

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT  
PROPOSAL FOR DECISION TO THE BOARD CONCERNING  
THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST FOR THE  
WESTERN HUDSON BAY POLAR BEAR SUBPOPULATION

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January 9, 2018

PAGES 1 TO 200

HELD AT THE SINIKTARVIK HOTEL

RANKIN INLET, NUNAVUT

VOLUME 1

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1 (Proceedings commencing at 9:00 a.m.)

2 THE CHAIR: Thank you, everyone.

3 We'll open this hearing. It's good to see that  
4 everyone made it in yesterday, and we're here for a few  
5 days together.

6 First of all, I'd like to just go over some quick  
7 housekeeping rules. I'd ask that people turn off their  
8 cellphones or put them on vibrate so we're not  
9 interfered with in the hearing. Second, the washrooms  
10 are out to the left. Thirdly, we're going to have  
11 coffee and snacks in the back for you, so feel free to  
12 go and help yourself.

13 The channels we'll be using on microphones, I  
14 think zero is the floor channel to whatever language is  
15 being spoken on the floor, number one is the English  
16 channel, and number two is Inuktitut.

17 So with that, our first order of the day, I would  
18 ask Caleb to say a prayer for us all.

19 MR. SANGOYA: Let us pray.

20 (PRAYER)

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Caleb.

22 The first order, then, of business is to open the  
23 meeting, so can I get a motion from one of the members  
24 to open our public hearing? David makes that motion.  
25 All those in favour, please show your hands.



1 Motion is carried. Thank you very much.

2 (MOTION CARRIED)

3 **INTRODUCTIONS**

4 THE CHAIR: All right. I think the next order  
5 is we're going to go around the table and make  
6 introductions of ourselves. Then we'll go to the table  
7 and to the interpreters and the whole room. We'll  
8 start with myself and go left.

9 I'm Dan Shewchuk. I'm the Acting Chairperson of  
10 the NWMB.

11 MR. AKEAROK: Good morning. Jason Akearok,  
12 Executive Director.

13 MR. SANGOYA: Caleb Sangoya, appointed to the  
14 NWMB by the KIA.

15 MR. HADLARI: Attima Hadlari, appointment by  
16 Inuit Association, appointed for this Board.

17 MR. BOLT: Jorgen Bolt, appointed by  
18 Government of Nunavut Department of Environment.

19 MR. D'EÇA: *Ullakuut*. My name is  
20 Michael D'Eça, lawyer for NWMB from Ottawa.

21 MS. PEARSON: Good morning. Patricia Pearson,  
22 Director of Finance and Administration, NWMB.

23 MR. FAWCETT: Hello. My name is John Fawcett.  
24 I'm the communications coordinator for the Nunavut  
25 Wildlife Management Board.

1 MR. ALIKASWA: Thomas Alikaswa from Arviat. I'm  
2 chairman for the Arviat HTO.

3 MR. ENUAPIK: Simon Enuapik, chairman for the  
4 HTO.

5 MR. NAPAYOK: Jackie Napayok, Whale Cove. I've  
6 been asked to be a part of this meeting. Thank you.

7 MR. ARNAUYOK: Matthew Arnauyok,  
8 Chesterfield Inlet, board of directors HTO.

9 MR. AGGARK: Harry Aggark, Chesterfield Inlet.

10 MR. TARTAK: Clayton Tartak, Rankin Inlet HTO.

11 MR. SIGARDSON: Rankin Inlet HTO.

12 MR. NATEELA: Hugh Nateela for the Baker Lake  
13 HTO.

14 MR. AKSAWNEE: Richard Aksawnee in Baker Lake  
15 HTO.

16 DR. LUNN: Nick Lunn with Environment and  
17 Climate Change Canada.

18 MS. VALLENDER: Managing director of Wildlife  
19 Health for Environment and Climate Change Canada.

20 MS. SMITH: Caryn Smith, Government of  
21 Nunavut.

22 MR. GISSING: Director of Wildlife, Government  
23 of Nunavut.

24 MR. IRNGAUT: Good morning. Thank you. Welcome  
25 to Rankin Inlet. I'm with the NTI's wildlife

1 department.

2 DR. LEE: David Lee, NTI.

3 MR. GREENE: Ezra Greene.

4 MS. NETSER: Qovik Netser.

5 MR. LAFOREST: Brandon Laforest, senior  
6 specialist, arctic species & ecosystems.

7 MS. GILES: Amber Giles, fisheries biologist,  
8 NWMB.

9 MR. NDELOH: Denis Etiendem Ndeloh, terrestrial  
10 and avian species biologist.

11 MS. SAHANATIEN: Vickie Sahanatien, Director,  
12 Wildlife Management, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

13 MR. INUARAK: Charlie Inuarak from Pond Inlet  
14 appointed by NTI. It's probably my final hearing. I'm  
15 very happy to be here.

16 MR. MAKAYAK: Noah Makayak, Chesterfield Inlet  
17 representative appointed by Kivalliq Inuit Association  
18 to be on the Board.

19 MR. KRITTERDLIK: Good morning. David Kritterdlik,  
20 Board member for NWMB, appointed by the government.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, everyone.

22 The public, would you like to introduce  
23 yourselves? There's a microphone at that white table  
24 there.

25 MR. OOLOOYUK: Bobby Oolooyuk.

1 MR. COMER: Thomas Comer.

2 MR. MERCER: David Mercer with NTI.

3 THE CHAIR: Our interpreters, you can  
4 introduce yourselves, please.

5 MR. TAPARTI: Johnny Cash. Louis Taparti.

6 MS. ADAMS: Donna Adams from Rankin.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

8 All right. So we'll move on. And just a reminder  
9 too. If anybody needs headphones, they're at the back  
10 of the room.

11 So the next order of business that we have is  
12 we're going to do a quick swearing-in ceremony of our  
13 newest member, Attima.

14 Attima, this is your first meeting. He's our  
15 newest appointment, and we're going to do a little  
16 swearing-in ceremony that we need to do. So, Michael,  
17 the floor is yours.

18 **LEGAL COUNSEL - SWEARING-IN OF ATTIMA HADLARI**

19 M D'EÇA: *Qujannamiik, itsivautaaq.*

20 It's one of the perks of being legal counsel to  
21 the Board that I have the pleasure to swear in and  
22 welcome new members to the NWMB. And just a few words  
23 about being appointed to the board. Appointment to  
24 this Board is a significant honour and also a  
25 tremendous responsibility. Both the harvesters and the

1 wildlife of Nunavut depend upon the members of the NWMB  
2 to ensure the wise management and the ongoing  
3 protection of this territory's precious resource, and  
4 we all know that's not always an easy or  
5 straightforward task.

6 The NWMB is recognized territorially, nationally  
7 and even internationally as an innovative, responsible  
8 agency that has in place a system of wildlife  
9 management which ensures fairness to all, full respect  
10 for Inuit under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement  
11 around the vast and impressive wildlife resources.

12 I'm happy to report that over the years the NWMB's  
13 appointees have taken their appointment  
14 responsibilities seriously. They've consistently  
15 demonstrated great care in selecting the right  
16 individuals to sit on this Board, and the proof of that  
17 statement is found in a number of ways. First of all,  
18 just in the individual NWMB members that are present  
19 here today. Each one of them demonstrates and has  
20 demonstrated his dedication to responsible wildlife  
21 management and research every time the Board members  
22 meet. And then more long-term proof is evident through  
23 the long-term reputation the Board has earned through  
24 its first 23 or 24 years of its operations, and it has  
25 many successes to show for that.

1           But the most reasonable example of dedicated  
2 individuals to sit on the NWMB is that of  
3 Attima Hadlari, just one person over from me today.

4           As has been mentioned, it's his first in-person  
5 meeting as an NWMB member, and I know that shortly  
6 before coming to this meeting Attima, with the help of  
7 a justice of the peace, completed the final step in  
8 becoming a member of the NWMB, and that last crucial  
9 action is a legally significant one. It's the taking  
10 of the oath of office for the members of the Nunavut  
11 Wildlife Management Board, and an oath is a formal  
12 pledge to act in a certain way. It's a sworn and  
13 solemn promise.

14           Attima's promise -- in fact, the sincere promise  
15 made by all of the NWMB Board members -- is to  
16 faithfully, impartially, and honestly to the best of  
17 his skill and ability perform the duties assigned to  
18 NWMB members under the Nunavut agreement. And I would  
19 like to take this opportunity to say a few words about  
20 Attima. I suspect he needs little introduction.

21           He has been so involved for at least the last 20  
22 years, and I'm sure longer than that, in the  
23 development of not only a dynamic and prosperous  
24 Kitikmeot Region -- I'll back that up by way of a very  
25 brief summary.

1           In 1998, so 30 years ago, he was recognized as a  
2       champion of Inuktuin language and appointed by Jack  
3       (Inuktitut spoken). And back at the time he was the  
4       interim commissioner for the Nunavut Language Bureau.  
5       In 2003, he was appointed by the GN to sit on the  
6       committee to provide IQ advice to government. He's  
7       previously served as the chairman of the Ikalukutiak  
8       HTO and as a member of the Nunavut Planning Commission.

9           From at least 2009 to the present he has regularly  
10      being elected to serve on both the Kitikmeot Inuit  
11      Association and the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board,  
12      and he's been on the executive of both, serving as the  
13      KRWB chairman and the vice-president of KIA. On top of  
14      all that, Attima is a long-time supporter of youth  
15      activism and involvement in politics.

16           And I'll close this brief introduction with a  
17      quote that I picked up from Attima way back in 1998, so  
18      20 years on. And I think there wasn't much context  
19      given to the quote that I read, but it was probably  
20      delivered at the time he was appointed the director of  
21      the Nunavut Language Bureau, and this is what he said,  
22      quote: (as read)

23           "We have to be messengers to our kids. That's  
24           going to be my mandate, to let younger  
25           generations know that using Inuktitut is

1                   something to be proud of. I have to be a role  
2                   model."

