



Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound (AW-03)

The NWMB received one application from Niko Inuarak of Pond Inlet to conduct sport hunts from the Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound walrus stock. The hunt plan for Niko Inuarak adequately addressed the Interim Policy’s conditions regarding humane harvesting.

Pond Inlet does not have a community harvest limit, but the individual quota of four walrus per Inuk per year (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 6(1)(c)) applies. Over the past five years⁴, an average annual harvest of zero walrus were harvested in sport hunts and one walrus in subsistence hunts for a total average of one walrus harvested annually, or an estimated average annual removal of two walrus if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied. The most recent analysis of aerial survey data by Fisheries and Oceans Canada estimates a stock abundance of between 623 and 831 walrus for the Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound stock. The potential biological removal is estimated between 12-24 walrus per year for the stock (DFO 2013). The NWMB is confident that the number of walrus sport hunts requested by Niko Inuarak is consistent with current quantitative limits on walrus harvesting and does not pose a conservation concern for the stock.

Conclusion

The NWMB, hereby forwards its decisions to you for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Should you accept the decisions of the NWMB with regards to the 2020 walrus sport hunts, the Board anticipates that implementation of the decisions by your department will include appropriate notification to the applicants.

⁴ The communities of Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Resolute Bay harvest walrus from the Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound walrus stock. There have been no sport hunts carried out by these communities over the past five years. Arctic Bay did not report subsistence hunts for the 2018-19 season. Resolute Bay did not report subsistence hunts for the 2017-18 season.



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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (1): *Walrus Sport Hunt Interim Policy*



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

FEB 11 2020

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

I want to acknowledge and thank you for the Board's letter received on December 16, 2019 conveying the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) decisions regarding the walrus sport hunts for 2020. Pursuant to section 5.3.18 of the Nunavut Agreement, I provide the following written reply.

This letter is to confirm that I accept the NWMB's decision to approve six (6) walrus sport hunts for Aaron Emiktowt of Coral Harbour, six (6) walrus sport hunts for Lucassie Eetuk of Coral Harbour, four (4) walrus sport hunts for John Saimaut of Coral Harbour, ten (10) walrus sport hunts for Darcy Nakoolak of Coral Harbour, six (6) walrus sport hunts for Leonard Netser of Coral Harbour, fifteen (15) walrus sport hunts for the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Association, twenty-five (25) walrus sport hunts for the Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Association, and four (4) walrus sport hunts for Niko Inuarak of Pond Inlet for the 2020 season, subject to the conditions set out in the NWMB's letter of December 16, 2020.

It is important to note that timely and accurate harvest reporting is required under the *Fisheries Act*, the *Marine Mammal Regulations*, the Nunavut Agreement, and as condition of the license for the sport hunt. I strongly encourage co-management organizations to emphasize the importance of harvest reporting and monitoring and providing the information to the Department.

Department officials in Iqaluit will notify the successful applicants. Once the Department's Iqaluit office has received all of the required information to complete a licence for the sport hunt, departmental officials will issue the licence.

I look forward to continued collaboration with the NWMB and its technical staff on walrus co-management issues.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Jordan,
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard