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narwhal in August (Milne Inlet, Tremblay Sound and western Eclipse Sound). The survey team appreciated the participation of two HTO observers and, as a follow-up, DFO provided Mittimatalik HTO with all of the photographs taken along the survey transects. Mittimatalik HTO also participated in the DFO satellite tagging study of narwhal in Tremblay Sound. The information resulting from these two studies will assist in updating the 2013 abundance estimates.

I notice that your letter does not include additional comments about the CITES implications of the proposed TAH adjustment for the Eclipse Sound narwhal stock. At the April 2016 consultation meetings, DFO reviewed the status of narwhal under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), and the need for a positive CITES non-detriment finding (NDF) to authorize international trade.

It should be emphasized that if international trade in Eclipse Sound narwhal products is to continue, then the existing level of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) would need to be reduced so it is in line with the new science advice based on the survey conducted in 2013. At the April 2016 consultation meetings, DFO officials heard from Mittimatalik HTO that Inuit are less concerned about selling narwhal products internationally and more interested in harvesting for food. At this time, DFO requests confirmation of this position to inform the upcoming review of the CITES non-detriment finding (NDF) for narwhal, as the finding for narwhal will determine whether narwhal products can be exported internationally.

In closing, I would like to thank the Mittimatalik HTO Board and Pond Inlet residents for actively participating in the April consultation meetings. It is clear that much valuable information was exchanged at both meetings, despite the community's understandable disappointment with the 2013 abundance estimate. I commend the Mittimatalik HTO for providing its additional information and feedback to the NWMB. .

Sincerely,



Larry Dow  
Director, Northern Operations

CC: J. Akearok, NWMB  
P. Irngaut, NTI  
J. Qillaq, QWB

Encl: February 2016 invitation letter (Eng-Inuk)  
May 2016 Consultation summary (Eng-Inuk)

**Canada**