3           And 20 years later I think I can safely say,  
4           congratulations, Attima, you have succeeded in the  
5           challenge that you took on.

6                   There's plenty more to say about Attima -- just  
7           one last thing. He's a renowned drum dancer in his  
8           region.

9                   So with that maybe Attima, if he and I could  
10          stand, and I'll just offer my sincere congratulations  
11          and a warm welcome to you. I can assure you these next  
12          four years on the NWMB will be both challenging and  
13          exhilarating, and it's a great day, I know, for you, but  
14          it's an even better day for the NWMB, for Nunavut's  
15          harvesters, and for Nunavut's wildlife. So (Inuktitut  
16          spoken).

17   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you very much, Michael.

18                   And, Attima, welcome to the Board.

19                   Nick, would you like to introduce yourself. We  
20          introduced ourselves. Would you go ahead.

21   MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:           Hello. Nicholas Arnaukjuaq.

22   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you very much, Nick.

23                   Okay. Next on or agenda is, again, our legal  
24          counsel is going to quickly run through the process of  
25          this hearing that's about to take place so everybody



1 has a clear understanding of how it's going to work.

2 Go ahead, Michael.

3 MR. D'EÇA: *Qujannamiik, itsivautaaq.*

4 In the binder in front of you I'm going to walk  
5 you through you a few of the hearing rules that's in  
6 tab 2 of the binder, and you can see there are  
7 18 rules. And, don't worry, I'm not going to walk you  
8 through all of them, but I'd like to go over the ones  
9 that are most relevant for us today and over the next  
10 couple of days.

11 So I'm going to start with Rule 7 in the Inuktitut  
12 version. So first of all, that Rule 7 is simply that  
13 we're going to provide simultaneous English and  
14 Inuktitut translation to the extent reasonably  
15 possible.

16 Rule 8. A quorum of the NWMB members have to be  
17 present at the hearing. There has to be at least five  
18 of the NWMB members present in order for a gathering to  
19 be officially an NWMB meeting or hearing. Without that  
20 quorum of five we don't have that, so we do have our  
21 quorum here today.

22 Skipping ahead to Rule 11. All parties and other  
23 participants in the hearing are required to treat one  
24 another with respect, and the NWMB includes this rule  
25 in all of its hearings because often we're dealing with

1 emotional topics, and people have strong feelings, and  
2 they're very significant matters. By definition,  
3 whatever is being discussed at a hearing has to be  
4 significant because it's extensive and it's a large  
5 process and involves many people.

6 But the NWMB wants to remind all of the parties  
7 that even though there's disagreement, which there  
8 often is at a hearing, we all come in good faith, and  
9 we need to keep that in mind while we're confidently  
10 and properly making our points. You want to get your  
11 point across, for sure. You want to ask questions that  
12 might be tough questions, but you want to treat  
13 everyone with respect, knowing that even though you may  
14 disagree with another that we all come in good faith.

15 Rule 12. The NWMB will provide a reasonable  
16 opportunity for oral presentations for each of the  
17 parties at the hearing and whatever official expert or  
18 counsel they wish to make their presentations.

19 Rule 13. Every member of the NWMB, as well as the  
20 wildlife director and legal counsel, make ask relevant  
21 questions of any party at the hearing.

22 And Rule 14 is any party may ask relevant  
23 questions of any party at the hearing, so everybody  
24 gets a chance to question everybody else. Members of  
25 the public in attendance at the hearing have a

1 reasonable opportunity to make statements and to ask  
2 questions of the parties and the NWMB.

3 To make sure everything goes smoothly, Rule 16  
4 states that every person at the hearing who wishes to  
5 speak shall, once the NWMB Chairperson has recognized  
6 him or her. And I know that Jason assists the  
7 Chairperson when a number of hands go up, writing it  
8 down and trying to keep a good order and that sort of  
9 thing.

10 Rule 17, practical necessity. The NWMB  
11 Chairperson reserves the right to place reasonable time  
12 limits on questions, statements, and comments. So we  
13 want to make sure that we keep that in mind as we  
14 proceed through the various questions.

15 And, finally, the NWMB is making an audio  
16 recording of the hearing, and that will be available to  
17 the parties upon request. As well, we do have Adele,  
18 transcriber, who is working away at a written  
19 transcript of the hearing.

20 So, Mr. Chairman, that's it for my review of the  
21 rules. If there are any questions, I'm happy to  
22 respond. *Taima*.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Michael.

24 Are there any questions from any of the parties at  
25 all? If not, then, we will carry on.

1                   We had a new member join us. Paul, would you like  
2                   to introduce yourself.

3       MR. KABLUTSIK:                   I'm from Arviat, Paul Kablutsiak,  
4                   hunter full time. I was appointed by the HTO board in  
5                   Arviat.

6       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Paul.

7                   Okay. We're going to carry on. So our next order  
8                   of business is with DoE and a presentation of your  
9                   proposal. Drikus, the floor is yours.

10      MR. GISSING:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11                   We have two presentations. One would be an  
12                   overview of the scientific research that was conducted  
13                   that identified a new population estimate. Our  
14                   biologist Marcus Dyck could not make it to this meeting  
15                   due to not being able to catch an aircraft yesterday,  
16                   but we have David Lee who was one of the collaborators  
17                   and leads on the project, and he agreed to give the  
18                   scientific project, and after that we will give you the  
19                   same submission that went to the Board based on the  
20                   findings of that survey.

21      THE CHAIR:                   Okay. Thank you, Drikus.

22                   David Lee, go ahead.

23      **SUBMISSION BY GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT**

24      DR. LEE:                   Thank you. So I'll wait for the  
25                   presentation to come up. Thank you.

1           So I'm not sure -- is it tab 6? It's in the  
2 binder, the presentation -- tab 7.

3           So to be clear, I'll be making this presentation  
4 because, as Drikus said, unfortunately, Mitch Campbell,  
5 who was the polar bear biologist, was unable to attend.  
6 But I participated in this survey with Marcus and  
7 Mitch Campbell, who also participated asked if I could  
8 give the presentation.

9           I have provided parts of this presentation before  
10 in discussions with the communities prior to the survey  
11 taking place. So for some of you the slides should be  
12 familiar. Okay. Next slide, please.

13           So some background that Marcus wanted to provide  
14 was that the last western-based aerial survey took  
15 place -- the results were provided in 2011, and at that  
16 time Stapleton *et al* -- it would be Atkinson, Stephen  
17 Atkinson -- presented a result or an estimate of about  
18 1,000 polar bears for that population that you see  
19 outlined by that red line.

20           At one of the last public hearings Nick Lunn, who  
21 is here for Environment Canada, presented their most  
22 recent analysis of Western Hudson Bay for a certain  
23 period, and their analysis was quite complex. It  
24 involved all of the mark recapture data that they  
25 conduct, and it showed at that time that it had been

1           stable for the period, not necessarily the last decade,  
2           because the time period has changed since then. And,  
3           of course, with IQ and local observations.

4           I was involved with Gabriel Nirlungyak in 2007  
5           when we had a public hearing in Arviat. And all the  
6           elders there, including many who passed away since  
7           then, have increasingly and consistently stated that  
8           they had been seeing more bears, and I suspect that  
9           we'll hear that today.

10          So one of the major concerns was that previous  
11          studies relied primarily on capturing bears, and a lot  
12          of concerns were expressed by Inuit about the effects  
13          of the drugs. Next slide, please.

14          So based on those concerns, NTI had passed a  
15          resolution for less intrusive methods, and the  
16          Government of Nunavut responded by implementing these  
17          aerial surveys. So in the past they relied more  
18          exclusively on physical mark recapture, meaning that  
19          every bear, almost every bear in Western Hudson Bay was  
20          tranquilized and measured. And the GN decided to  
21          utilize a different method and to do an aerial survey,  
22          and that's why I was involved.

23          Because, as many of you know, Mitch Campbell the  
24          regional biologist and I have been doing caribou  
25          surveys for the last ten years in the Kivalliq Region,

1           so Drikus asked us to help him with doing an aerial  
2           survey. Next slide, please.

3           This is just a presentation, a figure of the 2011  
4           results, and it gives you an indication of where the  
5           bears were seen during this survey. Next slide,  
6           please.

7           I already mentioned this, but this was the  
8           analysis that Environment Canada had done, so here it's  
9           more specific. It provides the exact period, 1987 to  
10          2011. Nick is here, so if there are any questions on  
11          this, especially the results -- I didn't review this  
12          for this hearing -- I would defer to Nick. But,  
13          essentially as long as that's estimated, it had  
14          estimated 806 bears in 2011. I'm just pausing for the  
15          interpreter. Okay. Thanks.

16          I already mentioned this. The main point I would  
17          say about using aerial surveys is that it doesn't  
18          provide the same type of information that physical mark  
19          recapture does. Physical mark recapture, because  
20          you're measuring the bears and you're collecting  
21          different type of information, that information could  
22          be used often to predict the productivity of the  
23          population. We can measure some of these aspects with  
24          aerial surveys, but they're arguably not as robust as  
25          doing physical mark recapture. So there is a trade-off

1           when we do the aerial surveys. But the Government of  
2           Nunavut and NTI felt that it was valuable because Inuit  
3           had expressed such concerns about the physical mark  
4           recapture. Next slide, please.

5           So in response to many concerns, especially  
6           because Arviat was potentially facing a quota  
7           reduction -- and I think their quota was -- the  
8           Government of Nunavut initiated an aerial survey to  
9           examine the population status. So I helped  
10          Mitch Campbell with the actual design of the survey,  
11          and we tried to ensure that the survey design was as  
12          similar to the last survey, 2011, so that the results  
13          could be as comparable as possible. Next slide,  
14          please.

