5. Consultation and Reporting (15 points)

Applicants should be aware that not all proposals are brought to the IQRF review meetings for consideration by the NWMB Board members. A proposal must score at least 50 points to be considered. All organizations and project leaders will be notified in writing by the NWMB if their project will proceed to the second evaluation process.

The Board will publicly review the proposals in the second evaluation process at the IQRF meeting. NWMB Wildlife Section staff will provide a briefing note summary of the project based on the information provided. Applicants are not required to present their proposals to the Board. However, applicants are allowed to sit-in during the Board's review of the proposals and are encouraged to do so to respond to questions from the Board if possible. The NWMB recognizes that this is not always financially or logistically possible and attendance at the meeting is not factored into whether a project is funded or not.

Receiving a high score based on the scoring criteria does not automatically mean that a project will be funded. The Board considers a number of other external factors when determining which projects merit IQRF funding.

NWMB Board members have the right to make recommendations solely on the basis of their knowledge and expertise, and may:

- decide if the proposal meets the eligibility criteria set out in this funding guide;
- identify and consider any other additional information that the proposal or NWMB staff did not consider when recommending a proposal be funded or not funded;
- determine an alternative ranking of the proposals based on more recent priorities;
- assess and recommend different amounts of funding for a proposal; and
- create additional funding conditions prior to the issuance of funding.

SCORING CRITERIA: MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Management and research priorities are scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on

NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities and *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* for a total score of 20.00.

The NWMB priorities are established by the Board based on the NWMB’s primary and secondary objectives as outlined in subsections 5.2.33 and 5.2.34 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The NWMB’s priorities can be found in the *NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* available from the NWMB and in the future on the NWMB’s website (www.nwmb.com). The NWMB priorities are ranked from 1 to 6, as determined by the NWMB every three years. The maximum point allocation for NWMB priorities is 5.00 points.

The *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* are established by the NWMB through regional workshops completed by the NWMB every three years. The regional priorities are ranked from 1 to 6, as determined by regional representatives. The maximum point allocation for these priorities is 15.00 points.

NWMB Priorities	5.00 points
Regional Priority	15.00 points

In order to qualify for the point allocations for the NWMB and regional priorities, the project’s main objectives must address the priority and the results of the project must directly contribute to addressing the priority through the application of results. If a project addresses a number of priorities, the point allocation will be assigned based on the most relevant priority.

SCORING CRITERIA: QUALITY OF THE STUDY

The quality of research is scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on three main criteria, for a maximum of 25.00 points.

Methodology and project design	10.00 points
Will the project provide IQ information that will be applicable to the NWMB in its wildlife management activities in the near future (1-3 years)?	15.00 points

SCORING CRITERIA: APPLICANT PRIORITY

The IQRF was created by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) to fund projects led by Inuit and/or community-based organizations or Nunavut residents, in particular HTOs and Inuit beneficiaries. The maximum point allocation for priority applicants is 20.00 points.

Inuit organization (e.g. HTOs) or Inuit Beneficiary	20.00/20.00 points
Nunavut community-based organization (e.g. community research organization)	15.00/20.00 points
Nunavut resident	10.00/20.00 points

SCORING CRITERIA: TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Funding and training is scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on three main criteria, for a maximum of 20.00 points.

Skills development or training for Inuit beneficiaries	10.00 points
Employment for Nunavut residents	10.00 points

SCORING CRITERIA: CONSULATION AND REPORTING

Consultation and reporting is scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on three main criteria, for a maximum of 15.00 points.

Regional or community pre-study consultation and support for project (e.g. HTO board letters, phone calls)	10.00 points
Plans for reporting to communities (e.g. in-community oral reporting and/or distribution of a written report)	5.00 points

Applicants are strongly discouraged from contacting the NWMB's Wildlife Section staff regarding the scoring of their proposal(s). The breakdown and rationale for the scores made by NWMB staff are not publicly available and are only made available to Board members upon request.

NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING DECISIONS AND FUNDING CONDITIONS

All individual applicants will be advised through written notification of the NWMB's funding decisions. Projects that have been approved for funding will also be notified of the funding conditions that are required to be met. Projects funded by the IQRF must provide confirmation in writing of other funding identified in the proposal being approved.

For projects that have not met the IQRF consultation requirements at the time of NWMB approval, funding will be conditional on the project meeting the IQRF consultation requirements. The NWMB may also establish additional funding conditions prior to funding being issued.

Requests for extensions to meeting NWMB funding conditions will be considered on a case by case basis, if a persuasive argument can be made for granting an extension. If a request for an extension is granted an agreed upon deadline will be negotiated with the project leader and the NWMB.

CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT:

Once the funding conditions have been met, the NWMB will negotiate a Contribution Agreement with the associated organization or individual. NWMB staff will contact the project leader to negotiate the Contribution Agreement.

Annual schedule for the IQRF and Important Dates

Inuit and community-based organizations advised of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any changes in IQRF Policy; Any changes in the NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities; and Any changes to the due date for project applications for next fiscal year. 	October 31 st
The NWMB meets to decide funding level for the next fiscal year.	December

Applications can be submitted throughout the year; however, the quarterly NWMB Board meeting at which applications are approved will be used to determine the following deadlines				
IQRF application submission deadline	January 15 th	April 15 th	July 15 th	October 15 th
Quarterly NWMB Board meeting at which application was approved	March	June	September	December
NWMB provides written notification of funding decision	Mid-April	Mid-July	Mid-October	Mid-January
Contribution agreements issued and funding disbursed	August 1 st	November 1 st	February 1 st	May 1 st
Interim Project and Financial Update	January 15 th	April 15 th	July 15 th	October 15 th
Final Project and Financial Report	June 30 th	September 30 th	December 31 st	March 31 st

CONTACT INFORMATION

NWMB staff are available to provide general advice and clarification but are not able to comment on draft applications or enter into correspondence on the detail of applications. Prior to contacting NWMB staff this funding guide should be reviewed carefully.

All IQRF email inquiries should be sent to the below email address, upon which you will be forwarded to an appropriate NWMB staff member. All email inquiries must include "IQRF inquiry" in the subject line.

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0 Phone:

(867) 975-7300
Fax: (867) 975-7320
E-mail: researchfunding@nwmb.com

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE STUDIES FUND FUNDING GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Article 5.2.37 of the *Nunavut Agreement* states "*there is a need for an effective system of wildlife management, and to be effective, the system of management requires an efficient, coordinated research effort*".

The Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (NWSF) was created by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) to fund community-based management and research projects in Nunavut, in particular projects led by Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs). The NWSF provides an annual allocation of studies funds to encourage Inuit and community-based organizations to undertake and lead research projects that directly address community needs and concerns related to the management of wildlife in Nunavut.

Research is necessary to ensure that wildlife resources are harvested in a knowledgeable and sustainable way so that Nunavummiut can continue the hunting and fishing that is so essential to their way of life. The NWMB has a lead role to play in this area and is committed to making wildlife research responsive to the needs and concerns of the people of Nunavut.

Each year in December, the NWMB determines the amount of funding that will be available for the NWSF. The NWMB may increase the funding for the NWSF during the Board's consideration of applications on a case-by-case basis.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, and individuals eligible for funding under the NWSF include, HTOs, Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), and residents of Nunavut. To be eligible the research must be conducted within the Nunavut Territory and must contribute to the management of wildlife in Nunavut.

Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, and individuals are not limited in the number of applications they submit for NWSF funding. However, applicants should consider that there is a limited amount of funding available to be distributed each year. By submitting a proposal, the organization or individual is committing to the time required to complete the project.

Government and non-governmental organizations, including educational institutions and private companies, are not eligible for NWSF funding. The NWMB encourages cooperative research with government and non-governmental organizations but projects funded under the NWSF must be clearly led by Nunavut Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, or residents of Nunavut and must directly address community needs and concern.

The NWSF does not require a minimum funding contribution from an applicant when submitting a proposal.

The NWSF will not fund budget items which do not directly support a proposed research project. The following are examples of budget items that the NWMB will not fund:

- equipment purchase and leasing;
 - maintenance cost of equipment already owned;
 - funding for equipment or supplies for future years of research if not occurring in the funding year (e.g. large fuel purchases);
 - administration fees (e.g. cost for recovery of light, heat, office and/or laboratory supplies); or
 - capital works and/or general infrastructures costs.
-

APPLICATION PROCEDURE / FORMAT

Applications may be submitted at any time, as there is no submission deadline. The Board may consider proposals at their quarterly meetings in March, June, September and December of each year. The Board may also consider proposals during teleconferences, virtual, or in-person meetings outside of the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

Applications can be submitted in Inuktitut or English and must comply with the format, content and submission requirements as specified in the application form. The application form can be downloaded from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) or by contacting the NWMB. A proposal should be submitted as a mature research plan ready for implementation. All details in the application must be current at the time of the submission and must be focused on the current funding year and not the long-term research plans for the project. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their applications are complete. NWMB staff may contact applicants to obtain more information concerning their applications during the evaluation process.

Applications must be submitted by a designated project leader who must take responsibility for the proposed project and the communication of the results. The NWMB defines a project leader as an individual who will: (1) be responsible for the direction of the proposed project; (2) assume the administrative and financial responsibility of the project; and (3) receive all related correspondence from the NWMB. In submitting a proposal, the organization or individual and project leader are consenting to the application being publicly available.

At the time of submission of an application all obligations regarding previously funded projects involving the Inuit organization, community-based organization, or individual must have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the NWMB. Such obligations include the provision of progress interim reports, interim financial reports, final financial reports and final reports. Any outstanding obligations will be factored into the scoring of the application by NWMB staff. Applications will be disqualified if the applicant fails to meet all reporting obligations regarding previously funded projects and may not be eligible for future funding.

Additions, deletions and modifications will not be accepted after submission, unless invited or pre-approved by the NWMB. Proposals may be withdrawn by providing written notice to the NWMB.

All applications will be assessed for completeness and issued an NWSF project number and the associated organization/project leader will be notified of this number for future communications. The organization/project leader are expected to use this NWSF project number in all communications with the NWMB.

FUNDING LEVELS

The amount of funding available from the NWSF for the funding year will be decided annually by the Board as part of the annual budget review process in December. The NWMB will consider all eligible applications that meet the submission requirements based on their merits and in light of the funding available. Due to limited funding the NWMB may be unable to fund all worthy applications.

In selecting projects for NWSF funding, the NWMB strives to fund projects that are clearly led by Nunavut Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, or residents of Nunavut and must directly address community needs and concern. Additionally, the NWMB funds projects that will directly address the identified NWMB and regional wildlife management and research priorities (please refer to the current *NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* and *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* available from the NWMB and in future online at www.nwmb.com).

Applicants may request NWSF funding in two ways:

1. Single year funding
2. Preliminary study funding

The NWSF does not provide multi-year funding; therefore, a separate application is required for each year if the project requires more than one year to complete the project objectives.

SINGLE-YEAR FUNDING

Individual projects may request single-year funding up to **\$30,000**.

The NWMB recognizes the complexity of wildlife research and understands that most wildlife research projects are not completed in a single year. Applicants should be aware, however, that the NWMB will not fund projects that are long-term continuous monitoring projects.

Applicants may apply for single-year funding for a project that was previously funded. However, receiving funding during one funding period does not guarantee that the project will be funded in future years. In addition, each year's application must state the rationale and research plan for that funding year.

PRELIMINARY STUDY FUNDING

Individual preliminary studies may request up to **\$7,500**.

Preliminary studies should be designed to allow for community consultation and/or the formation of a project design in consultation with co-management partners or consultants prior to a full funding request. The maximum amount of preliminary study funding that can be awarded each funding year is 25% of the total funds available to allocate.

Examples of project focuses that would be eligible for preliminary study funding are the following:

- Contracting of consultants or Government departments to assist in development of research design

- consultation on research methods prior to development of research project;
- consultation on community support for a proposed study;
- consultation on level of community involvement and participation in a research project;
- consultation on how to include Inuit Qaujimagatugangit (IQ) in a research project.

