

# **Integrated Fishery Management Plan for Walrus in the Nunavut Settlement**

## **Area**



Hunters & Trappers Organizations Consultations  
May 28-June 4, 2014

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## **Discussion Topics**

- Why changes are needed to walrus co-management
- History of the Walrus Working Group
- Overview of the draft Walrus Management Plan
- Main changes being proposed
- Next steps

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## **Why do we need changes to walrus management?**

- Increased national and international interest in how the walrus fishery in Nunavut is managed.

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Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES):




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Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Parties will meet again in 2016.
  - Likely the USA will consider another proposal to uplist.
  - Working towards having a management plan in place by the next CITES meeting.

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Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Increased national and international interest in how the walrus fishery in Nunavut is managed.
- Demonstrate sustainable harvesting
- Strengthen walrus co-management consistent with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Incorporate best available scientific and Inuit knowledge.

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### Why do we need changes to walrus management?

- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):



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### Development of the IFMP

Walrus Working Groups were formed to lead the development of the IFMP. Members include:

- Regional Wildlife Organization (QWB): Co-Chair
- Local Hunters & Trappers Organizations (HTO): Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (participants)
- DFO- Co-Chair
- Other invited participants: Elders, Industry, QIA



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### Walrus Working Groups

- The goal of the Working Group was to develop an IFMP that would identify the main objectives, management measures and requirements for a sustainable walrus fishery in the Nunavut Settlement Area.



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### History of Walrus Management Plan Development

| Type of Meeting            | Year | Outcomes   |
|----------------------------|------|--|
| Working Group (Foxe Basin) | 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the Foxe Basin Walrus Working Group</li> <li>Agreement to develop an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan;</li> <li>Sharing of hunter perspectives;</li> <li>Mapping walrus areas based on traditional knowledge;</li> <li>Review of current science information</li> </ul> |
| Working Group (Foxe Basin) | 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed Terms of Reference;</li> <li>Discussed important management goals, and objectives;</li> <li>Science update</li> </ul>   |
| Working Group (Foxe Basin) | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation by industry group on shipping;</li> <li>Science update; survey design</li> </ul>   |

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| Type of Meeting                           | Year     | Outcomes   |
|---|----------|--|
| Working Group (Baffin Bay)                | 2010     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the Baffin Bay Walrus Working Group;</li> <li>Agreement to develop an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan;</li> <li>Developed Terms of Reference</li> <li>Mapping walrus areas based on traditional knowledge</li> <li>Science review and update on surveys;</li> </ul>              |
| Working Group (Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay) | 2010 (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritized the Management Goals and Objectives;</li> <li>Reviewed and amended the walrus maps;</li> <li>Science review and update on surveys;</li> <li>Discussed the establishment of harvest levels (TAH and BNL)</li> <li>Discussed the NWMB process to approve the Management Plan</li> </ul> |

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| Type of Meeting   | Year | Outcomes  |
|---|------|---|
| Community Consultations (Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloodik, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay) | 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement to move forward with the Management Plan as outlined;</li> <li>Reviewed maps;</li> <li>Update from DFO Science on surveys;</li> <li>Reviewed prioritized tables of walrus management objectives and goals;</li> <li>Main concerns identified.</li> </ul> |

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| Type of Meeting                              | Year | Outcome   |
|--|------|---|
| Working Group<br>(Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay) | 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Management Plan presented and discussed;</li> <li>• Discussed proposed changes to the management regime for walrus;</li> <li>• Discussed recently published DFO Science;</li> <li>• HTO representatives believe the numbers in the science advice are too low;</li> <li>• Discussed struck and lost rates;</li> <li>• Combined the Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay Working Groups into one Working Group</li> <li>• Next steps: community consultations</li> </ul> |

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### Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Layout

1. Overview of the Fishery
2. Stock Assessment, Science and Traditional Knowledge
3. Economic, Social and Cultural Importance
4. Management Issues
5. Objectives
6. Harvest Levels and Allocation
7. Management Measures
8. Shared Stewardship Arrangement
9. Compliance Plan
10. Performance Review

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### Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Layout

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2. Stock Assessment, Science and Traditional Knowledge

Two walrus populations in the Eastern Canadian Arctic:

- 1. High Arctic
- 2. Central Arctic;

Seven stocks

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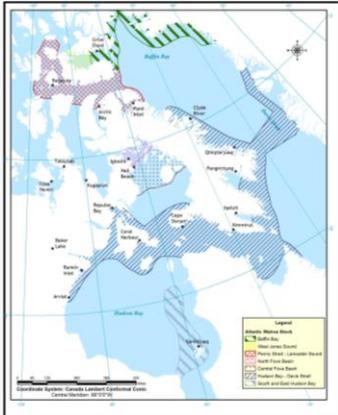
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2. Stock Assessment, Science and Traditional Knowledge

Traditional Knowledge

- Knowledge has been shared through workshops, interviews, community consultations and questionnaires
- Inuit recognize different walrus stocks
- Has assisted with stock delineation

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Recent Science Advice

- In November 2013, the Department published a Science Advisory Report that identified population abundance estimates and Total Allowable Removal levels for four (4) of the six (6) Management Units.