15          For the collection of IQ and hunter observations,  
16          I know that Arviat has conducted a number of projects  
17          previously. Certainly Gabriel and I interviewed some  
18          hunters, but also the Arviat HTO did their own IQ  
19          study, and that was presented at one time to the NWMB.

20          For this particular survey, Mitch Campbell and I,  
21          prior to the survey, visited all of the communities,  
22          and we tried to incorporate as many of the concerns and  
23          recommendations that they had about the survey design.

24          Of course, we weren't able to implement all of  
25          their recommendations, but some of the recommendations



1 we tried to implement was to ensure as many ions were  
2 surveyed. So, offshore, that required using different  
3 equipment. We also had as many transects inland as  
4 possible where the density was questioned, and we also  
5 decreased the distance between transects for some of  
6 the areas, based on information we received. Next  
7 slide, please.

8 One of the other major pieces of information that  
9 we used were movements from satellite collared bears.  
10 So just to be clear, these bears are not collared by  
11 the Government of Nunavut. They're part of, I believe,  
12 the Environment Canada program, and, thankfully, they  
13 shared that information with us readily. So we were  
14 able to use this information to make sure that the  
15 timing of the survey was adequate, that we maximized  
16 the window where we could observe the bears on the  
17 coast and, where it became less problematic, to site  
18 them as they moved -- especially the females -- moved  
19 inland. Again, also trying to make sure that it was as  
20 similar as possible to the last survey. Next slide.

21 So based on that, these are -- each of the lines  
22 that you see are lines that either a fixed wing or a  
23 Twin Otter in that top area, purple, flew. In the  
24 medium or moderate and high density we flew those lines  
25 with two helicopters. One was an EC135 which

1 Mitch Campbell and Marcus Dyck navigated, and the other  
2 one was a Long Ranger which I navigated. So you can  
3 see that the coverage was extensive from almost  
4 Chesterfield Inlet all the way down to and across the  
5 border of Manitoba into Ontario.

6 I also wanted to mention that, for the Nunavut  
7 portion, Mitch Campbell and I had just completed a  
8 musk ox survey. So those transects can be considered  
9 to extend almost two to three hundred kilometres  
10 further inland, and we did not observe any polar bears  
11 on that musk ox survey. The polar bear survey was  
12 conducted right after the musk ox survey -- like,  
13 immediately after. Next slide, please.

14 This just gives you a comparison between the  
15 survey conducted in 2011 and 2016, and you can see that  
16 they're quite similar, as similar as possible in terms  
17 of the design. Next slide, please.

18 Okay. So the timing of the survey was conducted  
19 in late August. I know that this was also a concern  
20 raised by many of the communities, and it's certainly  
21 one that the Government of Nunavut is continuing to try  
22 to seek solutions, including potentially other types of  
23 aerial surveys in the fall that Manitoba routinely  
24 conducts.

25 But in order to compare the results of this survey

1 with the last survey, we decided to continue with a  
2 survey at the same time period, and, also, we felt  
3 confident with the timing because the maximum or the  
4 highest density of bears still appear to occur in the  
5 Wapusk or Manitoba portion, which is where we were  
6 surveying and where we focussed most of our attention.

7 With respect to denning bears, I'm not sure if  
8 he's going to go into that, but I'll just mention that  
9 one of the issues potentially with denning bears was  
10 that we would not actually count them. Our protocol  
11 was that whenever we came across a den we examined it.  
12 So we went down, and in some cases we actually landed.  
13 But in most cases we could see into the den, and in all  
14 cases that I was on we were able to detect if the den  
15 was occupied or not.

16 And except for one occasion in the helicopter that  
17 I was navigating, we always sighted in good conditions.  
18 There was one morning near the Ontario border where we  
19 encountered poor weather, and that only occurred for  
20 maybe 30 to 45 minutes. It still allowed visibility  
21 for the rear observers, put for the front observer,  
22 which was me -- and certainly not the pilot -- we had  
23 to focus on the safety. But other than for that one  
24 instance, the condition, the sighting conditions for  
25 the entire survey was excellent and was one of the

1 reasons we were able to complete the survey in such an  
2 efficient and short period of time. Next slide,  
3 please.

4 So as I mentioned, in the Nunavut portion  
5 following the musk ox survey, because we had the  
6 aircraft there, we had a number of Inuit observers with  
7 us: Mark Robert, Kelly Owljoot which was the previous  
8 technician for Merch (phonetic), Leo Ikakhik also an  
9 observer. And we also had two observers from Manitoba,  
10 since we were surveying in Manitoba. Then we had  
11 Mitch Campbell in that really nice helicopter at the  
12 bottom, that EC135, Eurocopter which they use for  
13 search and rescue and all sorts of things. And that's  
14 me in the middle there. And it's a really nice  
15 helicopter. I didn't mind being in that helicopter at  
16 all. So we had four observers per helicopter, and we  
17 observed all the bears that we encountered. Okay.  
18 Next slide, please.

19 Oh, I think I mentioned Louie Tattuinee on the  
20 bottom left. Lee Ikakhik on the right. In the top  
21 picture I know one of them is Marcus, and I think it's  
22 Louie in the back. Next slide, please.

23 And this just gives you an idea of what we  
24 actually did. So the helicopter from the shoreline  
25 would fly inland, and the observer on the right would

1       observe out to -- in some cases, the Inuit. This is  
2       one of the reasons why Mitch and I prefer using Inuit  
3       observers; their sight and their search image is  
4       incredible. They're picking out polar bears like two  
5       or three kilometres in the distance. It makes for some  
6       of the analysis to be quite challenging, but it's still  
7       incredible in terms of how they're able to actually  
8       observe the bears. The poorest sightabilities actually  
9       came from the pilot and myself. The best sightability  
10      came from the Inuit observers.

11               So we would fly inland, depending on which  
12      stratum. -- if it was high density, up to 100  
13      kilometres inland; then turn, travel about four to five  
14      kilometres between transect spacing, again depending on  
15      the stratum; then travel all the way back and past the  
16      shore onto the coastal floodplain because that was  
17      recommended by the HTOs; and then continue that way.  
18      Thanks.

19               And this gives you just an example in the tidal  
20      flats. Marcus has circled a bear in the bottom that  
21      you can see. And one of the reasons we flew over  
22      water -- and this required specialized equipment by the  
23      helicopter because, again, Inuit were mentioning that  
24      there might be bears in the water, so that's another  
25      example.

1           With regard to vegetation, this -- the slide shows  
2           you how much more complex and difficult it becomes to  
3           see bears as we go inland. And this is one of the  
4           reasons we tried to do the survey when bears were as  
5           close -- were just coming off the ice and were as close  
6           to the coastal area as possible. Of course, females  
7           will travel inland, and we tried to observe them as  
8           much as possible.

9           And, in fact, in this analysis we implemented a  
10          satellite imagery to help with the covariates with the  
11          analysis to account for the complexity in the  
12          vegetation. In order to make that estimate comparable  
13          to the previous estimate, which didn't incorporate  
14          satellite imagery, we applied the same method to the  
15          2011 survey, and that's why the results of the 2011  
16          survey are slightly lower when we're comparing these  
17          two estimates.

18          Just if you could go back. The other major issue  
19          was glare. So this is reflection off the Hudson Bay.  
20          Initially, both Marcus and Mitch wanted this  
21          investigated. I wasn't sure if this would actually be  
22          an important factor, but we included it in the  
23          analysis, and glare came out to be one of the most  
24          important factors because it essentially limited the  
25          ability of observers to see bears. So when there was

1 glare, we accounted for that in the analysis. Next  
2 slide, please. Thanks.

3 Another major problem, which is why we  
4 incorporated the satellite imagery for the vegetation  
5 analysis or structure was you can see or I can tell you  
6 that that's a bear in the bottom there, and that's near  
7 the coast.

8 And some bears had different behaviours. A lot of  
9 the male bears that I encountered were in very good  
10 condition wouldn't move from their spot. Like, these  
11 are the largest bears that I had ever seen, and they  
12 would not move. Other bears, especially females with  
13 cubs of year or cubs, would move into vegetation, and  
14 unless you actually saw those bears or they moved, it  
15 would be very difficult to detect them, which is one of  
16 the reasons we tried to account for that in the  
17 analysis. Next slide, please.

18 I already mentioned that we examined every den.  
19 So we can go to the next slide.

20 And I think that's it. Sorry, keep going. More  
21 than 130 hours of flying. Next slide.

22 These are the participants. I already mentioned  
23 them. Next slide.

24 Just an example of what we saw along the coast,  
25 different bears. On the bottom left you can see what I

1 mean. That bear didn't move when we flew over it.  
2 It's quite comfortable. And, I mean, I think that's  
3 one of the benefits of the aerial survey is that, yes,  
4 some bears reacted, but it's not the same as  
5 tranquilizing them. And we certainly -- at least I  
6 certainly made an effort not to harass them. We flew  
7 over them once, and that was it. Next slide, please.

8 More examples of the aerial survey. Next.

9 On the bottom right, that is obviously a female  
10 bear with two cubs of year. I can tell you for the  
11 portion of the survey that I flew, that was actually  
12 quite rare. In most cases, I only saw a female with  
13 one cub of year, and we didn't really see that many  
14 yearlings. Next slide, please.

15 Just gives you an example of the different  
16 terrain. This is mostly in Manitoba, obviously. Next  
17 slide.

18 That gives you some of the complexity of what I  
19 was talking about when a bear goes into that  
20 vegetation. They can be quite easy to miss. Next  
21 slide.

22 Bear swimming. Next slide.

23 Okay. So this is the results. I guess this is  
24 quite important. In total, the observers saw 339, and  
25 then based on all of the factors that I mentioned --



1 the sightability to the distance between transects, the  
2 stratum, the vegetation, the satellite imagery -- we  
3 used that in the analysis to develop the final estimate  
4 which will hopefully be in the next slide. Keep going.