While research may be undertaken during this preliminary year of work, it will not be a requirement of the funding. A single project will only be eligible for preliminary study funding once. The NWMB expects that the results obtained while receiving preliminary study funding will lead to the development of a research project in future years.

All successful applicants of preliminary study funding are required to fulfill the NWSF reporting requirements.

UNUSED FUNDS

Successful applicants should be aware that any funds remaining unused at the end of the fiscal year (March 31) must be returned to the NWMB by **June 30**.

The NWSF does not allow the carry-over of funds from one year to the next.

MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The NWMB will establish its own Wildlife Management and Research Priorities and will develop Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities through the completion of regional workshops once every three years.

Proposals will have a better chance of being funded if they address an NWMB or regional priority (please refer to the current *NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* and *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* available from the NWMB and in future online at www.nwmb.com). Applicants must clearly indicate how the project will address one of the priorities in the appropriate section of the NWSF application.

The NWMB accepts a broad and simple definition of research as simply "finding things out". This can be done by western scientific methods, the gathering of Inuit Qaujimagatugangit (IQ), or a combination of the two. The NWMB encourages the use of available IQ/Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in research to the extent possible and demonstration that this information has been considered in the study's goals, objectives, and design.

The NWMB expects that the relevant HTO(s) or RWO(s) will assist with the identification of appropriate knowledge holders to obtain information. In addition, projects that include or incorporate IQ/TEK should commit to identifying key informants in reports, presentations, and publications, unless confidentiality has been specifically requested.

The NWMB is not an economic development agency; hence resource development activities such as experimental harvesting programs, product development and marketing studies will generally not be considered for funding. Similarly, the NWMB is not primarily focused on effects to human health or related issues. Research on contaminants, animal health and diseases, etc.

will be considered insofar as they concern the productivity or health of the wildlife populations themselves, which must clearly be outlined in the application.

Projects that involve the compilation of existing data will not be funded, unless this is an integral part of a project which is judged to be necessary in meeting wildlife management and research priorities. In such cases, the proposal must include a detailed basis for and statement indicating, the management or research objectives to which the data would contribute and provide the specific questions to be addressed. Projects that involve the development of research aids and tools (including computer programs), must include a detailed basis for, and statement indicating, the research objectives to which these activities would contribute and provide the specific research questions to be addressed.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS:

The NWMB anticipates that most research will be done with the cooperation and active participation of local people. For NWSF projects that affect more than five communities, a letter of support from the affected RWO(s) is required. If less than five communities are affected, a letter from each community HTO is required.

In cases where the project leader is denied or is unable to obtain a letter of support from the HTO(s)/RWO(s), the NWMB will still consider funding a project if the applicant has done a conscientious job of consulting, and there are no objections from the communities (although communities may not have sent a letter of support).

The NWMB requires the following demonstration of conscientious consultation, when HTO(s)/RWO letters of support have not been obtained:

1. Details of the attempted consultation;
2. Evidence of adequate communications with the affected HTO(s)/ RWO(s):
 - a. all the information provided to them; and
 - b. a reasonable opportunity to express their interests and concerns;
3. All HTO and RWO responses to follow-up communications.

The NWMB expects that organizations will report the results of their work to local communities. Plans for community reporting must be provided in the application. Copies of community reports must also be provided to the NWMB. The NWMB recommends that all projects provide in-community reporting of the results but understands that due to logistics and costs that this is not always possible.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following reports are required by the NWMB:

Quarterly Application Review	Interim Project Update and Financial Report	Final Project and Financial Report
March	January 15 th	June 30 th
June	April 15 th	September 30 th
September	July 15 th	December 31 st
December	October 15 th	March 31 st

It is the responsibility of the project leader to coordinate the submission of these reports. Failure to submit the required reports on time or in the proper format identified in this funding guide will result in the rejection of future funding requests from the Inuit and/or community-based organization or the individual.

Reports may be submitted by e-mail (preferred), fax or regular mail. If submitting electronically, do not send additional hard copies. Receipt of all reports will be acknowledged by the NWMB when received. For electronic submissions, the file names of each report should follow the following format: <NWSF project number> <organization> <type of report> <date of submission (year/month/day)> (e.g. 2018-001-Grise Fiord HTO-Interim project report-18/01/15).

Requests for extensions of the NWSF reporting requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if a persuasive argument can be made for granting an extension. Requests for extensions must be made to the NWMB in writing two weeks in advance of the deadline of a report. If a request for extension is granted an agreed upon deadline for the report will be negotiated with the project leader and the NWMB.

All reports that are submitted after the deadline that were not previously granted an extension will be considered late and this will be factored into future funding requests as a penalty during the application scoring process. New project proposals will not be accepted from applicants with outstanding reports. Applicants who submitted reports late during the previous funding period will be deducted up to six (6) points.

Projects that are approved outside of the NWMB's quarterly meetings will be assigned reporting deadlines as though the project was approved at the next scheduled quarterly meeting (i.e., March, June, September, and December). For example, a project considered by the NWMB in April would have reporting requirements applied for June in the table above. NWMB staff will notify project leaders of the deadlines for their financial and project reports.

INTERIM PROJECT UPDATE

The purpose of this update is to provide the NWMB with information on the progress of the project before new proposals are considered for the coming year. Interim project updates should contain the information provided below.

There is no particular format for the interim updates, but they should provide an indication of completed work, ongoing and planned work that has not yet been completed, known or anticipated results, employment and training provided to Nunavut residents and future plans. Interim updates do not need to be as detailed as final reports and should not exceed 4 pages. The following items are required to be included at the beginning of the interim updates.

Required information for Interim Project Updates:

1. NWSF Project Number: (e.g. 2018-001)
2. Project Title: Provide a one to two sentence title as identified in your application for funding.
3. Project Leader: Provide name and contact information, including a telephone and email where you can be reached.

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Final project reports will be used by the NWMB as the basis for making decisions about the wildlife population in question, if required. Final project reports are, and should follow the format provided below.

Final project reports should provide all relevant results and conclusions from the research. The final project report should be as detailed as possible, including all technical information. There is no page limitation for final project reports.

All NWSF final project reports will be uploaded to the NWMB's website.

Required format for Final Project Reports:

1. NWSF Project Number: (e.g. 2018-001)
2. Project Title: Provide a one to two sentence title as identified in your application for funding.
3. Project Leader: Provide name and contact information, including a telephone and e-mail where you can be reached.
4. Summary: Provide a non-technical summary of your project.
5. Project Objectives: Provide an analysis of the project objectives and achievements.
6. Materials and Methods: Provide information on materials and methods used during the research project.
7. Results: Provide analysis of results of the research, include all data collected.
8. Discussion/Management Implications: Provide explanations as to the possible current and future management implications arising from your research. Include recommendations pertaining to the NWMB's mandate.
9. Reporting to communities/resource users: Provide an updated schedule of consultations as per 5.2 of the NWSF application. Indicate any status or changes to schedule.
10. References

INTERIM AND FINAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

These reports should include projections of expenditures to the end of the fiscal year if research is still on-going.

Interim and final financial reports are required and are to be included with the Interim Project Update and the Final Project Report; both reports must follow the format provided below. Interim financial reports should not exceed 2 pages. The interim financial report may also serve as the final financial report if all research and expenses are complete prior to submission of the interim report. If the interim financial report is to serve as the final financial report, this must be confirmed to the NWMB in writing when the department provides its package to the NWMB.

Any significant variance (\$1000 or 10% on any line item) from the budget in the original proposal accepted by the NWMB must be explained.

Required format for Financial Reports:

1. NWSF Project Number: (e.g. 2018-001)
2. Project Title: Provide a one to two sentence title as identified in your application for funding.
3. Project Leader: Provide name and contact information, including a telephone and email where you can be reached.
4. Original Project Budget: Provide a copy of the original budget from the application approved by the NWMB. Line items can be explained or expanded on using footnotes.
5. Original Contributions: Provide a table summarizing contributions of the NWMB and others, from the application approved by the NWMB with explanations of any variation from the original proposal.
6. Explanation of changes: Provide a list of any changes in the original project budget or original contributions.
7. Financial Report: Provide a financial report using the below format.

Budget Item	Budgeted	Disbursed	Variance
TOTAL			

Balance, if any, to be returned to NWMB: _____

8. Explanation of variances: Provide a list of explanations of variances, if applicable.
9. Verification of information provided: Use the below statement and provide signature at end of report:

I certify that this is an accurate statement of the Board project funds received and disbursed in accordance with the joint contribution agreement.

 Project leader

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The evaluation process of applications for NWSF funding involves a two-fold review process, which includes scoring of the proposals by NWMB's Wildlife Section staff and then a review by the members of the NWMB at its March, June, September, and December meetings.

The NWMB's Wildlife Section evaluation is based on a set scoring system using four main criteria to determine a total score out of 100:

1. Research Priority (20 points)
2. Quality of Research (25 points)

3. Applicant Priority (20 points)
4. Training and Employment (20 points)
5. Consultation and Reporting (15 points)

Applicants should be aware that not all proposals are brought to the NWSF review meetings for consideration by the NWMB Board members. A proposal must score at least 50 points to be considered. All organizations and project leaders will be notified in writing by the NWMB if their project will proceed to the second evaluation process.

The Board will publicly review the proposals in the second evaluation process at the NWSF meeting. NWMB Wildlife Section staff will provide a briefing note summary of the project based on the information provided. Applicants are not required to present their proposals to the Board. However, applicants are allowed to sit-in during the Board's review of the proposals and are encouraged to do so to respond to questions from the Board, if possible. The NWMB recognizes that this is not always financially or logistically possible and attendance at the meeting is not factored into whether a project is funded or not.

Receiving a high score based on the scoring criteria does not automatically mean that a project will be funded. The Board considers a number of other external factors when determining which projects merit NWSF funding.

NWMB Board members have the right to make recommendations solely on the basis of their knowledge and expertise, and may:

- decide if the proposal meets the eligibility criteria set out in this funding guide;
- identify and consider any other additional information that the proposal or NWMB staff did not consider when recommending a proposal be funded or not funded;
- determine an alternative ranking of the proposals based on more recent priorities;
- assess and recommend different amounts of funding for a proposal; and
- create additional funding conditions prior to the issuance of funding.

SCORING CRITERIA: MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Management and research priorities are scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on *NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* and *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* for a total score of 20.00.

The NWMB priorities are established by the Board based on the NWMB's primary and secondary objectives as outlined in subsections 5.2.33 and 5.2.34 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. The NWMB's priorities can be found in the *NWMB Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* available from the NWMB and in the future on the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com). The NWMB priorities are ranked from 1 to 6, as determined by the NWMB every three years. The maximum point allocation for NWMB priorities is 5.00 points.

The *Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* are established by the NWMB through regional workshops completed by the NWMB every three years. The regional priorities are ranked from 1 to 6, as determined by regional representatives. The maximum point allocation for these priorities is 15.00 points.

NWMB Priorities	5.00 points
Regional Priority	15.00 points

In order to qualify for the point allocations for the NWMB and regional priorities, the project's main objectives must address the priority and the results of the project must directly contribute to addressing the priority through the application of results. If a project addresses a number of priorities, the point allocation will be assigned based on the most relevant priority.

SCORING CRITERIA: QUALITY OF THE STUDY

The quality of research is scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on three main criteria, for a maximum of 25.00 points.

Methodology and project design	10.00 points
Will the project provide information that will be applicable to the NWMB in its wildlife management activities in the near future (1-3 years)?	10.00 points
Project uses a combination of IQ/TEK and conventional scientific techniques	5.00 points

SCORING CRITERIA: APPLICANT PRIORITY

The NWSF was created by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) to fund projects led by Inuit and/or community-based organizations or Nunavut residents, in particular HTOs and Inuit beneficiaries. The maximum point allocation for priority applicants is 20.00 points.