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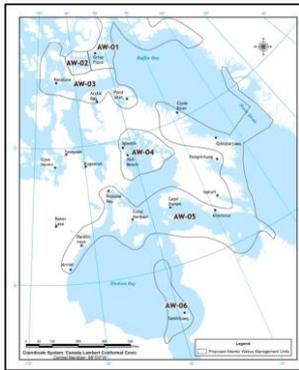
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Proposed Walrus Management Units




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Figure 4. Approximate distributions of the Atlantic walrus populations in Canada. Walrus management units within these populations include: SEB = South East Bay, north of North and West Booth Bay; PS-LW = Prine Strait/Lancaster Sound; SEB = South and East Booth; and PS-LB = South Booth Bay/Longars Bay/Lancaster and Prine Strait/Lancaster Sound. Question marks (?) indicate uncertainty with respect to distributions and/or movements.

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#### 4. Management Issues

Improvements to some aspects of walrus management are needed to demonstrate sustainable harvesting:

- Updated abundance estimates
- Establishing sustainable harvest limits
- Ensuring harvests are within limits
- Improved harvest reporting
- Impacts from shipping, development and tourism
- Hunter Training
- Reduced hunting losses
- Sport hunt

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#### 5. Objectives for the Fishery

- Long Term Objectives
  - To guide management of the fishery. What we want to achieve with our management regime
- Short Term Objectives
  - To address specific management issues over the next 3 to 5 years

(Table 3, Page 19 IFMP)

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#### 6. Harvest Levels and Allocation

Outlines the harvest levels and allocations among users.

For Management Units without an established TAH:

- Current regulatory quotas identified in the Marine Mammal Regulations apply.

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### 6. Harvest Levels and Allocation

- For Management Units with an established TAH:
- Decision by NWMB and Minister of DFO that for walrus, the BNL will **equal** the TAH.
  - The BNL will be allocated by the RWOs to the HTOs in the form of Community Harvest Limits.

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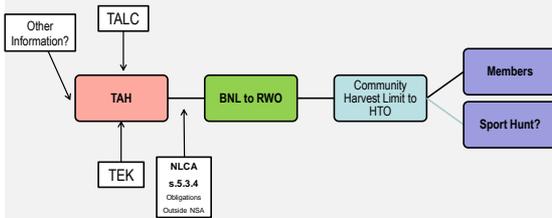
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### Walrus Harvest Allocation – Management Unit




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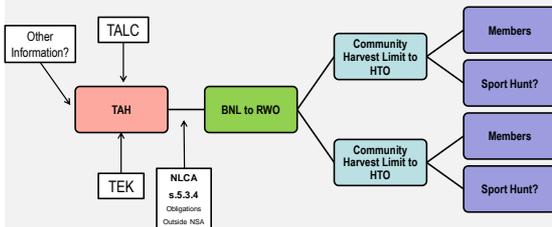
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### Walrus Harvest Allocation – Management Unit



SUM Community Harvest Limits = Basic Needs Level

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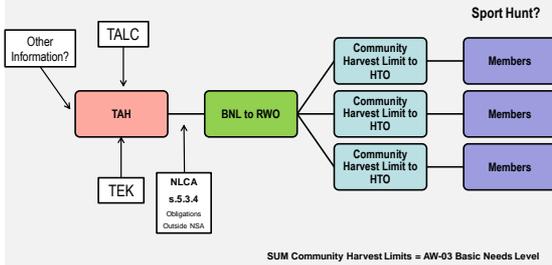
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### Walrus Harvest Allocation – Management Unit



SUM Community Harvest Limits = AW-03 Basic Needs Level

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### Sport Hunt

- The Walrus Working Group will be developing a TAH/BNL Walrus Sport Hunt policy that will outline the information DFO requires to issue a Marine Mammal Fishing Licence for walrus.

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### Walrus Harvest Tags

- Walrus Working Group discussed options for ensuring effective management/allocation of new harvest levels.
- A type of harvest tag was suggested.
- A Walrus Harvest Tag would be similar to that currently used for other species.
- A Walrus Harvest Tag would not be a licence to hunt and would be issued without fee or administrative charge.

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**Walrus Harvest Tags**

- Walrus Harvest Tags would be provided to the RWO for each Management Unit.
- The RWO would allocate the Walrus Harvest Tags to the HTOs.
- The HTOs would allocate the Walrus Harvest Tags to their members.