5 I guess it's final. I'll get to the final  
6 estimate. This slide is actually quite important, the  
7 litter size. So the number of cubs of year in 2011 is  
8 showing an increase in 2016, the yearlings is showing  
9 about the same number, but the proportion of total  
10 observations for cub of year is showing an increase,  
11 and it's one of the reasons in the report we explicitly  
12 state that productivity, measuring productivity was not  
13 an objective of this study. Because if you looked at  
14 that only, you could interpret that productivity was  
15 increasing, but in fact, I would that could be highly  
16 suspect because it wasn't an explicit objective. The  
17 main objective that Mitch, Marcus, and I feel  
18 comfortable with is the actual population estimate. We  
19 didn't actually measure all or have a design that was  
20 to look at litter size or look at productivity of the  
21 population. Next slide.

22 The body condition was variable across Western  
23 Hudson Bay. I didn't see any bears that were in  
24 extremely poor condition. Because I was mostly  
25 surveying near Ontario where a lot of the last ice for

1           that year remained, I saw bears in that condition in  
2           the top slide, which is, as I mentioned, some of the  
3           largest bears I had seen.

4           But, again, I don't want to give you the  
5           impression that this gives you an indication of the  
6           productivity of the population, because that would be  
7           misleading. Instead, this gives you a snapshot of the  
8           condition of the bears we observed for that year in  
9           that sample of the study period. Next slide.

10          Okay. So this is the result. This is the  
11          population estimate. So if you recall, we observed  
12          about 300 bears, and based on all of the other factors  
13          the analysis estimated about 842 bears with an error or  
14          a confidence interval of 562 to 1,121.

15          I don't really want to get into the confidence  
16          interval unless people have specific questions about  
17          it, but, essentially, it's indicating that the estimate  
18          is not absolute, it's not completely certain. We  
19          believe that's a confident estimate of the bears, and  
20          it's consistent with the Environment Canada results and  
21          also the previous survey estimate, and that's what led  
22          Marcus and the GN to conclude that the population was  
23          stable. Next slide.

24          So the previous estimate was a little over 1,000,  
25          the new estimate was 800, a little over 800, even

1        though the difference between the estimates is lower  
2        because of that -- those lines that you see above and  
3        below each point, and the uncertainty associated with  
4        each estimate, we can't actually detect if there's been  
5        that decline. So we just assume that the population is  
6        stable. Next.

7            I've pretty much gone through all of that, I  
8        guess, low densities. We again observed low densities  
9        in August, which is not surprising to any of the  
10       communities. Next slide, please.

11           One item that I didn't touch on was that, compared  
12       to other aerial surveys that have been done for  
13       Foxe Basin, for example, and even, I guess, Southern  
14       Hudson Bay the last time it was done, the cub of year  
15       and yearling variables are much lower for Western  
16       Hudson Bay. Even though it wasn't a specific objective  
17       of the study, when you compare them to other aerial  
18       surveys, Western Hudson Bay has lower values. Next  
19       slide, please.

20           So I guess this is more of, not necessarily as  
21       relevant here, but essentially some of the next steps  
22       that are required in the next survey that's done, which  
23       is to obviously collect more Inuit knowledge, consider  
24       the sea ice, because that's always mentioned, and,  
25       also, some of these trade-offs we've mentioned about

1 not doing physical mark recapture. Next slide.

2 Okay. I'm not going to mention this. Next slide.

3 That's it. Thank you for your patience and time.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, David Lee.

5 Drikus, how much time is your second presentation  
6 going to take?

7 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Our second presentation was going to be our  
9 submission to the Board, that we submitted to the  
10 Board.

11 What I would recommend in the interests of time is  
12 that we maybe skip the background because it's very  
13 similar to a lot of the information in our background  
14 that we do to design was the same as David Lee just  
15 presented. So I would suggest that in our second  
16 presentation we just go with the conclusions and our  
17 recommendations to the Board, if that's okay with you.  
18 Everybody's got access to these, so people can read the  
19 background if they want to.

20 THE CHAIR: No, that's fine, Drikus. But  
21 we'll carry on, then, with the GN until we finish the  
22 GN. Then we'll take a break and have questions after  
23 that. Thank you.

24 MS. SMITH: Thank you. I'll just read off the  
25 off the current status portion, if you want to bring

1           that up, John.

2           So current status. A new collaborative aerial  
3           survey study was conducted between the 12th and 22nd of  
4           August, 2016, to reassess the abundance of the Western  
5           Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation.

6       THE CHAIR:                   Karen.

7       MS. SMITH:                   Yes?

8       THE CHAIR:                   I just want to give people an  
9           indication where that is. So it's tab 3, I believe, in  
10          the binder so everybody can find it, tab 3.

11      MS. SMITH:                   Good.

12      THE CHAIR:                   Yeah, just give them a minute.

13           Thanks.

14      MS. SMITH:                   And just for the translators,  
15          we're just moving down through the document to the  
16          current status portion, if that helps. I'll give John  
17          a chance. Here we go.

18           So moving on to Point 2, the new subpopulation  
19          estimate was assessed at 842 bears, and as David Lee  
20          mentioned with the confidence interval, between 562 and  
21          1,121. During August of 2016, during the time of the  
22          survey, very few bears were sighted in Nunavut, with  
23          the vast majority summering in Manitoba.

24           As with the last survey, indicators of  
25          reproductive performance were poor in Western

1 Hudson Bay during 2016 when compared to any other  
2 subpopulation in the Hudson Bay complex. For example,  
3 polar bear cubs of the year and yearlings presented a  
4 small proportion of the total observations.

5 The new population estimate is lower than that of  
6 the previous aerial survey, but not significantly,  
7 since confidence intervals overlap. The current  
8 estimate is not significantly different from the 2011  
9 aerial survey estimate of 949 bears, based upon similar  
10 transect sampling methods and analysis of covariates.

11 So moving to the consultation portion. Community  
12 consultations were held with HTO representatives from  
13 Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Whale Cove, and  
14 Chesterfield Inlet between the 4th and 7th of July in  
15 2017. Also included were participants from NTI and the  
16 Kivalliq Wildlife Board. During those meetings,  
17 results from the 2016 aerial survey were discussed, in  
18 addition to the GN recommendation of no change to the  
19 current TAH of 28 bears, given the results of the  
20 study.

21 Several communities indicated their support for a  
22 fall coastal survey to assess bear distribution that  
23 could assist in presenting problem bear occurrences, as  
24 well as support for more detailed traditional knowledge  
25 study.

1           The Arviat HTO requested that polar bear tag  
2 credits be zeroed so that full allocation of tags  
3 becomes available for the polar bear harvest but also  
4 for potential polar bear problems.

5           The Government of Manitoba was provided with the  
6 2016 Western Hudson aerial survey report and notified  
7 of the GN's TAH recommendations of no change to the  
8 current TAH of 28 bears, with a recommendation to the  
9 NWMB to reset credits in the TAH.

10           The report has also been provided to ECCC and  
11 Parks Canada. Government of Manitoba and ECCC  
12 officials have been encouraged to participate in the  
13 NWMB's decision-making process and to provide any  
14 additional information, concerns, or recommendations  
15 they consider relevant in the interests of helping the  
16 Board make an informed decision.

17           So the recommendations that we provided at the  
18 September regular meeting in 2017, the DoE recommends  
19 no change to the current Western Hudson Bay total  
20 allowable harvest of 28 bears, DoE recommends a reset  
21 to the TAH by zeroing out existing polar bear tag  
22 credits so that all communities harvesting from Western  
23 Hudson Bay will be in a position to have their full  
24 allocation available to cover any harvested bears and  
25 problem bears, if necessary. So the next page.

1           So this recommendation was derived by taking  
2           various sources into consideration and by carefully  
3           evaluating additional important relevant information as  
4           follows. The GN aerial survey results of 2011 and 2016  
5           are both very similar in that they are not  
6           statistically significantly different. That means that  
7           although a decline of approximately 18 percent in the  
8           population was observed, results and comparisons of  
9           both studies indicate that the Western Hudson Bay polar  
10          bear population has remained relatively stable. The  
11          ECCC analysis indicated that the Western Hudson Bay  
12          subpopulation has remained relatively stable over the  
13          past decade, whereas the declining trend was apparent  
14          between 1987 and 2004.

15          Sea ice freeze-up and breakup patterns over the  
16          past decade have not indicated any significant trends;  
17          however, when a larger time frame from 1979 to 2012 is  
18          considered, breakup and freeze-up of sea ice has been  
19          occurring three weeks earlier and three weeks later, on  
20          average, respectively.

21          Average body condition or body mass of solitary  
22          adult female polar bears has been declining since 1980.  
23          As body condition declined over this period, so did  
24          recruitment rates or litter production. Similar  
25          observations were made during both aerial surveys where



1 both cubs of the year and yearling observations were  
2 lower as compared to any other seasonal ice-free polar  
3 bear population with available data.

4 The mean combined annual Nunavut-Manitoba removal  
5 for the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation was  
6 approximately 32 bears. That includes harvest season  
7 from 2003-2004 to 2015-2016. Manitoba in the past has  
8 retained eight tags for potential defence-of-life and  
9 property kills. The removal for the same period was  
10 2.8 bears per year.

11 DoE will continue to work with communities to  
12 ensure that public safety is maintained and bear-human  
13 interactions are minimized through a strong emphasis on  
14 polar bear deterrent efforts. DoE recommends that, as  
15 per section 5.7.6 of the NLCA, the TAH should be  
16 distributed among the communities that share the  
17 Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation as  
18 identified by the regional wildlife organization and  
19 that consideration should also be given to communities  
20 that endure a higher level of polar bears that become a  
21 risk to public safety and property.