Inuit organization (e.g. HTOs) or Inuit Beneficiary	20.00/20.00 points
Nunavut community-based organization (e.g. community research organization)	15.00/20.00 points
Nunavut resident	10.00/20.00 points

SCORING CRITERIA: TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Funding and training is scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on two main criteria, for a maximum of 20.00 points.

Skills development or training for Inuit beneficiaries	10.00 points
Employment of Nunavut residents	10.00 points

SCORING CRITERIA: CONSULATION AND REPORTING

Consultation and reporting is scored by NWMB Wildlife Section staff based on three main criteria, for a maximum of 15.00 points.

Regional or community pre-study consultation and support for project (e.g. HTO board letters, phone calls)	10.00 points
Plans for reporting to communities (e.g. in-community oral reporting and/or distribution of a written report)	5.00 points

Applicants are strongly discouraged from contacting the NWMB's Wildlife Section staff regarding the scoring of their proposal(s). The breakdown and rationale for the scores made by NWMB staff are not publicly available and are only made available to Board members upon request.

NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING DECISIONS AND FUNDING CONDITIONS

All individual applicants will be advised through written notification of the NWMB's funding decisions. Projects that have been approved for funding will also be notified of the funding conditions that are required to be met. Projects funded by the NWSF must provide confirmation in writing of other funding identified in the proposal being approved.

For projects that have not met the NWSF consultation requirements at the time of NWMB approval, funding will be conditional on the project meeting the NWSF consultation requirements. The NWMB may also establish additional funding conditions prior to funding being issued.

Requests for extensions to meeting NWMB funding conditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if a persuasive argument can be made for granting an extension. If a request for an extension is granted an agreed upon deadline will be negotiated with the project leader and the NWMB.

CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT:

Once the funding conditions have been met, the NWMB will negotiate a Contribution Agreement with the associated organization or individual. NWMB staff will contact the project leader to negotiate the Contribution Agreement.

Annual schedule for the NWSF and Important Dates

Inuit and community-based organizations advised of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any changes in NWSF Policy;• Any changes in the NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities; and• Any changes to the due date for project applications for next fiscal year.	October 31 st
The NWMB meets to decide funding level for the next fiscal year.	December

Applications can be submitted throughout the year; however, the quarterly NWMB Board meeting at which applications are approved will be used to determine the following deadlines				
NWSF application submission deadline	January 15 th	April 15 th	July 15 th	October 15 th
Quarterly NWMB Board meeting at which application was approved	March	June	September	December
NWMB provides written notification of funding decision	Mid-April	Mid-July	Mid-October	Mid-January
Contribution agreements issued and funding disbursed	August 1 st	November 1 st	February 1 st	May 1 st
Interim Project and Financial Update	January 15 th	April 15 th	July 15 th	October 15 th
Final Project and Financial Report	June 30 th	September 30 th	December 31 st	March 31 st

CONTACT INFORMATION

NWMB staff are available to provide general advice and clarification but are not able to comment on draft applications or enter into correspondence on the detail of applications. Prior to contacting NWMB staff this funding guide should be reviewed carefully.

All NWSF email inquiries should be sent to the below email address, upon which you will be forwarded to an appropriate NWMB staff member. All email inquiries must include "NWSF inquiry" in the subject line.

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 975-7300
Fax: (867) 975-7320
E-mail: researchfunding@nwmb.com



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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

REGIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES UPDATE





Purpose of Setting Regional Research Priorities

1

Research priorities are one of several criteria used to score and rank proposals for:

- Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Research Fund (IQRF)
- Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (NWSF)
- Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust (NWRT)

2

To focus funding on research that addresses community wildlife concerns

WORKSHOPS

Held every three years in each region.

Typically timed with RWO AGMs.

Asked participants how often they would like to hold the workshops.

KWB
Baker Lake
October 21



KRWB
Yellowknife
November 9



QWB
Iqaluit
November 29

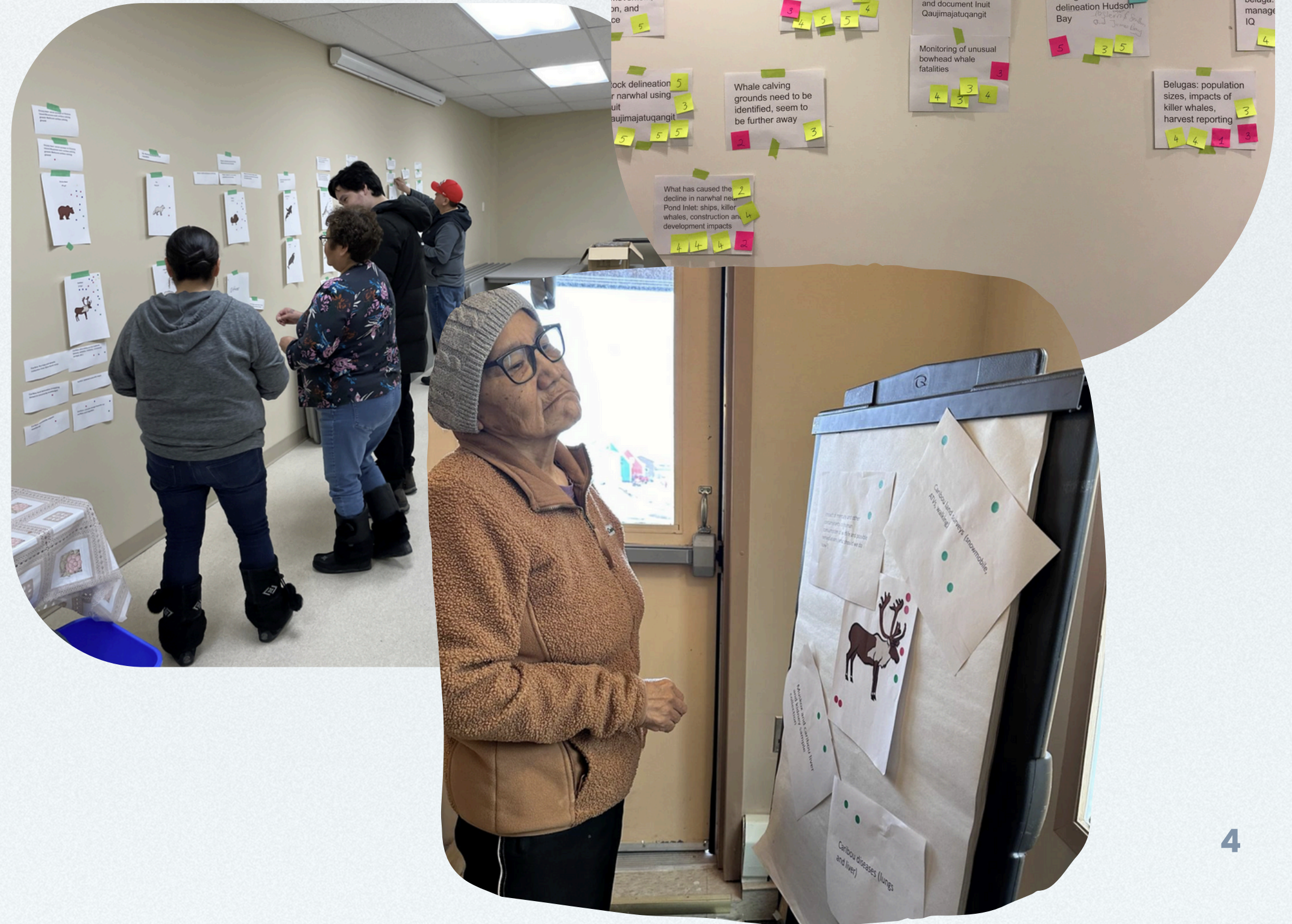


Creating and validating priorities

HTO representatives suggest priorities

HTO representatives vote on priorities

Draft priorities sent to HTOs/RWOs for validation



VALIDATION

Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk

- Draft priorities sent to the RWOs and HTOs to note major concerns.
- No feedback was received.

Kitikmeot

- HTO Chairs asked to review and vote on the list with their HTOs.
- Bathurst Inlet, Bay Chimo, and Kugluktuk submitted updated rankings, and Taloyoak approved the rankings from the workshop.
- Staff followed up with others, but no further updates were received.



RESULTS

Kitikmeot

- Caribou research, including predator impacts, health, and community monitoring
- Community-led research and use of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit
- Climate change, cumulative effects, and environmental change

Kivalliq

- Contaminants and food safety research (fish, caribou, muskox, beluga)
- Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving polar bears
- Population monitoring and community-led sampling

Qikiqtaaluk

- Marine mammal research (beluga, narwhal, seals, walrus)
- Industry, shipping, and invasive species impacts
- Priorities reflect char, benthic species, and shifting marine ecosystems



NWMB Decision on Research Priorities

Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Priorities (2026-Update)
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#1 Wildlife Priorities ᓂᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ	
1A	Caribou: Health monitoring (disease and contaminants obtained through community sampling) ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ (ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ)
1B	Wolves and Grizzlies: Increasing incentives for harvesting wolves and introducing incentives for harvesting grizzlies ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1C	Caribou: Alternative survey methods (drones, satellites, cameras, community surveys, etc.) ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1D	Grizzly Bear: Aerial surveys on Victoria Island, Bluenose-East caribou calving ground, and Bathurst caribou calving ground ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1E	Caribou: Climate change impacts on caribou and migration ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Priorities (2026-update)
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#1 Wildlife Priorities ᓂᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ	
1A	Polar bear: Projects where community engagement and participation in polar bear research design are prioritized ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1B	Polar bear: Effects of tourism and noise from deterrent activities on polar bear hearing and subsequent behavioural changes ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1C	Fish: Contaminant levels, such as mercury, in various fish species ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1D	Fox: Fox population dynamics near communities and the effects of rising populations on rabies transmission and food cache security ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1E	Caribou: Epidemiology of caribou lung and liver diseases ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1F	Caribou: Caribou land surveys (snowmobile, ATV, foot patrols) ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ

Qikiqtaaluk Regional Wildlife Priorities (2026-update)
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#1 Wildlife Priorities ᓂᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ	
1A	Impacts of mining, other industries, and development on species movement ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1B	Ringed Seals: Health monitoring studies, including parasites and impact on human health ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1C	Caribou: Population monitoring, abundance, and herd movements (including use of collars or trap cameras) ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1D	Ballast water: Impacts of ballast on marine environments, including the use of additives or other contaminants ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1E	Community structure and abundance of benthic species ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ
1F	Understanding char movements, population, and abundance ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ ᐅᓕᓕᓐ



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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



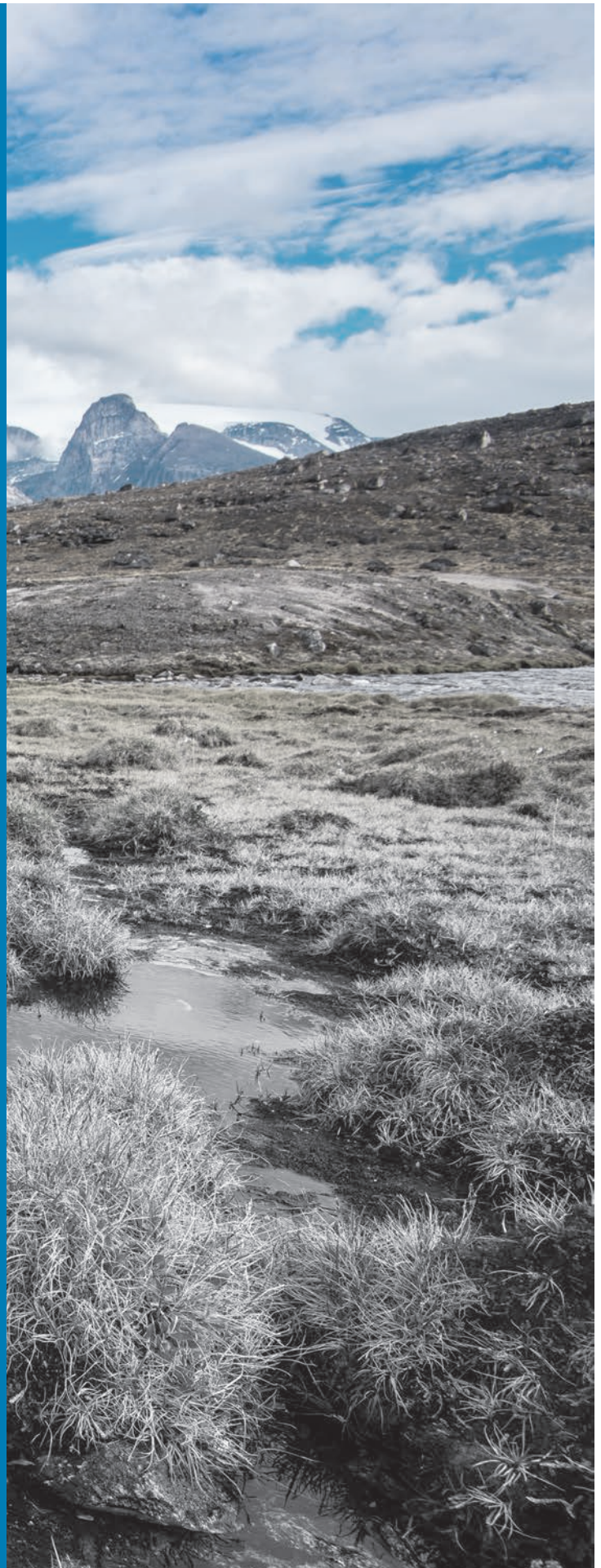
2024-2029 Strategic Plan





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Letter of Introduction



We are proud to present this 2024-2029 strategic plan for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB). As caretakers of wildlife in Nunavut our mission is to manage wildlife guided by conservation principles, while honouring the vital role of Inuit in harvesting, to ensure the well-being of current and future generations in Nunavut.

