

Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Iqaluit, Nunavut

Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization
P.O. Box 2
Pangnirtung, Nunavut

July 31, 2008

We know there is some activity going on about Beluga whales quotas. The hunters who are from Pangnirtung do not believe that Beluga whales should be put on the endangered species list. Our Belugas are not at risk, how can they be put on the list on top of what we are already doing? We have an annual quota of 41 animals and Pangnirtung is the only community in Nunavut that has a quota on Belugas, they don't have quotas in the N.W.T. either. Looking at all of Nunavut, why is Pangnirtung the only community that has to follow a quota for Beluga whales?

We believe that the belugas that used to be caught by the Hudson's Bay Company should be forgotten and not be brought up again and again, because we are never going back to those days. Today, the number of belugas is always increasing; just like the Bowhead whales who were almost depleted by the whalers; but today we have plenty of them, the same thing is happening to the belugas today. They are increasing in numbers, why are they always thought of as threatened when the numbers are getting higher today.

I don't know how the staff at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans can work without ever being able to understand anything, I wonder if they actually do any work when they are looking at the beluga issue. The only people to blame are the Department of Fisheries and Oceans because they work every year and never understand anything. Why are you not aware of the increasing numbers of belugas here, because we are. We have seen the numbers increasing especially in the past three years when we have been counting them by site when they have gone into the fiord where they go and have their babies. The belugas act leisurely in that fiord especially in August. Thank you but we feel the way we conduct the hunting today should continue unchanged.

However, we are thinking about our quota, we don't exceed it by a lot every year, but once in a while one will get caught in a seal net. Some people also use nets to try to caught narwals and sometimes they catch a beluga too. That is what we know, even though we really feel like eating beluga, we stop ourselves, we see them out there, our traditional food, we just let them go because we're not allowed to hunt them most of the time. The fact that Pangnirtung has a quota, means we are being treated differently than everyone else. Even though there is no official designation for our belugas being endangered, we try to follow the rules set by people who do not follow our traditions.

We are no longer thinking about the animals that were harvested between 1940 and 1960, we are living in a new reality today. The past actions by the Hudson's Bay Company were wrong, when they freely without a limit, collected beluga blubber and maktaaq. Today we are working towards increasing our beluga numbers, and fighting from our point of view. We as Inuit are blameless in the past actions of the Hudson's Bay Company. If Belugas are put on the endangered species list, will we be compensated and get paid every year, in place of the belugas? We know that belugas are a vital part of the Inuit diet.

Thank you for being able to understand this.

Sincerely,


Peterosie Qappik
Pangnirtung HTO Chairman

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Martha K Padluq

From: rbhunters&trappers [rbhta@qiniq.com]
Sent: July 14, 2008 3:43 PM
To: Kruger, Lia M
Cc: Martha K Padluq; jason mikki
Subject: Possible listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay belugas as Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act

The Resolute Bay HTO does not support the beluga population being listed under the SARA. Discussions related to this topic concluded that there is a healthy beluga population in our area. Abundant whales are observed every summer by hunters, travellers and local people. We felt that there is no need to list the belugas under the SARA. Resolute Bay hunters only catch what they will eat and none is hunted commercially.

Thank you

----- Original Message -----

From: [Kruger, Lia M](#)
To: rbhta@qiniq.com
Cc: [Cleator, Holly](#)
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2008 2:30 PM
Subject: Inuktitut Version - Possible listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay belugas as Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act

Good afternoon,

The attached letter is an Inuktitut version of the letter. An English version was sent on June 13.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is considering whether the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population of belugas should be added to the legal list under the *Species at Risk Act* as Special Concern. We would like to know whether the Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association supports listing of this beluga population. Please see the attached letter for more information.

We are also sending you the letter by regular mail.

If you have any problems opening the attached PDF file, please let me know.

Please note that the deadline for sending comments is August 1.

Regards, Lia

Lia Kruger
Species at Risk Technician
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8/1/2008