22 DoE believes the recommendation to maintain the  
23 current TAH of 28 bears balances the best current  
24 available scientific information and Inuit observations  
25 to ensure that the harvest does not cause a

1 conservation concern for the Western Hudson Bay polar  
2 bear subpopulation over the short and long term.

3 And just an additional point as to where we are  
4 now, that the NWMB recommended an increase of six to  
5 the TAH, and this decision was accepted by the Minister  
6 of Environment.

7 Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Karen.

9 So, with that, we're going to take a 15-minute  
10 coffee break, but just so you all know, everybody's  
11 going to have an opportunity to ask questions of the  
12 Government of Nunavut. So when your turn comes, I'll  
13 let you know. All right?

14 So let's take 15 minutes for coffee.

15 (ADJOURNMENT)

16 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, everyone, for  
17 coming back. We will carry on.

18 So the next process we're going to now have is  
19 people have the opportunity to ask questions of the GN  
20 on their presentation to the Board. So first up to ask  
21 questions will be Board members. So I'll open it up to  
22 Board members for questions to the Government of  
23 Nunavut. Charlie.

24 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

25 MR. INUARAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1                   These are my questions, a few of them, to the  
2                   Department of Environment for your research survey  
3                   using, numbers, of course, when you said in August the  
4                   survey was conducted. And I'd like to know, you said  
5                   you did this survey in August, so is this the month  
6                   that it was done and completed?

7       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Charlie.

8                   Drikus or David Lee.

9       DR. LEE:                   *Qujannamiik*, Charlie.

10                  If the question was that the survey was completed  
11                  in August, yes. That's the only question I received  
12                  through interpretation.

13       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, David.

14       DR. LEE:                   It took about two weeks in  
15                  Manitoba and about three or four days in Nunavut.

16       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, David.

17                  Charlie.

18       MR. INUARAK:               Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19                  Good answer. Towards the fall time, perhaps, this  
20                  survey, what was the duration of the survey towards the  
21                  fall? Beginning at what month? Can you identify? How  
22                  long was the survey, or was it a year-long survey, or  
23                  was it a number of months? That's what I want to know.

24       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Charlie.

25                  David.

1 DR. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Thank you, Charlie. So, again, I apologize if I  
3 didn't understand your question.

4 There was no survey conducted in the fall. HTOs  
5 have requested a survey. The Manitoba government does  
6 conduct a survey in the fall, and I think it typically  
7 takes about one week, although I am not familiar with  
8 their survey. Nick may be more familiar with it.

9 But to answer your question, all of these surveys  
10 are very short -- like, days. They're not long  
11 surveys. They happen over a short period of time, and  
12 so they're not comparable to Inuit *qaujimajatuqangit*  
13 which obviously is observations over the whole year.  
14 And that's why I think one of the things that the  
15 government is looking into is more IQ and more --  
16 potentially a survey in the fall comparable to the one  
17 Manitoba does. This survey wasn't done in the fall.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David Lee.

19 Charlie.

20 MR. INUARAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Thank you for your answer, and I thought I would  
22 hear perhaps difference compared to IQ. I thought I  
23 would hear different compared to IQ. I wanted to  
24 clarify this before we start.

25 My other question; you said background, your

1 researcher survey. So how long after from that  
2 beginning? You are comparing 2011 and 2016 and said  
3 there wasn't much difference, not much change in the  
4 numbers. So the polar bears -- and I grew up with  
5 polar bear hunters. Fall time was the season to hunt  
6 polar bears, but it changed from year to year. Some  
7 years there was a huge population in bears. Other  
8 years there wasn't as much. This fluctuated, so  
9 perhaps it may be different, or it could be the same as  
10 to what your presentation.

11 According to your survey, because you are  
12 researchers, I'd like to know when do they wander more  
13 on the land, and when do they go to their huts, and  
14 when would do they mate? Those are indicators that  
15 reveal true nature, and this is what we want to take  
16 out of this meeting, hearing.

17 So according to your research, are they in danger,  
18 would you say? Are they dwindling in numbers? Are  
19 they safe, according to your research?

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.

22 David Lee.

23 DR. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Thank you, Charlie. Again, there are lots of  
25 questions in there so, with respect -- I agree with you

1 completely, Charlie. With respect to the biology, when  
2 they're going to dens, the condition of the bears, the  
3 fluctuation and their population size from year to  
4 year, that information is very important. And I would  
5 defer a lot of that either to Drikus or to Nick Lunn,  
6 who is the researcher for Environment Canada that has  
7 looked at that, has studied that for the past over two  
8 decades, maybe three decades in Wapusk, Manitoba, where  
9 and those females den.

10 I can't speak to that. I'm not -- except for this  
11 most recent aerial survey, all that I did was count the  
12 number of bears on those lines, so I can't provide you  
13 with that specific information.

14 But one thing that I can mention is that Western  
15 Hudson Bay is a unique population, in my opinion,  
16 because of the army base that was established in  
17 Churchill, the community there, ecotourism.

18 And, also, there's more information to be provided  
19 by the Elders from Arviat. That's where I gained the  
20 most amount of information, Elders such as  
21 Ollie Ittinuar, who were special constables. And they  
22 always said when they were growing up in Western  
23 Hudson Bay they rarely came across bears. Then they  
24 increased, and there was a peak -- at least, there  
25 appears to have reached a peak and then declined

1 slightly. And that's what Environment Canada detected  
2 was a slight decline.

3 And now based on just these two aerial surveys  
4 and, in part, some of the Environment Canada studies,  
5 they appear to be stable right now. I can't predict  
6 what it will be like in the future. I don't know.

7 *Qujannamiik.*

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David Lee. Drikus,  
9 would you like to add to that?

10 I just want to mention to Charlie, we are going to  
11 have Environment Canada give a presentation very soon.  
12 In fact, we're going to move it up to the next  
13 presentation.

14 But Drikus, if you would add -- and you will.

15 DR. LUNN: Tomorrow? Will we give our  
16 presentation tomorrow?

17 THE CHAIR: I was going to move you, talk to  
18 you and maybe move you up right after, right next, if  
19 you're ready or not.

20 DR. LUNN: We're probably not right ready.

21 THE CHAIR: Okay.

22 DR. LUNN: But we can have that discussion.

23 THE CHAIR: We'll have that discussion.

24 Anyway, Drikus, go ahead.

25 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1           Yeah, I don't really have a lot to add to what  
2           David just said. That's also our government position  
3           when it comes to the Western Hudson Bay that we believe  
4           the population over the short-term, looking at the two  
5           aerial surveys, the one that was conducted in 2011 and  
6           then the one in 2016, that because of the overlap in  
7           confidence levels, the population seems to be still  
8           stable. And that's our position at this time is that  
9           we believe.

10           But as David mentioned, we don't know what's going  
11           to happen over the long term, and the Government of  
12           Nunavut is committed to continue to monitor this  
13           population on a frequent basis. And if we detect that  
14           there's a conservation concern or that the harvesting  
15           might be creating a conservation concern, that we will  
16           adjust or bring forward to the Board adjusted total  
17           allowable harvest recommendations.

18           So, at this time, we believe it's stable.

19           THE CHAIR:                    Okay. Thank you, Drikus.

20           Good, Charlie? David K.

21           MR. KRITTERDLIK:            Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
22           going to speak in English to be more understandable.

23           In the presentation, population survey, there was  
24           a mention or something that says there's a disagreement  
25           between scientific and IQ. And what we've been -- I



1           guess the majority of us have been trying to neutralize  
2           that, the big difference between IQ and scientific  
3           technical information. And, to date, all the  
4           management plans are leaning towards scientific and  
5           technical information. We are going by that, a  
6           management plan that is leaning towards one side rather  
7           than IQ information.

8                     And I think, as the Board for the whole of  
9           Nunavut, that any organization that deals in Nunavut is  
10          trying to neutralize the difference between scientific  
11          technology and IQ. Even both of our governments,  
12          federal and territorial, are trying to recognize that.

13                    But the management plans are not, and we got to  
14          keep working on that, because during the information,  
15          we heard that there's no sign of decline in polar bear  
16          population. On another page it says there's a note  
17          that says 18 percent decline in the population, and  
18          what Drikus was just saying was that the population is  
19          stable.

20                    That's where local questions come up. How do we  
21          know? How do we know? There are different groups of  
22          polar bear populations in this area. Those are the  
23          kinds of things that Inuit want to know. We want to  
24          work with -- they want to work with scientific and  
25          technical knowledge, along with their IQ, but it

1 takes -- it's kind of hard more for the Elders to  
2 understand the technology that's being used to manage  
3 our wildlife or environment. And the Board, I'm sure,  
4 we want to neutralize everything whenever we have to  
5 make a decision on issues in regard to wildlife.

6 And I guess one thing that I wanted to mention is  
7 that Charlie was asking, how long was the scientific  
8 study, or how long did the survey take? And we heard  
9 one month, in August, probably ten days, more days in  
10 Manitoba, four days in Nunavut. Those are the kind of  
11 things that we're dealing with, the harvesters in  
12 Kivalliq. And we're trying to equalize or somehow  
13 trying to equalize the knowledge to come up with an  
14 acceptable management plan.

15 But the information that we get from our survey  
16 which was done in one month in ten days is what's  
17 making up the management plan. Why not look at the  
18 information that we get, the IQ information that we get  
19 from the communities on the western coast of Hudson Bay  
20 12 months of the year, not only a month or ten days?  
21 That's something that the Board has been looking at.

22 We're trying to make decisions on the information  
23 that we are getting from our government, our  
24 communities, our co-managers. And that's something  
25 that a majority of the communities in Nunavut have been

1           saying: Look, we got this information. Why don't we  
2           add that into our management plan? Those are the kind  
3           of questions that we have and for the information that  
4           we have.