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**Walrus Harvest Tags**

- Walrus hunters would pick up a Walrus Harvest Tag from the HTO office.
- Each Walrus Harvest Tag would provide for harvesting of one walrus (male or female or calf) in a specific Management Unit.
- Hunting could occur at any time during the year established by the HTO (e.g. Jan.1-Dec. 31 or April 1- March 31)

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| <b>WALRUS HARVEST TAG:</b> AW-01-2014- 001   | <b>WALRUS HARVEST TAG:</b> AW-01-2014- 001   |
| Keep for personal record (MMR s. 17)   | Return to HTO for validation   |
| <b>MANAGEMENT UNIT:</b> AW-01  | <b>MANAGEMENT UNIT:</b> AW-01  |
| This Walrus Harvest Tag validates the harvest of one (1) walrus at any time between Jan 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 for Management Unit AW-01. | This Walrus Harvest Tag validates the harvest of one (1) walrus at any time between Jan 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 for Management Unit AW-01. |
| <b>Sex:</b> Male Female  | <b>Sex:</b> Male Female  |
| <b>Age:</b> Adult Juvenile Calf  | <b>Age:</b> Adult Juvenile Calf  |
| <b>Struck &amp; Sunk:</b> No Yes Number:   | <b>Struck &amp; Sunk:</b> No Yes Number:   |
| <b>Date Harvested:</b>   | <b>Date Harvested:</b>   |
| <b>Location Harvested:</b>   | <b>Location Harvested:</b>   |
| <b>Hunter Name:</b>  | <b>Hunter Name:</b>  |
| <b>Hunter Signature:</b>   | <b>Hunter Signature:</b>   |

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## 7. Management Measures

- Outlines the “controls” for the fishery to ensure sustainable harvesting, including conservation and ecosystem management measures.
- Many measures are already in place
- Additional measures and actions are needed to address management issues in the fishery

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## Existing Management Measures

| Management Measure              | Applicable Legislation/ Regulation  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Harvest Levels</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Inuk may, without a licence, fish for food, social or ceremonial purposes for four (4) walrus in a year except where community quotas exist (Coral Harbour (60), Sanikiluaq (10), Arctic Bay (10) and Clyde River (20)). (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 6 and 26).</li> </ul>              |
| <b>Monitoring and Reporting</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvest information must be reported (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 17; Fisheries Act s. 61; and the NLCA s. 5.7.43).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Licences</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minister may issue a marine mammal fishing licence (e.g. sport hunt) (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 4).</li> <li>• The Minister may issue a licence for certain activities such as for tagging (satellite tracking), live capture, biopsies (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 11).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Humane Harvesting</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunters shall only kill a walrus in a manner that is designed to kill it quickly (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 8).</li> <li>• No person shall disturb a walrus except when hunting for walrus (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 7).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Closing the Fishery</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the quota is reached, the fishery will be closed (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 26)</li> </ul>   |

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## Existing Management Measures

| Management Measure             | Applicable Legislation/ Regulation   |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Reducing Loss Rates</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunters must have all necessary equipment on hand to retrieve a hunted walrus (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 9).</li> <li>• Hunters that kill or wound a walrus must make all reasonable efforts to retrieve it without delay, must not abandon or discard it, or waste any edible part of a walrus (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 10).</li> <li>• Hunters are to use a rifle or shotgun with the following restrictions: a) a rifle and non-full metal jacketed ammunition that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds; or b) a shotgun and rifled slugs that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1,500 foot pounds (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 25).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sale and Transportation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Marine Mammal Transportation licence is required to transport walrus or walrus parts from one province to another (Marine Mammal Regulations s. 16).</li> <li>• A CITES Export Permit is required to transport walrus products outside of Canada.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Protection of walrus</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No person shall carry on any work that results in serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery, or to fish that support such a fishery (Fisheries Act s. 35).</li> </ul>  |

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Additional Proposed Management Measures

| Management Measures |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Harvest Levels      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish TAH levels for four (4) of the six (6) Management Units.</li> <li>2. Harvesting cannot exceed the sum of the community harvest limits or the TAH.</li> </ol> |

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When is Hunting Over?

1. Once the Community Harvest Limit has been reached, no further hunting is allowed, unless authorized by the RWO.
  - The RWO may approve the transfer of Walrus Harvest Tags between communities in the same Management Unit.
  - If approved, additional Walrus Harvest Tags will be provided to the HTO, by the RWO, to allow hunting of additional walrus.
2. When the sum of the Community Harvest Limits for a particular Management Unit is reached, no further hunting is allowed; **or**
3. When the Hunt Season is over

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Additional Proposed Management Measures

| Management Measures |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Walrus Harvest Tag  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Where a TAH has been set for a stock or population, establish a Walrus Harvest Tag system to improve the management, allocation, reporting and monitoring of walrus harvest levels.</li> </ol> |

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