These are exciting times for Nunavut. As we embark on this strategic plan, the Territory of Nunavut is moving towards implementation of the Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement (Devolution) in 2027. The governance landscape is changing, marking a significant milestone in our journey towards greater autonomy and self-determination for Nunavut. In a world marked by rapid societal, technological, and environmental transformations, this strategic plan underscores our dedication to our mandate.

As we developed this strategic plan, we reflected on what the NWMB wants to achieve and took inspiration from Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, as Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is fundamental in guiding the approaches and decisions of the Board. The process included discussions with our co-management partners, who play an important role in wildlife management alongside the NWMB. This plan provides a path that NWMB will use as a guide over the next 5 years. This plan is guided by the principles of working together, making informed decisions, transparency and dedication.

In the pages that follow, we invite you to learn about our strategy for facing the challenges and opportunities coming our way. We acknowledge the possibility of change, and we remain prepared to adapt our plan as necessary.

This strategic plan is a promise to work with our co-management partners and Nunavummiut to strive to maintain and protect wildlife populations for the next generations.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson

Jason Akearok
Executive Director



This page shows an overview of our plan. You can learn more about each part on the next pages.

Mission

Managing wildlife, guided by conservation principles, honouring the key role of Inuit in harvesting, for the well-being of current and future generations in Nunavut.

Vision

Cooperative wildlife management through Inuit leadership.

Guiding Principles

- Working together
- Making informed decisions
- Remaining open and transparent
- Being dedicated

Summary

Respectful work environment

Recruitment and retention

Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit expertise and knowledge

Trust within Inuit communities



Emphasize Article 5 responsibilities

Implement Basic Needs Levels

Good governance practices

New generations of Inuit leaders

Context

Wildlife Management in Nunavut

Nunavut covers one-fifth of Canada – over 2 million km². This vast territory stretches across a diverse landscape, encompassing three main geographical regions: the Arctic Archipelago, the mainland, and the Arctic Coastal Plain. The Arctic Archipelago, a collection of over 36,000 islands, dominates the northern part of Nunavut, boasting an extensive coastline.

In January 2024 the Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement was signed, representing a significant milestone in the journey toward Nunavut's autonomy. This transformative agreement shifts the responsibilities concerning public lands, natural resources, and water rights from the federal jurisdiction under the Government of Canada to Government of Nunavut. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board commends the work done by the federal and territorial government to arrive at this milestone and is excited for Nunavut's future.

As the devolution process unfolds, key Institutions of Public Government (IPGs) such as the Nunavut Planning Commission, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), the Nunavut Water Board and the Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal will undergo adjustments in their structure and operations. Changes to the method of appointment and membership within these organizations are poised to reflect the changing landscape of governance although it is not yet clear whether adjustments to the NWMB structure or governance will need to be made.

While devolution primarily focuses on land, water, and natural resources, land and water habitats are interconnected with wildlife. The NWMB remains committed to its mandate of sustainable wildlife management including collaborating closely with other IPGs as the governance landscape evolves.

Wildlife moves across these Northern landscapes not concerned with human borders that cross its ecosystems. Wildlife is an essential component of the complex Arctic biomes. From caribou to seals, narwhals, polar bears etc. we learn different lessons from each species. Honouring and caring for these species is how we look after the life and traditions that sustain us. By safeguarding their habitats, we not only ensure that our children and grandchildren can have access to these incredible species, but we also learn more about how all living things are connected.

About the NWMB

The NWMB was created in 1994 after the signing of the Nunavut Agreement (NA) which established Nunavut as a territory in 1999. The Board's mandate is to manage wildlife in Nunavut by combining Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit with modern science.

The NWMB has several duties assigned to it through the Nunavut Agreement under Article 5 including mandatory functions (outlined in Section 5.2.33), discretionary functions (outlined in Section 5.2.34), and research functions (outlined in Sections 5.2.37 and 5.2.38).

Informing these functions are the principles and objectives contained in Sections 5.1.2 and 5.1.4 of the Nunavut Agreement. Read more about [Article 5 and the Nunavut Agreement](#).



The NWMB performs the following primary functions:

- Participating in or facilitating wildlife research
- Conducting a wildlife harvest study from time to time
- Rebutting presumptions as to need
- Establishing, modifying, or removing levels of total allowable harvest
- Establishing and/or adjusting the basic needs level
- Allocating resources from the surplus to other residents and to existing operations
- Making recommendations as to allocation of the remaining surplus
- Establishing, modifying or removing non-quota limitations and
- Any other function required by the Nunavut Agreement and not specifically referred to above.





Board Member Appointments

The NWMB Board is made up of nine (9) members appointed for a period of four (4) years. The Governor in Council appoints the NWMB Chairperson based on nominations from the NWMB. Board members are appointed by:

- Governor in Council based on the advice of the Minister responsible for fish and marine mammals (i.e., Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
- Governor in Council based on the advice of the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wildlife Service (i.e., Environment and Climate Change Canada)
- Governor in Council based on the advice of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada in consultation with the Commissioner-in-Executive Council
- Commissioner-in-Executive Council (i.e., Government of Nunavut)
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- Kivalliq Inuit Association
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association

All decisions of the NWMB are decided by a majority of votes cast and are required to have a quorum of members (i.e., 5 members). All members of the NWMB have a vote, except the Chairperson; the Chairperson only votes to break a tie.



Our Co-Management Partners

The co-management process with respect to wildlife is a system of partnerships where partners assist the NWMB with decision making, conducting and commissioning research, and providing approvals, advice, recommendations and information. In this process, there are partnerships between the NWMB and the federal and territorial governments, the NWMB and Inuit, and between government and Inuit. The keys to success in such a process are communication and cooperation.

Our Co-Management Partners fall into the following groups:

- Regional Wildlife Organizations and Hunters and Trappers Organizations
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Regional Inuit Organizations
- Government
- Nunavut Institutions of Public Governments

With Devolution coming in April 2027, some of our partners will see changes to their responsibilities and structures. The NWMB is committed to continuing to work with its partners through this transition.

Learn more about our [co-management partners and the co-management process](#).



Enabling Factors

Understanding the importance of teamwork in wildlife conservation, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board knows it can't achieve its goals alone. To carry out its strategic plan, NWMB relies on the **help and support of many partners**. This can be visible in the following ways:

1

The NWMB values the wisdom of its Board members, who provide guidance and direction.

2

The NWMB works closely with government bodies at both territorial and federal levels to navigate the changing policy and regulatory environment.

3

The NWMB works closely with the regional and hunter organizations to receive regional and local knowledge from people who are directly connected to the land and their wildlife.

4

The NWMB appreciates the expertise and ongoing contributions of its staff.

5

The NWMB prioritizes building strong relationships with co-management partners, fostering open communication and collaboration to address conservation challenges together.

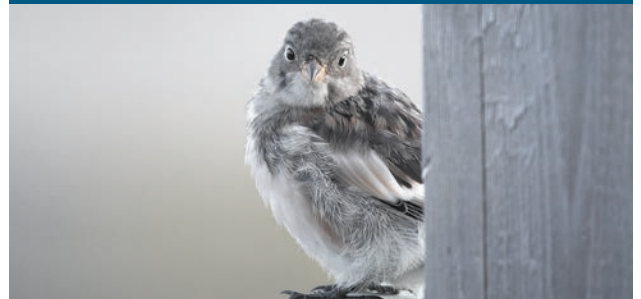
Enabling factors for a strategic plan for the NWMB go beyond the partnerships mentioned above. They involve various aspects that facilitate the execution and success of its strategic initiatives. Here are some additional enabling factors:

Capacity / Talent Recruitment:

The NWMB understands how the housing crisis affects the hiring and retention of the right people. Although this plan has a strategy surrounding recruitment, we recognize the challenging landscape for hiring and retaining staff in Nunavut at this time.

Changing Governance Landscape with Devolution:

The landscape of governance surrounding land and water resource management is undergoing significant changes with the devolution of responsibilities to the territorial government. It is not yet confirmed whether the NWMB's appointment structure will remain unchanged. Regardless, the organization acknowledges the shifting structures of its stakeholders. In response, NWMB remains dedicated to maintaining its collaborative efforts with partners amidst these transitions, ensuring continued effectiveness in its mission.



Guiding Principles

The principles set out in the Nunavut Agreement serve as the Board's overall guide to action.

The three guiding principles set out in this Strategic Plan commit us to...

- working together
- making informed decisions
- remaining open and transparent and
- being dedicated

... as we move forward.

These principles translate into observable behaviours in all aspects of our work, including:

Working together

Collaborating within the organization and with co-management partners using diverse perspectives and expertise to find the best way forward.

Making informed decisions

Gathering data and perspectives, analyzing thoroughly, and evaluating outcomes to understand issues comprehensively before deciding.

Remaining open and transparent

Sharing relevant information with partners and the public and actively seeking input and feedback from external stakeholders.

Being dedicated

Striving for excellence to meet organizational goals and meeting deadlines through effective time management.





Strategic Summary

- Develop innovative ways to bring Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit expertise and knowledge into all aspects of the organization.
- Build stronger trust with Inuit communities and help them feel confident about what NWMB does and how it operates.
- Emphasize Article 5 responsibilities and strengthen the efficiency of NWMB actions and decisions.
- Implement Basic Needs Levels (BNLs) as mandated in Article 5.
- Continue to strengthen good governance practices to enable the organization to deliver on its mandate and responsibilities.
- Support a new generation of Inuit leaders engaged in wildlife management.
- Build a respectful work environment in which every team member can actively contribute and is supported.
- Be strategic and creative in recruitment and retention.



Inuit Piliriqatauningit

Involve Inuit

Develop innovative ways to bring Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit expertise and knowledge into all aspects of the organization.

Integrating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into operations is key. This includes considering Inuit knowledge in decision-making as well as in our day-to-day work. Due to general recruitment challenges, filling a full-time Director of Inuit Community Engagement and Knowledge position remains a challenge. We will explore innovative ways to embed Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the organization, including through knowledge and perspective sharing.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Build direct relations with the Regional Wildlife and Hunter and Trapper Organizations
- Consider ways for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to be brought into the organization
- Explore actions for HTOs and RWOs (and other community groups/ organizations) to bring in their Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit knowledge

Build stronger trust with Inuit communities and help them feel confident about what NWMB does and how it operates.

Active collaboration with local communities is key. **Successful collaboration is built on trust.** Yet the mandate and responsibilities of the NWMB are not always clear for partners and Inuit. This leads to unrealistic expectations or misunderstood decisions. We will focus on helping others understand our work.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Increase regional presence across Nunavut
- Develop an external communications plan
- Upgrade the NWMB website, including in Inuktut



Sanngaktiriniq Strengthen

Continue to strengthen good governance practices to enable the organization to deliver on its mandate and responsibilities.

Board decisions are only as strong as the Board itself. We must strive to ensure Board members carry a combination of relevant competencies. Also, to make sound and respected decisions, we must facilitate the sharing of perspectives between staff, Board members, communities and HTOs/RWOs. We will work on finding a meeting ground between Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Western scientific knowledge.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Develop policies for meeting preparation
- Hold a terminology workshop for Board and staff
- Clearly explain responsibilities of Board and staff
- Provide staff training (based on roles and responsibilities)
- Provide clear recommendations to the Board appointing agencies on needs for a diversity of competencies and representativity
- Create subject-specific resources for translators and interpreters

Support a new generation of Inuit leaders engaged in wildlife management.

We must foster the emergence of future leaders in Inuit wildlife management to ensure a sustainable future for wildlife in Nunavut. We will engage with youth and fortify partnerships needed for effective conservation efforts.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Engage emerging and existing Inuit leaders across Nunavut in various sectors
- Engage and teach youth about wildlife management and NWMB mandate and activities
- Engage with communities and target youth
- Have a youth representative on the Board
- Engage with youth in colleges to teach about the work of the NWMB
- Establish collaborations with HTOs to increase awareness of wildlife management with youth



Atuliqtitsiniq Implement

Emphasize Article 5 responsibilities and strengthen the efficiency of NWMB actions and decisions.

In the past, the Board has heard issues which are not core to our mandate. This diverts time and effort away from what is key: issues tied to Inuit rights as per Article 5. We will strive to hear what stakeholders bring forward but remain clear on our procedures and rules.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Define NWMB priorities as based on Article 5 and communicate these priorities
- Create, communicate and implement clear rules and procedures
- Modify rules of procedure to ensure informed decision-making

Implement Basic Needs Levels (BNLs) as mandated in Article 5.

Article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement lays out responsibilities for the NWMB in calculating BNLs. BNLs are the reserved Inuit harvest within a Total Allowable Harvest limitation, and as such are the basis of informed decision-making. The calculating of BNLs has been delayed by discussion and debate with partners over the years. However, we are committed to this work and will communicate this focus to manage expectations.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Set and communicate the way in which NWMB proposes to calculate BNLs in coming years for various populations and stock
- Manage expectations with co-management partners
- Communicate with impacted HTOs to give them an opportunity to provide their input



Iqqagusungniq Respect

Build a respectful work environment in which every team member can actively contribute and is supported.

Collaboration amongst staff is key. We will create an inclusive environment where every person's work is valued and recognized. We will improve internal communication, coordination and synergies between all functions of the Board.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Hold all-staff meetings
- Create a safe space and resources for staff
- Better coordinate and communicate amongst the staff
- Ensure solid internal communications
- Provide staff specific training (based on roles and responsibilities)
- Implement internal planning and time management tools
- Reflect and prepare for succession planning

Be strategic and creative in recruitment and retention.

Hiring and retaining staff is an ongoing challenge. We will be innovative in hiring practices and employee retention strategies. We will strive to be a people-focused organization. Although the NWMB is not required to abide by Article 23, we will strive for a representative workforce.

Actions under this strategy may include:

- Establish mentorship programs
- Implement employee recognition programs
- Explore professional development opportunities
- Review and upgrade hiring processes
- Provide mentoring to Inuit staff to help with their integration and evolution in their roles
- Develop a policy for a representative workforce

Conclusion: Implementing the Plan

To track progress according to this strategic plan, the NWMB will develop an implementation plan. The implementation plan will serve as a roadmap, guiding our day-to-day activities and resource allocation to align seamlessly with our strategic objectives. However, while tracking progress is integral to our success, we also acknowledge the importance of maintaining flexibility. Our operational landscape is dynamic, subject to constant change, necessitating adaptability in our approach.

Moving forward, we will act on the strategies developed in collaboration with our co-management partners as we navigate through challenges and external forces that may influence our progress. The NWMB remains dedicated to fulfilling its mandate and the mission outlined in this strategic plan.







Contact

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

310-1106 Ikaluktuutiak Drive
Iqaluit, Nunavut XoA 3Ho

ph. 867-975-7300

fax. 1-888-421-9832

receptionist@nwmb.com

for more in-depth discussions. The NWMB also invites all interested parties to submit written comments on the Draft Rules of Procedure, if they chose to, by **December 12, 2025**.

Co-management partner and stakeholder input will help ensure that the Draft Rules of Procedure reflects the needs and expectations of Inuit regarding wildlife management.

The NWMB also welcomes and will consider on a case-by-case basis requests for teleconferences or in-person meetings to discuss the Draft Rules of Procedures. Co-management partners and stakeholders can contact the NWMB directly to arrange engagement sessions.

Please submit all written comments by **December 12, 2025**, via regular mail, fax, or email to:

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
310-1106 Ikaluktuutiak Drive
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 3H0
Phone: (867) 975-7300
Fax: (888) 421-9832
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PREAMBLE:

Jurisdiction of the NWMB

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (“NWMB” or “Board”) was established under Section 5.2.1 of *The Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* (“*Nunavut Agreement*”) as an Institution of Public Government empowered to make wildlife management decisions affecting the Nunavut Settlement Area.

As the main instrument of wildlife management within the Nunavut Settlement Area, the conduct of the NWMB is guided by the principles and objectives outlined for the Wildlife Management System within Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, as complemented by general rules governing procedural fairness.

The Wildlife Management System:

- is governed by the principles of conservation outlined within the *Nunavut Agreement*;
- fully acknowledges and reflects the primary role of Inuit in wildlife harvesting;
- serves and promotes the long-term economic, social and cultural interests of Inuit;
- integrates the management of all species of wildlife as far as practicable;
- invites public participation, and promotes public confidence, particularly amongst Inuit.

Functions of the NWMB

Recognizing that Government retains ultimate responsibility for wildlife management, Section 5.2.33 of the *Nunavut Agreement* establishes that the NWMB shall function as the main instrument of wildlife management, and main regulator of access to wildlife, within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

In addition, the NWMB:

- is required to take an informed and effective role in wildlife research and direction under Section 5.2.37 of the *Nunavut Agreement*;
- provides advice on wildlife management in the marine areas adjacent to the Nunavut Settlement Area under Article 15 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.
- at its discretion, may perform additional functions outlined in Section 5.2.34 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, including the management and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The NWMB has the jurisdiction to hold hearings, consider evidence from parties, and make wildlife management decisions related to the Wildlife Management System, including establishing, modifying or removing Total Allowable Harvests (“TAH”) and Non-Quota Limitations (“NQL”) under Part 6 of Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

In the exercise of its functions, the NWMB incorporates:

- the principles of conservation in section 5.1.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, interpreted in light of the principles and objectives of Article 5;
- procedural fairness;
- both western scientific information and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit; and
- the best available relevant Information.

The NWMB conducts its business in Inuktitut and in English, with interpretation or translation as appropriate.

DRAFT

Rules of Procedure

(Draft: May 14, 2025)

Part I: General

Power to Make Rules of Procedure

1. Under the authority granted to it by Section 5.2.23 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (“NWMB”) hereby adopts these Rules of Procedures, which shall replace the NWMB Governance Manual (2012) and any other NWMB Rules of Procedure in effect.
2. These Rules shall be made available in Inuktitut and in English.

Citation

3. These Rules may be cited as the “NWMB Rules of Procedure (2025)” or “Rules”.

Definitions

4. In these Rules:

“*Advisor*” means the Board's legal advisor or third-party subject matter expert.

“*Agenda*” means the list of applications and meeting submissions accepted to be considered by the NWMB at its proceedings.

“*Application*” means a submission to the NWMB requesting a decision subject to Part 3, Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* or advice subject to section 15.3.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

“*Applicant*” means the party submitting the application.

“*Appointing Agency*” means a Designated Inuit Organization or a Government department that is responsible for appointing a member of the NWMB under section 5.2.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

“*Board*” means the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board comprised of appointed members, established pursuant to Article 5.2.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and, for the purposes of these Rules, may also include a duly appointed Executive Committee of the Board to which the Board has delegated its functions.

“*Chair*” means the chairperson appointed under Section 5.2.1(d) of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

“*Co-management Partner*” means Nunavut Inuit Organizations including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) and Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), federal and Nunavut territorial government departments with jurisdiction over wildlife, and the NWMB.

“*Consultation*” means the Crown's Duty to Consult with Indigenous rights-holders where it contemplates decisions or actions that may impact Indigenous rights; and the duty of fairness of all participants to inform all Co-Management Partners and affected stakeholders where actions contemplated may impact their rights or jurisdiction.

“*Deliberations*” occur when the Board adjourns a proceeding to privately consider and discuss an application or other matter. The Board and staff attend deliberations, and the Board may invite one or more of its Advisors.

“*Decision*” means a decision adopted by the NWMB, subject to the decision-making procedures outlined under Part 3, Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

“*Distribution List*” refers to an NWMB mailing that includes co-management partners, interested individuals, and organizations, maintained by the NWMB.

“*Engagement*” occurs when a co-management partner or other parties interacts with relevant government organizations and affected parties to inform them, seek feedback and if necessary, adjust their proposed Application to the NWMB.

“*Hearing Record*” means the documentation of a proceeding, including submissions, evidence, arguments, in-person hearing transcripts, or hybrid hearing minutes, that the Board relies on to make a decision.

“*Hearing Submission*” means a written document or statement to the NWMB during an in-person or hybrid hearing. Deadlines for hearing submissions are set by the NWMB.

“*Hybrid Hearing*” or “*Hybrid Public Hearing*” means a public hearing where parties and the public are invited to attend in-person or join remotely through an electronic system—such as a videoconference or teleconference—to make submissions to the NWMB.

“*In-Camera Meeting*” means a closed meeting of the Board when the Board meets and makes a decision under Article 5 or provides advice under Article 15.

“*In-person Public Hearing*” or “*In-person Hearing*” means a public hearing where parties and the public are invited to attend in person and make oral submissions in person to the NWMB.

“*Internal In-Camera Meeting*” means an NWMB meeting to review, discuss and resolve sensitive matters or the internal business of the NWMB.

“*Member*” means a member of the NWMB as appointed under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

“*Meeting Week*” means the week when the NWMB is in session. When in session, the NWMB considers applications for decisions, submissions for advice, and information updates related to wildlife management.

“*NWMB*” means the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board as an institution, operating under the direction of the Board.

“*Party*” means a person or organization with Standing to participate in an NWMB public hearing.

“*Proceedings*” means any meeting, hearing, or formal process held by the NWMB where co-management partners or other parties present information or arguments on matters under the Board’s jurisdiction. This includes public hearings, regular meetings, decision-making meetings, Internal in-camera meetings or other sessions where matters related to wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area are addressed.

“*Public Hearing*” means an NWMB proceeding described in section 5.2.26 of the *Nunavut Agreement* to make a decision related to Inuit or other Indigenous peoples’ rights of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

“*Registry*” means the electronic repository where the NWMB officially stores all records, including submissions and other documents, filed with or issued by the NWMB and related to a proceeding on the NWMB agenda. The registry is publicly accessible via the internet.

“*Regular Meeting*” means a proceeding during which the NWMB receives Applications and hears oral evidence and arguments in order to provide advice under Article 15 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. The Regular Meeting is also a proceeding where the Board receives updates or information on wildlife and habitat management, including updates on the implementation of previously approved management plans.

“*Staff*” means the employees of the NWMB operating under the direction and supervision of the Executive Director.