5                   And the recommendation right now from GN is that  
6           total allowable harvest remains at 28, and that is  
7           leaning strongly on the scientific information,  
8           technology information, and there's a lot more coming  
9           from the communities or IQ.

10                  Thank you.

11       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you very much, David, for  
12           those comments. I didn't really hear a question, but  
13           it's very good information.

14                  Environment, would you like to comment? If not,  
15           we'll move on.

16                  Drikus?

17       MR. GISSING:                I could just -- maybe I should  
18           make a comment on that. I think we're all struggling  
19           with it. The Board, as well as the Government of  
20           Nunavut, made a commitment to incorporate traditional  
21           knowledge in decision-making.

22                  And, true, our submission to the Board was purely  
23           based on the scientific information, and as I mentioned  
24           earlier, in 2011 there was an aerial survey that  
25           identified a population estimate of 1,030, and the 2016

1           one identified a population of 842. So it does  
2           indicate -- if you just look at those two numbers, it  
3           shows a decline, but if you look at the confidence  
4           levels -- and, again, it's from a scientific point of  
5           view. And it's very challenging, as mentioned, to  
6           explain this to Elders.

7           But based on the confidence, overlap in confidence  
8           levels, there is still overlap. So at this time it's  
9           very difficult to say the population is definitely  
10          declining. So that's why I mentioned that the  
11          government position is that it's stable. And this is  
12          true. This is just on scientific information.

13          As we've mentioned before, the Board made a  
14          decision that incorporated, I believe, traditional  
15          knowledge that was collected during your regular  
16          meeting, and that was submitted to the minister. And  
17          in our internal deliberations, we did take into account  
18          the traditional knowledge that was collected during  
19          your regular meeting and as part of our community  
20          consultations, and that was the reason for accepting  
21          the Board decision.

22          THE CHAIR:                               Okay. Thank you, Drikus.

23                       Caleb.

24          MR. SANGOYA:                           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25                       In the beginning when we're having a hearing here,

1 the only person I recognize is Jackie Napayok. The  
2 rest of them from Arviat, Whale Cove, Chester, they're  
3 all new to me.

4 In the past, Mr. Chairman, when we were here in  
5 Rankin, the Inuit traditional knowledge during the  
6 hearing, whether that could be included, is what we  
7 wanted to see with respect to polar bears and their  
8 food, the sea mammals, the things that were discussed  
9 here. The Elders that were here, Henry Kaunak  
10 (phonetic) and Joe Karetek from the '60s. There used  
11 to be a lot of seals around here. Right now the polar  
12 bear, when there is a quota system, the seals are being  
13 eaten by polar bears, and there are more polar bears  
14 now that are being born, and then the seals were in  
15 decline by the polar bears.

16 Following the Inuit traditional knowledge, when we  
17 first had a hearing here with respect to the polar  
18 bears, the scientific studies, whether that could be  
19 included in the report is what we wanted to see. I  
20 know NTI and the government's recommendation, the seal  
21 population is not being included, and why is that? If  
22 it's not included, we're not including their food,  
23 we're only hearing a portion of it. And it seems like  
24 only what we've seen is what they're reporting on.

25 I really would like to see more studies done with

1           respect to the decline on seals by polar bears or what  
2           was the cause. Is it more hunters harvesting seals, or  
3           is it because of the polar bear population? If we're  
4           discussing polar bears, you have to include their food  
5           and what they're eating. I wanted to see that. I  
6           expected to see that. What Inuit want to see, what  
7           they want to hear, are they not important? This is  
8           where they live, and the researchers are only here for  
9           two or three days, but these people live here, and they  
10          would like to see those included in the studies.

11                 My question to David or Drikus.

12         THE CHAIR:                     Thank you, Caleb.

13                 Drikus.

14         MR. GISSING:                 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15                 Yeah, we made a commitment to continue to do  
16                 traditional knowledge studies, and we are still  
17                 committed to doing that.

18                 The problem we encounter when it comes to  
19                 traditional knowledge studies is that we have to do it  
20                 for a lot of populations in Nunavut. So what we're  
21                 trying to do is, every time we do a scientific study,  
22                 we try to do jointly with that -- when we do a  
23                 scientific study, we try to do a traditional knowledge  
24                 study at the same time so to be able to bring forward  
25                 information to the Board at the same time.

1           In Western Hudson Bay we know that there was  
2           previous traditional knowledge studies, and as part of  
3           our consultations and as per this hearing, and I'm sure  
4           at your regular meeting, the information has been  
5           consistent that we receive from the communities that  
6           the traditional knowledge people believe there's more  
7           bears, there's more bear-human conflict in the  
8           communities and that people do not believe the  
9           population is in decline. So that's the traditional  
10          knowledge that we've collected over time. But NTI  
11          might be able to provide more of that information to  
12          you.

13          When it comes to long-term studies, again it's  
14          very challenging because we have to do all the  
15          populations in Nunavut. We can't just focus all our  
16          time on one population. But I believe Environment  
17          Canada, maybe Nick during his presentation, will be  
18          able to explain the work that they're doing in the  
19          Western Hudson Bay. This is one of the populations  
20          that have been studied the longest, and Environment  
21          Canada has had a long-term monitoring program in the  
22          Western Hudson Bay that's been stretching over many,  
23          many years that's been able to identify trends over  
24          time on issues like condition and more focussing on the  
25          ecosystem, is my understanding. And I think a lot of

1           that information might be useful to the Board as well  
2           when Environment Canada presents their information.

3           I hope that I'm on the right track.

4   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Drikus.

5           And I do think what Caleb was getting at, too, is  
6           the food source of the polar bear and the population of  
7           seals and how you could work collaboratively with DFO  
8           or whoever's mandate it is to study seals and see if  
9           that has an effect on polar bears, too, since it's  
10          their food source.

11   MR. GISSING:                Again, it's capacity. You know,  
12          in Nunavut we have not looked at that. That's looking  
13          at more long-term ecological studies, and because of  
14          all the pressures, we have to prioritize where we put  
15          our money and time. And, at this time, a lot of our  
16          scientific focus is on population inventories for polar  
17          bears and caribou and those things.

18          But we are looking at different models where we're  
19          working with academia. We are starting that for  
20          caribou, and hopefully that can be expanded into other  
21          species over time to expand our capacity, but at this  
22          time, we just don't have that capacity.

23          But where there is opportunities for collaboration  
24          like you mentioned with DFO, if we are aware of them  
25          doing studies in an area on polar bears or the



1           ecosystem, like looking at the seal populations, our  
2           biologists definitely try and collaborate with them.

3       THE CHAIR:                       Thank you, Drikus.

4           Caleb.

5       MR. SANGOYA:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6           My question was Inuit traditional knowledge that  
7           were being discussed here during the first hearing, is  
8           NTI not holding the Inuit traditional knowledge? With  
9           NTI or the government, it's not written here, so it's  
10          not included. So if it's like that, Inuit traditional  
11          knowledge, if it's not being included with respect to  
12          polar bears, there's always going to be a problem.  
13          They always say there's going to be a decline, but we  
14          do know, because their food source is declining, they  
15          move to a different area, and then they go into the  
16          communities. If there's food out there, they would not  
17          come into the communities.

18          So my question: Is Inuit traditional knowledge  
19          not important enough? And it's not written in the  
20          agenda or recommendation.

21       THE CHAIR:                       Thank you, Caleb.

22               Drikus, you can defer this to somebody if you  
23          want.

24       MR. GISSING:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25               I would hope that NTI would be able to answer that

1           because I know that they did a traditional knowledge  
2           study on the Western Hudson Bay. We as a government  
3           did not do one in the last number of years. But I hope  
4           NTI has a response to that.

5       THE CHAIR:                       Paul, go ahead.

6       MR. IRNGAUT:                    Thank you.

7           Thank you, Caleb, for your question. Nunavut  
8           Tunngavik's position is we do use Inuit traditional  
9           knowledge, and we believe it needs to be used.

10          The organizations, the HTOs and the regional  
11          wildlife organizations, what they would like to see, we  
12          are always in support of them. When I report later, I  
13          will include IQ. Briefly, however, I can say to you  
14          right now that we believe Inuit traditional knowledge  
15          is very important.

16       THE CHAIR:                       Thank you, Paul.

17          Any other questions from Board members? Jorgen  
18          and then -- Attima, go ahead.

19       MR. HADLARI:                    Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20          I don't have a question, more of a comment. From  
21          the Nunavut government and the federal government and  
22          NTI, that researchers are here, and the Inuit that were  
23          included when they were doing research, I would like to  
24          hear from them, and they're not here, so we're only  
25          hearing one side. I'm not happy with that, but that's

1           where we are right now I know if we hear Inuit  
2           traditional knowledge. But when they're not here, we  
3           can't hear from them.

4           Thank you.

5       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Attima. Good point.  
6           Jorgen.

7       MR. BOLT:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8           Just a couple questions. In your presentation  
9           there, Mr. Lee, you got a couple photos here, a photo  
10          of a bear in the trees there, its challenges there or  
11          something like that. How far inland is that photo  
12          taken? How far inland?

13          And another question is, what percentage of trees  
14          are obstructing your view -- what percentage of your  
15          surveys are in the trees, tidal flats, open barren  
16          ground? I'd just like to know what percentage of what  
17          you call, I guess, rogue vegetation, if you will, that  
18          will not help you see the bears? What percentage of  
19          time are you in the tree line? And I'd just like to  
20          know how far that photo was in there.

21          Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Jorgen.

23          David Lee.

24       DR. LEE:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25          Thank you, Jorgen. For that specific photo, I

1           can't give you an exact estimate, but I can tell you  
2           that, for the portion that I covered in Manitoba, you  
3           can encounter that type of vegetation or trees  
4           obstructing your view as soon as one kilometre to two  
5           kilometres inland. So that's why it's very vital for  
6           the timing to make sure that we are capturing most of  
7           the bears as soon as they hit the coast.

