



Developments Limited in Coral Harbour (10 walrus), Lucassie Eetuk of E & E Outfitting in Coral Harbour (eight walrus), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans in Iqaluit;*
- 2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;*
- 3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;*
- 4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.*

FURTHER MOVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the following walrus sport hunt application: Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization (15 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans in Iqaluit;*
- 2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;*
- 3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;*
- 4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.*
- 5. That all hunts be conducted with a licenced outfitter for non-residents and non-resident foreigners.*

FURTHER MOVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the following walrus sport hunt application: Igloolik Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization (15 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans in Iqaluit;*
- 2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;*
- 3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;*
- 4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.*



5. That all hunts be conducted with a licenced outfitter for non-residents and non-resident foreigners.

1. *That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans in Iqaluit;*
2. *That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;*
3. *That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;*
4. *That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.*
5. *That all hunts be conducted with a licenced outfitter for non-residents and non-resident foreigners.*
6. *That licenced outfitters obtain proper insurance.*

Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Stock (AW-05)

The NWMB received five applications to conduct walrus sport hunts from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Atlantic walrus stock. These applications, requesting a total of 35 walrus sport hunts, were submitted by outfitters from the community of Coral Harbour. Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60 walrus (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 26).

Over the past five years⁴, an average annual harvest of eight walrus were harvested in sport hunts and 22 walrus in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 30 walrus harvested annually. Given the request for 35 sport hunts total for 2019, and an average of 22 walrus harvested in subsistence hunts, this falls below the community harvest limit of 60 walrus. Additionally, the hunt plans submitted addressed the Interim Policy's conditions regarding humane harvesting and hunter and public safety.

⁴ Based on five years of available data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for both sport and subsistence harvests.



Foxe Basin (AW-04)

The NWMB received one application from the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Association and one application from the Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Organization to conduct walrus sport hunts within the Foxe Basin Atlantic walrus stock. The hunt plans for each Hunters and Trappers Organization adequately addressed the Interim Policy's conditions regarding humane harvesting. To ensure hunter and public safety the NWMB's decision included that all hunts be conducted with a licensed outfitter for non-residents and non-resident foreigners as per the *Nunavut Hunting Regulations*⁵ 2018-2019 under the *Nunavut Wildlife Act*.

Over the past five years⁶, an average annual harvest of seven walrus were harvested in sport hunts and 148 walrus in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 155 walrus harvested annually. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's most recent analysis (DFO 2016) of aerial survey data has indicated a Potential Biological Removal of between 211 and 422 walrus, with an estimated average annual removal of 202 walrus if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied. The analysis by DFO also concluded that the reported harvests do not appear to be having an impact on the population, as it appears to have remained stable over the last 60 years. The NWMB is confident that the number of walrus sport hunts requested by the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Association and Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Organization is consistent with current quantitative limits on walrus harvesting and does not pose a conservation concern for the stock.

Baffin Bay (AW-01) and West Jones Sound (AW-02)

The NWMB received one application from the Iviq (Grise Fiord) Hunters and Trappers Organization to conduct sport hunts within the Baffin Bay and West Jones Sound walrus stocks. The hunt plans for the Iviq Hunters and Trappers Organization adequately addressed the Interim Policy's conditions regarding humane harvesting. To ensure hunter and public safety the NWMB's decision included that all hunts be conducted with a licensed outfitter for non-residents and non-resident foreigners as per the *Nunavut*

⁵ Walrus are listed as "big game" under Schedule 5-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are thus subject to the conditions of the *Nunavut Hunting Regulation 2018-2019* under the *Nunavut Wildlife Act*.

⁶ Based on five years of available data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for sport harvests, and three and two years of available data for subsistence harvests for Hall Beach and Igloolik, respectively.



*Hunting Regulations*⁷ 2018–2019 under the *Nunavut Wildlife Act* and that licensed outfitters obtain proper insurance.

Over the past five years⁸, an average annual harvest of zero walrus were harvested in sport hunts and four walrus in subsistence hunts, with a total average of four walrus harvested annually between the two stocks. The most recent analysis of aerial survey data by Fisheries and Oceans Canada estimates a stock abundance of between 1249–1251 walrus for the Baffin Bay stock and between 470–503 walrus for the West Jones Sound stock. The Potential Biological Removal is estimated between 10–11 walrus per year for the Baffin Bay stock and between 8–17 walrus per year for the West Jones Sound Stock. The NWMB is confident that the number of walrus sport hunts requested by the Ivik Hunters and Trappers Organization is consistent with current quantitative limits on walrus harvesting and does not pose a conservation concern for the stock.

Conclusion

Mr. Minister, the NWMB hereby forwards its decisions to you for your considerations pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Should you accept the decisions of the NWMB with regards to the 2019 walrus sport hunts, the Board anticipates that implementation of the decisions by your department will include appropriate notification to the applicants. Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns with respect to 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*

⁷ Walrus are listed as “big game” under Schedule 5-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are thus subject to the conditions of the *Nunavut Hunting Regulation 2018-2019* under the *Nunavut Wildlife Act*.

⁸ Based on five years of available data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for sport harvests, and four years of available data from 2013/14 to 2016/17 for subsistence harvests.



FEB 27 2019

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

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

I want to acknowledge and thank you for the Board's letter received on January 2, 2019 conveying the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) decisions regarding the walrus sport hunts for 2019. Pursuant to section 5.3.18 of the Nunavut Agreement (NA), I provide the following written reply.

This letter is to confirm that I accept the NWMB's decision to approve four (4) walrus sport hunts for Aaron Emiktowt of Coral Harbour, five (5) walrus sport hunts for Danny Pee of Coral Harbour, eight (8) walrus sport hunts for Darcy Nakoolak of Coral Harbour, ten (10) walrus sport hunts for Dino Bruce of Coral Harbour, eight (8) walrus sport hunts for Lucassie Eetuk of Coral Harbour, fifteen (15) walrus sport hunts for the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization, fifteen (15) walrus sport hunts for the Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization, and eight (8) walrus sport hunts for the Iviq (Grise Fiord) Hunters and Trappers Organization for the 2019 season, subject to the conditions set out in the NWMB's letter of January 2, 2019.

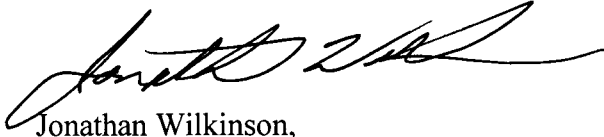
It is important to note that timely and accurate harvest reporting is required under the *Fisheries Act*, the *Marine Mammal Regulations*, the NA, and as condition of the license for the sport hunt. I strongly encourage co-management organizations to emphasize the importance of harvest reporting and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

Department officials in Iqaluit will notify the successful applicants. Furthermore, 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 licences.

Canada

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wilkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Wilkinson,
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: Scott Gilbert, A/Regional Director General, Central and Arctic Region
Gabriel Nirlungnayuq, Regional Director General, Arctic Region