“*Standing*” in a hearing means that an individual or organization has the right to participate either as a Co-Management Partner or because they were granted standing because they may be affected by the matter under consideration.

“*Submission*” or “*Meeting submission*” means information provided to the NWMB related to an issue within the NWMB’s jurisdiction.

“*Technical Advisor*” means the staff member or advisor of an appointing agency who was designated to attend NWMB proceedings as a non-voting observer.

“*Written Hearing*” means a public hearing in which participation is limited to written submissions from parties and the public to the NWMB.

“*Wildlife Management System*” means the Wildlife Management System described in section 5.1.3(b)(vi) of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

“*Virtual Hearing*” means when the Board holds a hearing virtually, either through a videoconference and/or teleconference, where parties and the public are invited to make oral submissions virtually to the NWMB.

Application of these Rules

5. These Rules shall apply to all proceedings conducted by the NWMB and shall be interpreted and applied as a whole, in light of other policies of the NWMB, in a manner that seeks to fulfill the principles and objectives of the *Nunavut Agreement*.
6. In keeping with the spirit and intent of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB shall conduct its proceedings informally.
7. On its own initiative or on request, the NWMB may, where it considers it necessary and appropriate:
 - (a) delegate certain administrative and procedural functions under these Rules;
 - (b) vary, supplement, modify, or make exceptions to these Rules;
 - (c) make exceptions or modifications to deadlines or other timelines it establishes; or,
 - (d) amend or vary these Rules in the course of its normal operations.
8. Where there is a conflict between these Rules and procedural directions issued by the Board on a specific matter, the procedural direction shall prevail.
9. In the event of non-compliance with these Rules the NWMB may choose to:
 - (a) issue notice to the non-conforming party with direction to remediate the non-compliance;
 - (b) adjourn or suspend consideration of a matter until the non-compliance is rectified; or,
 - (c) take any other actions it considers reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.

Part II: Types of NWMB Proceedings

Meetings

10. The NWMB shall conduct its business through proceedings of its Members within the categories described below:

Regular Meetings (RM)

11. The NWMB shall schedule Regular Meetings to review requests for advice on the sustainable management of wildlife resources in Zone I and II, outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area. Regular Meetings will also be scheduled to receive information and updates pertaining to the general management of wildlife in the Nunavut Settlement Area and adjacent waters.
12. Regular Meetings are open to Co-management Partners and the public.
13. Co-Management Partners and other interested persons may be invited to present or speak at Regular Meetings.
14. Members and NWMB Staff may ask questions and provide comments related to Regular Meeting Submissions.
15. The Chair may ask its Advisor(s) to ask questions or comments about the Submission.
16. Remote attendance by video or teleconference may be made available and shall be encouraged.
17. Board Members shall attend Regular Meetings in-person and may attend remotely in exceptional circumstances.

In-Camera Meetings (IC)

18. The NWMB shall schedule an In-Camera Meeting when making decisions under Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* or when providing advice under Article 15 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.
19. Members shall not receive new arguments or new information during an In-Camera Meeting that was not part of the Public Hearing or Regular Meeting. Members may adjourn the In-Camera Meeting to receive additional arguments and information.
20. Technical advisors from an appointing agency may attend In-Camera Meetings as a non-voting observer.

Internal In-Camera Meetings (INT)

21. The NWMB may schedule an Internal In-Camera Meeting to decide on confidential and sensitive matters, administrative matters, or financial, personal, and other matters of the NWMB.
22. Participation at Internal In-Camera meetings shall be limited to the Members and Staff and such other individuals as the Board deems necessary or appropriate to deal with the issues under consideration.
23. Decisions made at Internal In-Camera meetings shall be recorded in a manner that accurately reflect the decisions of the NWMB while maintaining necessary confidentiality on the matter under consideration.

Other Meetings (OM)

24. The NWMB may convene any Other Meetings they deem necessary to satisfy the NWMB's responsibilities under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Public Hearings

25. All Applications pursuant to Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* received will be considered at an NWMB Public Hearing.
26. The NWMB will determine the form of Public Hearing that is appropriate for each Application it receives which may include:
 - (a) In-person hearing, which offers the highest degree of procedural fairness;
 - (b) Hybrid hearing, which combines in-person and remote features;
 - (c) Virtual hearing, which allows participants to join an NWMB hearing remotely, either through videoconference and/or teleconference; and,
 - (d) Written hearings, which provides opportunity to participate exclusively through written submissions to the NWMB.

Factors for calling and determining the form of public hearings:

27. The NWMB may consider the following factors when deciding whether to call a Public Hearing and determining the form of Public Hearing:
 - (a) In-person public hearings:
 - i. The species is culturally, socially or economically important to Inuit;
 - ii. The requested decision may restrict Inuit harvesting rights;
 - iii. A total allowable harvest is being considered for the first time or has not been considered in a long time, or if a total allowable harvest exists and a significant decrease to the total allowable harvest is being proposed;
 - iv. The issue was last considered in an in-person public hearing.

- (b) Hybrid public hearings:
 - i. The species is not as culturally, socially or economically significant to Inuit;
 - ii. The potential impact to harvesting rights is less significant;
 - iii. The issue has been considered recently, or if a total allowable harvest exists, an increase to the total allowable harvest is being proposed;
 - iv. The issue is a Non-quota limitation or a plan for the management or recovery of a particular wildlife;
 - v. Party participation is enhanced by limiting travel.
- (c) Virtual public hearing:
 - i. The species is not as culturally, socially or economically significant to Inuit;
 - ii. Virtual participation is sufficient to gather the necessary information for an informed decision;
 - iii. The species or issue under consideration affects a limited geographic area or a smaller number of harvesters.
- (d) Written public hearings:
 - i. The issue is primarily legal or technical in nature;
 - ii. The potential impact to Inuit harvesting rights is limited;
 - iii. The Parties represented are able to effectively represent their interests on the issues in writing;
 - iv. Party participation is enhanced by limiting travel costs.

Preparing for public hearings:

- 28. Under the supervision of the Chair, NWMB staff receive and review Applications to prepare for a Public Hearing:
 - (a) Applications are screened to assess the information provided (see Rules 49 and 50) before being accepted and added to the hearing agenda;
 - (b) NWMB staff assign Applications to one of the three hearing types identified in Rule 26 using the criteria listed in Rule 27;
 - (c) NWMB staff may request parties provide additional information;
 - (d) NWMB staff may request missing information for incomplete Applications, but the Applicant bears the burden of introducing sufficient evidence and persuasive argument to support their Application;
 - (e) NWMB staff will not accept Applications for the hearing agenda that are inadmissible (e.g. Applications that contain insufficient minimum information as set out in Rule 49; are late; address matters outside of the NWMB's jurisdiction; or are otherwise unsuitable);
 - (f) If an Application is not accepted, NWMB staff:
 - i. will explain why the Application has not been accepted to the Party; and,

- ii. may invite the Applicant to present their application to the Board as an information update.
29. When an Application is accepted, a record for that proceeding is opened and the Application forms part of the record for that proceeding.
30. Accepted Applications will be published to the NWMB's Registry and included on the hearing agenda.
31. The NWMB will inform the public about the Hearing and provide a deadline for hearing submissions—and a deadline for responses to hearing submissions, if necessary.

Attendance and Participation:

32. For In-Person Public Hearings, parties attend in person.
33. For Hybrid Hearings, parties can attend in person but are also encouraged to attend remotely.
34. Board Members must attend in-person public hearings in person but may, in exceptional circumstances, attend remotely.

Coordinated Hearings

35. The NWMB may consider coordination of a public hearing with another body, or bodies, where its decision may have cross-boundary impact or where the body, or bodies, have overlapping jurisdiction over a matter under consideration.
36. Any coordination and communication with other bodies must be formalized by written agreement publicly posted to the NWMB's registry and ensure respect of the NWMB's mandate, authority and jurisdiction to make decisions under Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.
37. Where appropriate, the coordination may include the creation of a common registry for hearing records, staff collaboration for preparations, communications with Parties and the coordination of schedules.
38. The NWMB may consider other forms of collaboration or joint action with another body, or bodies, in order to make joint recommendations or to give advice on the management of wildlife issues outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.
39. The NWMB shall give notice through the NWMB Registry of a public hearing that is coordinated with another body.

Other Proceedings

40. Where appropriate, NWMB staff may facilitate and manage other proceedings including:
- (a) *Technical Meeting*: Upon receipt and review of an Application, the Board may hold a meeting of technical experts to review and, to the extent possible, resolve outstanding technical issues arising from the Board's assessment of the application, and to identify any supplementary information required to address these issues.
 - (b) *Pre-hearing Conference*: In order to facilitate the hearing process, the NWMB may organize pre-hearing conferences via teleconference / videoconference or in writing to facilitate the organization of the Hearing by addressing in advance any outstanding procedural issues, such as the format, the date, timing, and location for the hearing, participant confirmation, identification of additional necessary participants, the timetable for submissions, formulation of issues, audiovisual and language requirements, hearing procedures and any requests to vary the Application of the Rule.
 - (c) *Community Information Meeting*: The NWMB may organize and facilitate community information meetings to communicate information about a specific proceeding.
 - (d) *Conferences and Workshops*: The NWMB may organize and facilitate conferences and workshops to bring people together to learn about, or discuss, any matter related to its mandate.
41. NWMB Staff or Board member participation at any "Other Proceedings" shall not displace the NWMB's discretion to exercise its authority under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Part III: Schedule of NWMB Proceedings

42. Where practicable, the NWMB will meet during the months of February, June, and October of each calendar year.
43. During each Meeting Week, the NWMB will schedule Internal In-Camera Meetings, Regular Meetings, Public Hearings, and In-Camera Meetings as may be required to consider and address issues within its jurisdiction.
44. The NWMB may schedule additional meetings outside the Meeting Week at any time to consider specific issues within its jurisdiction or urgent matters.

Part IV: Starting a proceeding with the NWMB

45. Any interested Co-management Partner may request that the NWMB consider issues within its jurisdiction by submitting an Application:
 - (a) for Decision under Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*,
 - (b) for Advice under Article 15 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, or,
 - (c) providing submissions for information.

Subject to these Rules and Section 5.2.28 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, Parties shall have the right to participate in a Hearing, including making Hearing submissions or presentations, and asking questions of parties making Applications. Non parties are allowed limited participation at the discretion of the Chairperson.

An Inuk or affected Co-Management Partner shall have automatic Standing at public hearings.

The NWMB will grant Standing to bodies that represent Indigenous rights-holders, including those groups identified in Article 40 of the *Nunavut Agreement* who may be affected by an Application under consideration.

The NWMB will consider requests for Standing and may grant Standing to bodies that are not Inuk or a Co-Management Partner.

46. A request for Standing at a Hearing shall include an explanation of the person or organization's interest in the issue, the scope of their intended participation, and why the NWMB should grant standing. Standing may be granted, at the discretion of the Board, taking into consideration the nature of the issue and the interests of the Party requesting Standing.
47. All Applications to the NWMB shall be submitted by email or mail to its head office before the established deadline:

Email: receptionist@nwmb.com
Mail: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
c/o: Reception
310-1106 Ikaluktuutiak Drive
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 3H0

48. The NWMB will defer or dismiss Applications received after the deadline.

Content of Applications:

49. An Application shall include the following information:

- (a) Content:
- i. The name, contact information and a contact person for the Applicant.
 - ii. The decision sought, including a clear and reasoned reference to the relevant authority under the *Nunavut Agreement* that the NWMB is asked to consider in making its decision or in providing its advice.
 - iii. The stock(s) or population(s) and species of wildlife that will be impacted under the Application.
 - iv. A copy of any relevant information being relied upon including any relevant information in written, audio or audio-visual format with clear reference to the source of the information.
 - v. Arguments to support the decision sought under the Application with an explanation of all relevant information submitted as well as a summary written in plain language of any technical reports.
 - vi. A summary of the Application translated into either Inuktitut or English, as the case may be, which must indicate:
 - The specific section of the *Nunavut Agreement* the NWMB is asked to consider;
 - The justification in support of the conclusions sought in the Application; and,
 - Any information the Applicant believes to be relevant.
- (b) A statement confirming:
- (i) that the Application and its contents has been provided to all relevant Co-Management Partners; and,
 - (ii) a list of other persons who may be affected by the NWMB's decision under the Application, with confirmation that these have been provided with a copy of the Application and its content.