8           And the behaviour of the bears in that area is  
9           that most of the males, as you saw in the photos, are  
10          actually along the coast, and it's primarily the  
11          females that are moving inland. And we were very  
12          fortunate that, through the satellite telemetry and the  
13          timing, that we captured most of those females on the  
14          coast as they were moving inland. So that's how we  
15          were able to get around that problem, some of it, but  
16          not all of it.

17          Certainly, there were females inland, and we  
18          didn't see them all. It's for certain, and that's why  
19          we tried to account for it using a number of different  
20          methods. One was to decrease the actual distance that  
21          you saw bears on each side.

22          So on the coast, the visibility could extend out  
23          to two kilometres, whereas once we headed inland, we  
24          only estimated the number of bears what we consider the  
25          effective strip width to about 800 metres, so much

1 closer to the helicopter, to make sure that we were not  
2 making that assumption for bears that were in covered  
3 areas.

4 There's still problems because there are still  
5 trees underneath us, and certainly bears could have  
6 been hiding -- our view could have been obstructed. So  
7 it is an issue, but we did the best we can. And the  
8 fact that the estimate is still close to the previous  
9 estimate gave Marcus and Mitch and me some confidence  
10 in the estimate, but that's why there's some  
11 uncertainty with it.

12 Thanks.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David Lee.

14 Any other questions from the Board? David, go  
15 ahead.

16 MR. KRITTERDLIK: Thank you.

17 I just want to make a short question. There was a  
18 mention of Manitoba survey, and I'm just wondering what  
19 the purpose of that survey was for.

20 Thank you.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

22 Drikus.

23 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 I'm going to have to ask David if he wouldn't mind  
25 answering this question. I'm not too familiar. I know

1           they do a coastal survey every year, and I suppose it's  
2           just to pick up trends, but David might have a better  
3           answer.

4       THE CHAIR:                       Go ahead, David.

5       DR. LEE:                         I'm going to apologize and  
6           actually defer to Nick.

7       THE CHAIR:                       Okay. Nick, go ahead.

8       DR. LUNN:                        Yeah, thank you.

9           The purpose of the Manitoba survey, as Drikus  
10          said, it's just to get a trend of bears along the  
11          coast. It's typically flown the very beginning of  
12          September, just the coastal area from the Manitoba-  
13          Ontario border up to the Nunavut-Manitoba border. So  
14          it's just to get a count of how many bears they see.  
15          And that gives them an indication of number of bears  
16          that they might encounter in town later on, so from  
17          their problem bear program.

18          Their survey isn't to get an estimate of numbers  
19          of bears. It's not to say there are 'X' number of  
20          bears in Western Hudson Bay. It's just to get an idea  
21          from year to year how many bears are they seeing and  
22          what might they expect in October and November in  
23          Churchill for problem bears.

24       THE CHAIR:                       Thank you, Nick.

25                 Charlie.

1 MR. INUARAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 My other question: When you did your survey with  
3 helicopters and airplane, whether you can say the polar  
4 bears, when they're moving from one area to another --  
5 how many hours a day did you do your survey daily?

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.

7 David Lee.

8 DR. LEE: Thank you, Dan. Thank you,  
9 Charlie.

10 So typically we would try to get in the air by  
11 8 a.m. each morning, and we could survey until about  
12 4 p.m., not too much past 4. I can't remember the  
13 exact times, but we wanted to make sure that the light  
14 conditions were not too low that would have affected  
15 the visibility, if that was the question. So if you  
16 count the hours, about eight to nine hours per day.

17 *Qujannamiik.*

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

19 Charlie.

20 MR. INUARAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Thank you for that answer. The hunters that are  
22 out hunting for polar bear, they go really early in the  
23 morning because they're wanting to harvest a polar bear  
24 as soon as it gets bright out as soon as they could  
25 see. And then late at night I know they always look at

1           their watches, and they're walking because they know.  
2           I know the surveys that you've done, if you could  
3           utilize Inuit, I would prefer that during the survey  
4           they are included.

5                   And when we're talking about numbers, whether it's  
6           in decline or if they're stable, when you're following  
7           the polar bears' movements all day, you could see them  
8           all day. And at night I know the males, they sleep  
9           during the day, they don't walk during the day, the big  
10          males. They are nocturnal, more nocturnal, trying to  
11          find a mate. During the day -- they are up during the  
12          daylight hours, but during non-mating season, they  
13          sleep more during the day.

14                   My other question: When you're doing your survey  
15          and you give the results to Environment Canada and  
16          they're going to decide, we would like to see more  
17          relevant information from the government so we could  
18          make decisions properly, because it is expensive when  
19          we have a meeting in Nunavut, and we cannot make  
20          decisions with faulty information.

21                   I know the Nunavut government, they do community  
22          visits, and they learn more and more about wildlife and  
23          most polar bears and caribou. I know if you asked the  
24          minister to do more with respect to surveys, it would  
25          not only be used by the government but used by



1           everybody else.

2           I would like to see that more often, Mr. Chairman.

3   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Charlie.

4           Drikus, would you like to make some comments?

5   MR. GISSING:                Not really. I thought it was more  
6       of a statement.

7   THE CHAIR:                Yeah. Okay. There's no more --  
8       oh, Jorgen, go ahead.

9   MR. BOLT:                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10           Just a quick question. You mentioned some islands  
11       there on your surveys. What did you find? When you  
12       said you were also told to be looking for bears in the  
13       water, what percentage of the total of your survey, how  
14       many bears did you see in the water and on the islands  
15       there?

16           Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17   THE CHAIR:                Thank you, Jorgen.

18           David Lee.

19   DR. LEE:                  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20           Thank you, Jorgen.

21           So we can't deviate too much from the transect  
22       lines, but to address the HTOs' concerns to include  
23       islands, whenever we could, we extended the line into  
24       Hudson Bay to at least reach islands, and, also, we  
25       extended into Hudson Bay over water. So that

1 previously wasn't done in other surveys.

2 And with respect to your other question about how  
3 many bears we saw in the water, I didn't see that many.  
4 And I'm not familiar with all of the observations in  
5 the other helicopter, but I don't think there were that  
6 many observations.

7 And I'll just respond to Charlie's comment because  
8 it speaks to what Jorgen just asked. I completely  
9 agree with Charlie. I mean, I work for NTI, so this is  
10 my own opinion. It's very difficult for me actually  
11 respond to Charlie because I consider him one of the  
12 most knowledgeable hunters and Elders. So I've been  
13 with Charlie out on the land, and I know everything  
14 he's saying is accurate. So I agree. I can't contest  
15 anything that you're saying, Charlie.

16 I know the GN has their own way of doing studies,  
17 and one of the reasons I was involved in the survey was  
18 to make sure that Inuit were involved in the survey,  
19 and, thankfully, the GN has tried to involve as many  
20 Inuit. I know it's not perfect. They're still only  
21 observers, and it's still a scientific method, but  
22 there's been improvement since I've started working  
23 with the GN on those issues.

24 And I guess the last item I'd mention specifically  
25 on that point is we had Leo Ikakhik in the survey

1 plane, and there was one island near Arviat. I'm sure  
 2 the Inuit from Arviat know that there are bears always  
 3 on that island during summer. And we didn't  
 4 actually -- it wasn't included in the transect, but Leo  
 5 insisted we survey that island. So we deviated off the  
 6 transect line, and we made a new transect to cover that  
 7 island, and we saw many bears on that island. So it  
 8 just reaffirms Inuit knowledge.

9 *Qujannamiik.*

10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

11 Okay. No other questions.

12 Is there any questions from the staff of NWMB?

13 Vickie.

14 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD STAFF QUESTIONS AND**  
 15 **COMMENTS**

16 MS. SAHANATIEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a  
 17 couple of questions.

18 The first one, if we can go back to the slide  
 19 presentation of this morning that was a community  
 20 consultation, the slide presentation, and there was one  
 21 slide right at the end that we didn't get a chance to  
 22 look at, and it was about the polar bear-human conflict  
 23 numbers. Keep going. There. And if someone from DoE  
 24 could just run us through that, that would be helpful.  
 25 That provides additional context about public safety

1 concerns.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Vickie.

4 Drikus.

5 MR. GISSING: Mr. Chair.

6 I haven't looked at that slide. Is there any  
7 specific questions that Vickie might have on that  
8 slide? I know she requested it from our polar  
9 deterrence specialist, and that's the information he  
10 provided as it relates to polar bear-community conflict  
11 in a community. Is there any specific questions?

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

13 Vickie.

14 MS. SAHANATIEN: No specific questions. I just  
15 wanted you to run over it and explain the numbers to  
16 the audience. I think it's important contextual  
17 information.

18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Vickie.

20 Drikus.

21 MR. GISSING: Well, I think people can read it,  
22 but I could read it for them if they want. But, you  
23 know, it's just the deterrent actions by WWF funded on  
24 polar bears, and it's the numbers of bears encountered  
25 by year, and as you could see, it fluctuates between

1        years and years. And, you know, 2014 there was 248;  
2        2015, 90; 2016, 205. And -- but I just need to  
3        caution -- I would like to caution people about the  
4        numbers of bear-human conflict numbers.

5                And we've looked at this across Nunavut over the  
6        years, and Vickie was in that position herself before,  
7        and the statistics on collection of bear-human conflict  
8        in communities are not always done by the same  
9        individuals on a statistical manner. And I think we  
10       need to be careful making conclusions based on the  
11       numbers. And they fluctuate over years to years.

12               In Arviat, however, I must say it's been done  
13       consistently. It's been done by WWF. And we have the  
14       same conservation officers, so it's been collected  
15       statistically accurate, I would say, over time. But it  
16       fluctuates. Like, this year. We don't have the  
17       numbers for last year, but I know that this last fall  
18       the numbers are way down compared to previous years  
19       because we had early freeze-up. So it fluctuates based  
20       on freeze-up as well.

