

**CONSULTATION SUMMARY NOTES FOR THE 2016 WESTERN HUDSON BAY  
POLAR BEAR AERIAL SURVEY COMPILED DURING MEETINGS CONDUCTED  
BETWEEN 4-7 JULY 2017**

4 July, 2017: Rankin Inlet HTO, Rankin Inlet

5 July, 2017: Issatik HTO, Whale Cove

6 July, 2017: Arviat HTO, Arviat

7 July, 2017: Aqigiq HTO, Chesterfield Inlet



Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut

Igloolik, NU

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## Executive Summary

Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment representatives together with delegates from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board conducted consultations with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations of Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Arviat, and Chesterfield Inlet on July 4, 5, 6, and 7, 2017, respectively. Invited Baker Lake HTO representatives did not attend the meeting in Chesterfield Inlet on 7 July 2017.

The primary purpose of these consultations was to provide co-management partners with:

- 1) an overview of the most recent scientific study results on the western Hudson Bay (WH) polar bear sub-population (Appendix 1); and
- 2) the GN's management recommendation of no change to the current TAH despite a decline in abundance in the 2016 population estimate (842, 562-1121 95% CI) relative to the 2011 aerial survey estimate (1030, 754-1406 95% CI).

In addition, the GN representatives collected feedback on the results and any additional information or management concerns expressed by co-management partners. This included public safety concerns expressed by the Arviat HTO, to which the GN suggested it would recommend re-setting the current TAH of 28 bears to the NWMB, thus eliminating existing polar bear tag credit issues so as to allow each community full, restored access to its quota allocation.

Only communities that hunt from the WH polar bear sub-population were consulted.

The feedback and information collected during these consultations will be considered when forming Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) recommendations for the WH sub-population to be submitted for decision to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) at its September, 2017 meeting.

This report attempts to summarize the comments made by HTO members/participants during these consultation meetings.