- (c) A statement confirming that Parties who may be affected by the NWMB's decision under the Application have been provided a reasonable opportunity to respond through consultation or engagement opportunities. Affected parties include:
 - (i) Indigenous rights-holders owed a duty to consult; and,
 - (ii) Other Nunavut communities and Indigenous groups situated outside of Nunavut; and,
 - (iii) Where the Applicant is a non-government organization such as an RWO, an HTO or other Designated Inuit Organization, confirmation of engagement with all relevant stakeholders who may be affected, including government agencies.
 - (d) If any of the minimum information listed above is not being provided with the Application, the Application must provide an explanation for why it is not being provided.
 - (e) If an Application does not meet these minimum requirements, the NWMB, at the discretion of the Chair, may not place the Application on the agenda for consideration.
50. Where relevant, Applications should also include the following information:
- (a) If the Application relates to a previous NWMB decision, specific references to the relevant decision and explain why it is being referenced in the Application.
 - (b) Copies of relevant governing authorities in support of the Application, including relevant resolutions or policies from the Party submitting the Application.
 - (c) Other evidence deemed relevant, such as maps or photos.

Application for Advice and Submission for Information

51. Applications seeking NWMB Advice under Article 15 of the *Nunavut Agreement* will be considered at a Regular Meeting. Submissions to provide information relevant to the NWMB's mandate or to deal with other matters under the NWMB's jurisdiction will also be received at a Regular Meeting.
52. In considering whether to accept a submission for advice, the NWMB will consider the relevance of the Submission to its mandate and any other considerations it deems appropriate.
53. When an information update is presented to the NWMB, the Board may determine if further action is required and may:
- a) direct the presenting party to submit an Application for the Board's decision, thereby elevating the matter from an information update to an Application;

- b) instruct Board staff to prepare a technical submission or an Application for the Board's decision; or
 - c) may refer any Application to a more suitable authority or body for consideration.
54. Notwithstanding PART IV, the NWMB has discretion to waive the strict application of these Rules and may, at its discretion, place any issue on a Public Hearing or Regular Meeting agenda.

PART V: Meeting Procedures

Notice and Agenda

55. The NWMB shall provide an agenda before each meeting, which shall:
- (a) confirm the time, dates, and location of the meeting;
 - (b) anticipate the length of time required to consider the Application and/or Submission, including time limits for presentations; and,
 - (c) in advance of the Meeting Week, the agenda will be posted publicly on the registry with copies sent by email to persons and organizations registered on the NWMB distribution list.
56. NWMB meetings shall proceed according to the agenda. The Chair will take appropriate action to facilitate the orderly completion of its meeting agendas.

Hearing Submissions

Written Submissions

57. The NWMB will post to the NWMB Registry all written Hearing submissions relating to an Application, including any evidence, arguments, or supplementary information filed by all Parties.
- (a) Hearing submissions must be received before the deadline set by the NWMB in order to be posted to the registry and be included in Board briefing materials.
 - (b) Where a Hearing submission is late, at the discretion of the NWMB, the submission may not be included in Board briefing materials or posted to the registry and may not be considered by the NWMB.
 - (c) An Applicant may only make minor modifications to an Application already on the hearing agenda. Where significant modifications are required, the Application may be removed from the hearing agenda.
 - (d) For written hearings, the NWMB may allow Parties an opportunity to respond to written submissions received from other parties by the deadline set by the NWMB.

58. The NWMB may request that Parties provide written submissions on a specific issue or question under consideration.

Oral Submissions

59. During hybrid, virtual or in-person Public Hearings, parties will typically speak in the following order:
- a) The party making the Application presents and explains their Application;
 - b) Affected Co-Management Partners may make presentations and/or ask questions of the Applicant about the Application;
 - c) Other parties may, at the discretion of the Chair, make presentations and/or ask questions of the Applicant;
 - d) Members of the public, may, at the discretion of the Chair, make comments and/or ask questions;
 - e) NWMB staff may ask questions.
 - f) The Chair may also ask its Advisor(s) or its subject matter experts if they have any questions.
60. Board Members may ask questions of the Applicant of any party at any time.
61. The Applicant may request an opportunity to provide response to any information presented during the Hearing before the Chair adjourns the hearing for deliberation.
62. Oral submissions intended to be evidence are to be made truthfully and the NWMB may administer an oath to parties before receiving oral submissions in a Hearing.
63. The NWMB will encourage the submission and consideration of any relevant Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, Indigenous Knowledge or oral history, at any stage of a Hearing before the hearing record is closed.
64. The NWMB may make arrangements to hear from any Elder or holder of relevant Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit or Indigenous Knowledge at any time prior to, during, or after a Hearing as the Board considers appropriate.
65. The NWMB may make arrangements to hear from other subject matter expert(s).

Concluding a Hearing

66. At the conclusion of the Hearing, parties must submit to the registry any written or visual materials presented in the Hearing.
67. The NWMB may allow or request additional submissions or final written arguments to allow parties to address new arguments or evidence, including Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, Indigenous Knowledge, and oral history raised in oral submissions during a Hearing.

Hearing Record

68. Once the NWMB is satisfied that all relevant material has been received for a Hearing, it will give notice that it will close the Hearing record.
 - (a) The NWMB may seek clarification of any evidence on the record without causing the Hearing record to be re-opened.
 - (b) Any information received after a request for clarification from the NWMB will be posted to the NWMB registry.
69. The NWMB shall prepare and maintain transcripts for its in-person hearings and hearing minutes of its hybrid and virtual hearings, which are to be reviewed and approved by the NWMB when practically possible.
 - (a) Hearing transcripts or hearing minutes will become part of the hearing record once approved.
 - (b) Parties and members of the public may make a request for electronic copies of hearing minutes or transcripts.
70. Unless a Party has requested confidentiality in advance, the NWMB will treat written or oral submissions received at the Hearing as public information. By participating in NWMB public hearings, Parties consent to having the information they provide made publicly available without the need for additional consent or approval.
71. At its discretion, the NWMB may make recordings of its hearings available.
72. The NWMB will admit as evidence, and shall consider, all relevant Information on the hearing record when making a decision.

Part VI: Decisions

Criteria for Decision-Making

73. When making decisions, the NWMB shall consider the following:
- (a) the purpose of the Application;
 - (b) the rationale for its decision pursuant to section 5.3.3 of the *Nunavut Agreement*;
 - (c) the information presented in the Application and record of evidence supported by arguments presented at a Hearing; and,
 - (d) the conservation status of the species, stock or population under consideration.
74. At its discretion, the NWMB may consider other relevant factors when making decisions, including:
- (a) the sufficiency of the record submitted;
 - (b) the degree and potential of the decision to impact Indigenous rights;
 - (c) the significance of the species to Inuit;
 - (d) the history of the issue and previous NWMB decisions;
 - (e) consultation and fairness factors, including:
 - a. whether evidence of appropriate consultation and engagement of all affected stakeholders have been provided; and,
 - b. fair notice for all stakeholders who may be affected by the decision sought have been provided; and,
 - (f) The urgency of the Application.

Weighing Evidence

75. The NWMB will consider the relevance, reliability and weight appropriate for the evidence in making its decision(s) and may admit as evidence elements that would not normally be admissible under strict rules of evidence, including *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, community knowledge, and oral history.
76. The NWMB shall not presume scientific, or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit evidence is automatically more or less important than the other and:
- (a) When assessing the weight of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit evidence, the NWMB may consider the following factors:
 - i. Whether the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit being offered as evidence is about current practices and knowledge or about practices and knowledge from the past; and,
 - ii. Whether the person providing the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is recognized by their community to have knowledge of what that person is speaking about.
 - (b) When assessing the weight of scientific evidence, the NWMB may consider the following factors:
 - i. The longevity of the study;

- ii. The credibility of the study and of the scientist (among their peers); and,
- iii. The robustness of the study methodology and assumptions relied on.

Confidential decision-making

77. In compliance with the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB makes confidential deliberations during the closed in-camera portion of its Meeting Week:
- (a) Appointing agencies are expected to confirm whether they intend to designate a Technical Advisor in advance of each in-camera meeting and may attend the In-Camera Meeting as observers;
 - (b) After deliberation(s), the NWMB will issue a written decision, with reasons, and provide the Minister with a copy of its decision.
 - (c) In its decisions, the NWMB may choose to provide advice, make recommendations, and include any terms and conditions it deems appropriate.
 - (d) The NWMB shall reconsider a decision that has been disallowed or rejected by the Minister as soon as practical.

Ministerial Acceptance, Variation of NWMB Decisions

78. The NWMB will post its final decision, and the Minister's response, to the NWMB Registry when the decision-making process has been completed.

Languages

79. NWMB Proceedings shall be conducted with simultaneous translations into English and Inuktitut.
- (a) All proceeding documents, including submissions, presentations, exhibits or a reasonable summary of them, shall be made available in English and Inuktitut.
 - (b) The NWMB may direct that an Applicant provide translations of any Application or Submission, or a portion of any Application or Submission.

The Chair

80. The Chair, or their designate, will lead an NWMB proceeding and shall be responsible for maintaining respect and order during the proceedings, including:
- (a) the facilitation of discussions by indicating who should speak and the management of their allotted time;
 - (b) the facilitation of questions and answers where appropriate;
 - (c) changing the speaking order of Parties where appropriate;
 - (d) interrupting or stopping someone from speaking at any time; and,
 - (e) choosing when to end discussions on a particular matter.

Motions or Objections

81. During presentations and discussions, an objection or motion may be made orally. An objection or motion may be submitted in writing at any other time in an NWMB proceeding, or during a Written Hearing, motions or objections.
 - (a) Any motions or objections, or objections to the agenda, must be addressed to the Chair of the NWMB; and,
 - (b) Any motions or objections must provide:
 - i. reasons for the request; and,
 - ii. the procedural direction requested.
82. The Chair shall, at their discretion, consider the objection or motion and shall make a determination on the matter.
83. Where the Chair considers it appropriate, they may deliberate the motion or objection in consultation with the Board before making a determination on the matter.

Procedural Directions

84. The NWMB may provide procedural directions at any time it considers appropriate during a proceeding.
85. The NWMB may summon any person, except a Minister, to give evidence orally or in writing and may summon any person to produce documents or any such thing as it considers necessary to its mandate.

Adjournments

86. The NWMB may adjourn a Hearing or Regular Meeting at any time and may re-open an adjourned proceeding with notice to the Parties published on the NWMB Registry.

Cost of Attendance and Participation

87. The cost of attendance is the responsibility of each of the Parties. The NWMB does not have a role in determining participant funding provided by any other Party or body.
88. The NWMB reserves the right, at its discretion, to invite, and provide funding to any party to enable their participation in its proceedings and does not have to provide reasons for rejecting any funding requests.
89. Where proper notice of a Meeting has been provided, the NWMB may proceed with the Hearing without a Party or Co-Management Partner present and the decisions rendered shall not be invalidated by the non-participation of a Party.

Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy

90. For Applications affecting an Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy, as defined under the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB shall include two Members appointed by Makivvik to replace two Members appointed from Nunavut.
91. Preference will be given to having Makivvik appointees appointed to vacant Nunavut Inuit appointments on the Board before having Members appointed by a Designated Inuit Organization replaced when the NWMB considers an Application affecting Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy.

The Registry

92. The NWMB shall maintain a publicly accessible electronic registry on the NWMB website for all documents submitted to, or issued by, the NWMB that are related to matters placed on the Board's agenda.
93. Parties shall be responsible for the monitoring of the registry to ensure access to the most updated relevant materials.
94. Submissions that are filed after a meeting or hearing record closes may not be posted to the registry, may be found inadmissible, and may not be considered by the NWMB.
95. At its discretion, the NWMB may accept late submissions where the Chair is satisfied there is sufficient justification to reopen the meeting or hearing record.
96. The NWMB will post the following documents to the registry after a proceeding:
 - (a) Hearing submissions provided after the deadline;
 - (b) Presentations or exhibits provided during a proceeding.
97. The NWMB may decline to post documents on the registry that are not compliant with these Rules, are determined to be out of order by the Chair, are subject to an objection, are subject to a request for confidentiality or are otherwise subject to privacy considerations.

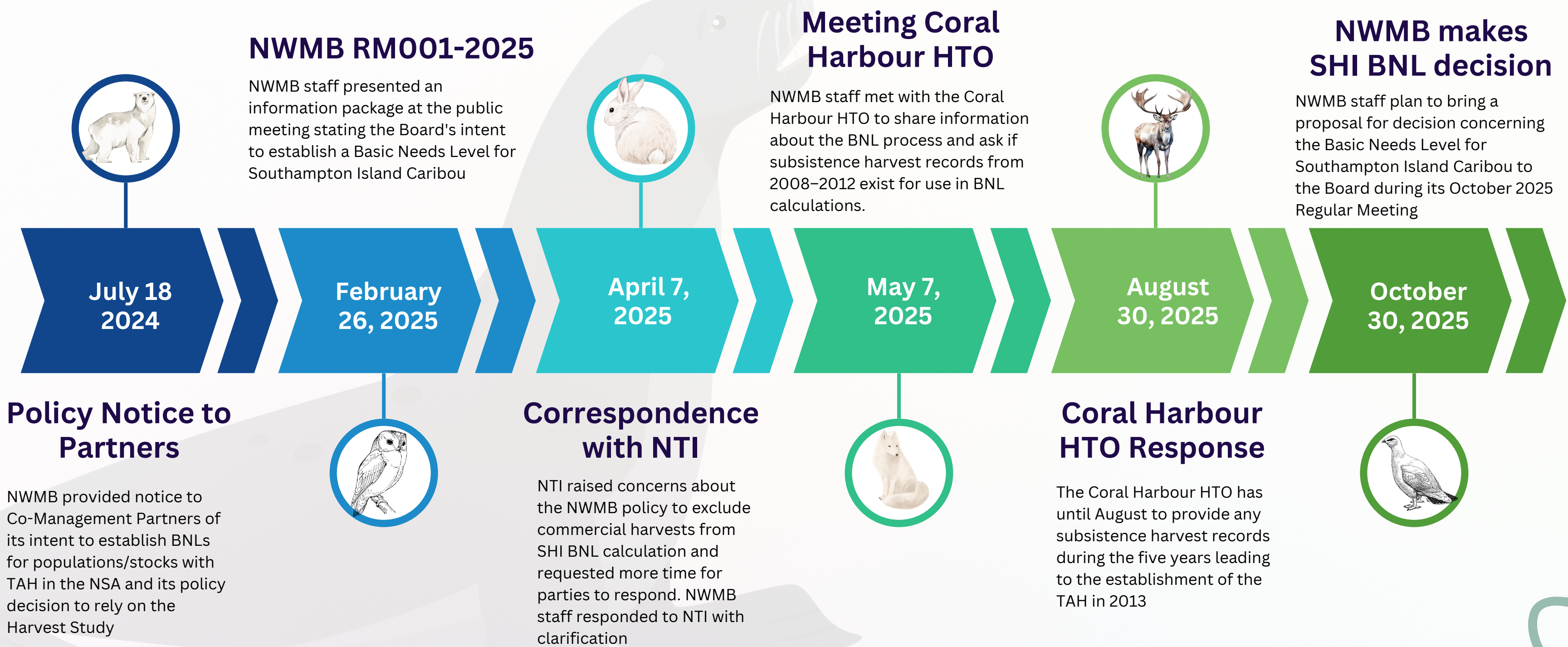
Co-management Partner Consultations and Engagement Sessions

98. The NWMB, including its staff, may attend and observe engagement and consultation sessions or provide advice on consultation matters and the attendance and observations of the engagement and consultation sessions shall not displace the Board's jurisdiction to exercise its authority in the future.
99. Where the NWMB considers engagement or consultation was clearly inadequate, it will address the situation in its decision and accompanying reasons.
100. Where appropriate, the NWMB may decide to not consider an Application where it believes that the engagement or consultation was lacking and defer consideration of the matter to allow the deficiencies to be addressed.

Confidential Information

101. A party may request that information provided to the NWMB (including *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*) be treated confidentially and not posted.
102. A request for confidential treatment of information to be submitted must be made in advance on the basis of privacy or confidentiality concerns by providing:
 - (a) A general and non-confidential explanation of the nature of the document the party plans to submit;
 - (b) A description of the privacy or confidentiality interests associated with the information;
 - (c) A brief explanation of the rationale for why the document should not be made public, including identifying any specific harm that could result from public disclosure of the information; and,
 - (d) An explanation as to whether the Party seeks to prevent the public disclosure of all, or only part of, the information.
103. The NWMB will provide procedural direction regarding the appropriate treatment of the information and shall provide notice to the Party making the request.
104. Documents that are accepted to be confidential shall form part of the record of a proceeding but shall not be disclosed publicly.

2025 BNL Updates and Planning



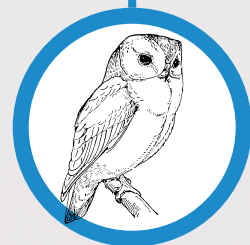
NWMB RM001-2025

NWMB staff presented an information package at the public meeting stating the Board's intent to establish a Basic Needs Level for Southampton Island Caribou

July 18
2024

Policy Notice to Partners

NWMB provided notice to Co-Management Partners of its intent to establish BNLs for populations/stocks with TAH in the NSA and its policy decision to rely on the Harvest Study



February
26, 2025



April 7,
2025

Correspondence with NTI

NTI raised concerns about the NWMB policy to exclude commercial harvests from SHI BNL calculation and requested more time for parties to respond. NWMB staff responded to NTI with clarification

Meeting Coral Harbour HTO

NWMB staff met with the Coral Harbour HTO to share information about the BNL process and ask if subsistence harvest records from 2008–2012 exist for use in BNL calculations.

May 7,
2025



August
30, 2025

Coral Harbour HTO Response

The Coral Harbour HTO has until August to provide any subsistence harvest records during the five years leading to the establishment of the TAH in 2013

NWMB makes SHI BNL decision

NWMB staff plan to bring a proposal for decision concerning the Basic Needs Level for Southampton Island Caribou to the Board during its October 2025 Regular Meeting



October
30, 2025



Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust
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NWRT ANNUAL REPORT 2024


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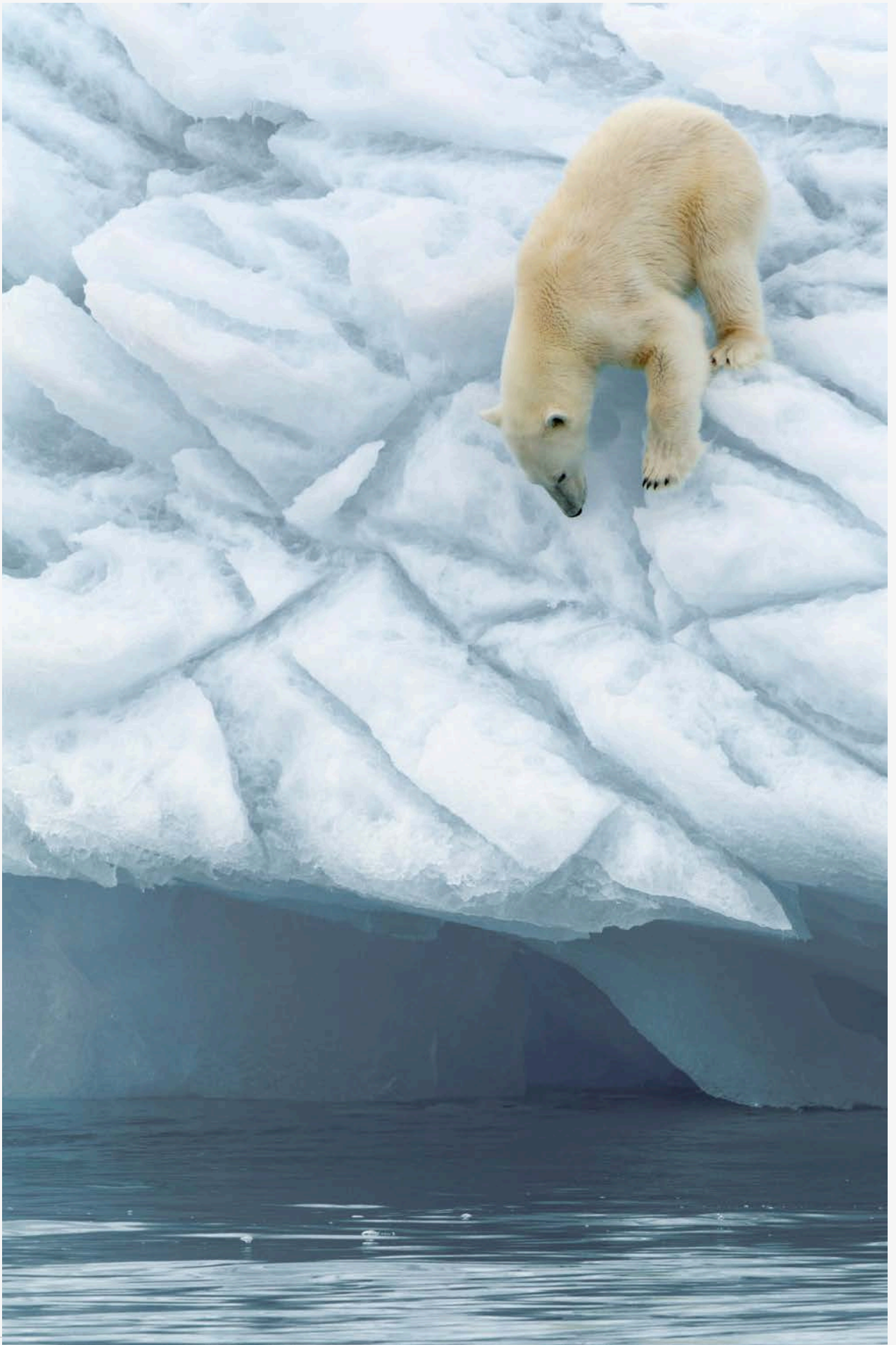
ABOUT NWRT

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A close-up, profile view of a walrus's head, focusing on its eye, whiskers, and tusk. The walrus's skin is dark, wrinkled, and textured, with some reddish-brown patches. The eye is small and dark. The whiskers are long, thin, and light-colored. The tusk is large, curved, and light-colored with dark stripes. The background is black.

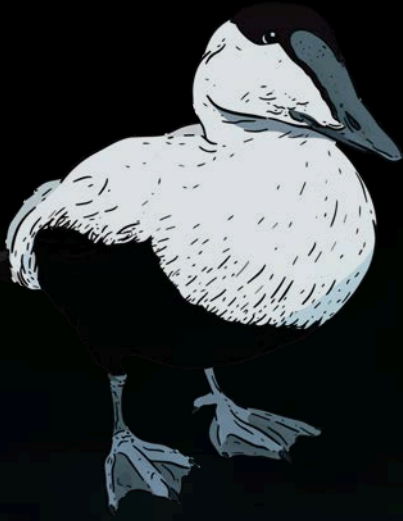
The current stock designations of the Central Arctic walrus population are contested. This project aims to determine whether current designations are appropriate by deploying satellite tags for movement analysis and collecting tissues for trace elements, stable isotope, and genetic analysis. The program also aims to build science capacity in the North through the training of research assistants and community-based monitoring personnel in walrus-harvesting communities. This project has been funded by the NWRT in the past.





TRUSTEES

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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