21               So some years when there's late freeze-up -- and  
22       Arviat just happened to be on the coast line, and it  
23       happens to be on a migration route of polar bears.  
24       There's always going to be polar bears in that  
25       community because polar bears move up the coast, as you

1 know, to look for ice. And if it freezes up early,  
2 they will get onto ice before they get to Arviat or  
3 Rankin or Whale Cove.

4 So I don't think I can make any conclusions from  
5 those statistics that you read there. Some years it's  
6 up, some years it's down, and I think that's consistent  
7 in all the communities in Nunavut from the statistics  
8 that I've looked at.

9 And again, Vickie, you are much more familiar with  
10 bear-human conflict based on the work you did for us  
11 when you worked for us. So maybe you can take some  
12 conclusions from it, but I can't.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.  
14 Vickie.

15 MS. SAHANATIEN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Thank you, Drikus. I think it's an important  
17 contextual piece there to understand the level of  
18 interaction that can happen in communities with the  
19 polar bears. And I'm assuming this is primarily Arviat  
20 information. And there are other communities that have  
21 issues as well.

22 So just an additional piece that I think is  
23 important because a number of the submissions and also  
24 comments at our regular meeting from Kivalliq Wildlife  
25 Board was that public safety was a very important

1 concern for people in the communities, and I think it's  
2 important that we know the level, the potential level  
3 and index of activity.

4 If I may ask another question. This one is to  
5 clarify just for our information as well. So when  
6 Karen was going over the briefing note and the updating  
7 of the status of the information and then also your  
8 recommendations, in the recommendations you stated that  
9 you are recommending a total allowable harvest of 28  
10 bears, and I just wanted to recognize the current level  
11 is 34 based on our decision in December.

12 So just so we all understand why you would be  
13 recommending, I guess, at this time to return back to  
14 28 -- is that what you're doing? You're recognizing  
15 that it was. And just to clarify that are for us, and,  
16 I guess, any other information that would help us  
17 understand that.

18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Vickie.

20 Drikus.

21 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 Yeah, that's what makes this public hearing so  
23 challenging is that we're having a public hearing after  
24 decision was made, and the minister considered all  
25 available information when the Board -- including

1           recommendations from the Board and why the Board  
2           recommended that increase to 34, and the minister  
3           accepted it.

4                   And per response from the minister back to the  
5           Board is that, unless the Board comes back with a new  
6           recommendation after this meeting, that that number  
7           will sit until the new population inventory or the  
8           Board makes a new decision. So we are not recommending  
9           a change to the increase to 34.

10       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Drikus, for that  
11           clarification.

12                   Vickie.

13       MS. SAHANATIEN:           Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14                   Thank you, Drikus. And just one additional  
15           question. Again, this is more of a contextual-type  
16           question based on the presentation about the survey  
17           results.

18                   So we can see that the cubs of the year, there was  
19           a proportion, a number given, the mean cub numbers that  
20           you observed during the surveys and past surveys and  
21           then also the numbers of yearlings that were observed  
22           in the 2016 survey and past surveys. And it appears  
23           that the recruitment isn't so great into the yearling,  
24           and it doesn't appear that we have numbers of  
25           recruitment into the adults because of the type of



1 survey that's being used.

2 I'm just wondering if we should have any concerns  
3 about the low level of recruitment in Western Hudson  
4 Bay compared to the other subpopulation numbers that  
5 were provided.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Vickie.

8 David Lee.

9 DR. LEE: I know that's a very valid  
10 concern, Vickie. Unfortunately, I'm not a polar bear  
11 biologist, so unfortunately, I think that response  
12 really needs to come from Marcus or perhaps Drikus.

13 But what I can say is what I mentioned in the  
14 presentation; specific to this study, the objective was  
15 not to look at the reproduction capacity or the  
16 productivity of this population. I assume other  
17 parties -- perhaps Environment Canada -- will present  
18 that information. But appreciating that that  
19 information is available, I'll repeat that, compared to  
20 other populations, it shows lower values when it comes  
21 to reproductive capacity or productivity.

22 Thanks.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

24 Drikus, additional statement.

25 MR. GISSING: I'd just like to add. I agree

1 with everything David said, but to add to that, as  
2 David mentioned, that was not the objective of the  
3 study. It was aerial survey, and it does not identify  
4 survival rates. To come up with accurate survival  
5 rates, as you know, you need to look at mark recapture  
6 projects and long-term projects, not just a single-year  
7 project. And maybe Environment Canada presentation, I  
8 assume, would touch on that when they give it today or  
9 tomorrow.

10 We have -- in previous surveys -- one thing that  
11 we picked up from previous surveys was that -- and one  
12 that comes to mind is a recent one in Baffin Bay where  
13 we did a biopsy darting over three years. And in some  
14 years they had the same observations was very few  
15 recruitment, just from the air, just from physical  
16 observations like David and them made. And then the  
17 next year there was better ice conditions, and then  
18 there was a lot of cubs again.

19 And there was -- and, as you know, the results  
20 from the Baffin Bay is likely one of the -- currently  
21 one of the most productive populations. But in the one  
22 year they had the same observation. And I think we  
23 need to be careful by making conclusions just based on  
24 physical observations from the air.

25 And that's one of the reasons why I think the

1 Board may -- and I don't want to speak for the Board --  
2 but why GN was conservative in our recommendation to  
3 the Board in maintaining their harvest level, and why  
4 we -- where we supported a conservative increase in  
5 harvest that would not result in a major conservation  
6 concern over the short term is because we do not have  
7 those survival rates. And aerial surveys will not give  
8 it to us. But by doing the aerial surveys more  
9 frequently, as we are planning, -- we only have done  
10 two now, and we are planning to do these on an every-  
11 five-year basis -- we hopefully over time will pick up  
12 a trend that populations are increasing and declining,  
13 and we would be able to make much more informed  
14 management decisions based on that.

15 But, at the same time, we're very fortunate in  
16 Western Hudson Bay that there is a long-term study  
17 conducted by Environment Canada that does look at  
18 survival rates.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

20 Vickie.

21 MS. SAHANATIEN: Yes, thank you, Drikus.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And those are all the  
23 questions we have.

24 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Vickie. Our  
25 last for the NWMB is our legal counsel. Michael, any

1 questions? No. All right. Thank you very much to the  
2 Board and for your questions.

3 Next on the list for questions to the GN is NTI.

4 Any questions, Paul or David?

5 **NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

6 MR. IRNGAUT: As you know, I'm kind of in  
7 between right now, so if I ask a question, I'm damned  
8 if I do and I'm damned if I don't.

9 I guess my only question is, as you know, GN is a  
10 public government. It should represent both non-Inuit  
11 and Inuit, and that should reflect in their surveys  
12 that they do, in their reports. I know they try hard  
13 to have Inuit observers on board when they do their  
14 surveys, but that's just a small portion of the survey  
15 or the results that they come up with.

16 So with the methods that they use, it's mostly  
17 scientific methods that they use. So I guess just a  
18 comment that it's very hard to support their findings  
19 when they only take one side.

20 As David said earlier, you guys have to make a  
21 decision. I don't know -- and this is strictly coming  
22 off from my own thoughts -- is that maybe we need to  
23 look at it differently, of course, get the scientific  
24 method used, but at the same time have the Inuit method  
25 being used. And I know David tried that during their

1 surveys, going off the transect and everything, and  
2 looking at the islands, too.

3 But when it comes to the final report, it's always  
4 scientific information that's spun out. Even though  
5 it's a public government, maybe we need to have a  
6 better look at this method that they use. I know it's  
7 hard for the government because they have to look at  
8 both sides too.

9 So I guess my question is: With only scientific  
10 information that they're relying on, why just 28?  
11 Looking at 28 TAH? That's strictly science-based  
12 recommendation from GN. Is that right?

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.  
14 Drikus.

15 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 First, I am -- yes, the recommendation to the  
17 Board of 28 was purely based on the results of the  
18 survey, because we as the GN did not conduct a  
19 traditional knowledge study at the time for the  
20 population, so we did not have traditional knowledge  
21 that we could bring to the Board.

22 However, we did do community consultations, and  
23 part of the community consultations we did provide the  
24 Board with the consultation record that identified the  
25 information collected during the community

1 consultations. But the community consultations was  
2 quite rushed before this meeting. As you know, there  
3 was quite an urgency for making this decision.

4 So we anticipated that the Board would use the  
5 information we provided in our consultation record as  
6 well as collect information during the regular meeting,  
7 and we thought that you might have a public hearing  
8 like you're doing now to collect more traditional  
9 knowledge which, again, traditional knowledge from my  
10 perspective and the government's perspective is not  
11 necessarily just traditional knowledge IQ report. It's  
12 also traditional knowledge shared by Elders and hunters  
13 during these meetings.

14 So when the Board made a decision based on our  
15 recommendation and submitted it to the minister, and  
16 you identified in that, you know, you considered the  
17 information they collected during your regular meeting,  
18 including public safety and all the other concerns,  
19 that the minister considered that information and  
20 accepted the Board decision.

21 So I would argue and disagree a little bit with  
22 our co-management partner NTI that we do consider  
23 traditional knowledge. If we didn't consider it, we  
24 would not have accepted a Board decision. That's one  
25 part of it.

1           But, also, as David identified, when we do our  
2           scientific studies now, in the design of the studies we  
3           consult in advance of doing the studies. So we collect  
4           traditional knowledge and hunter information in the  
5           design of all our studies now, and we make sure that we  
6           have HTO representatives on all our aircraft and  
7           collaborating on all our studies, if it's polar bears  
8           or caribou or any studies.

9           I think -- and Paul and I had a quick chat earlier  
10          on, and I think an oversight we made as a government at  
11          this public hearing -- and maybe the Board, as well,  
12          and the regional Inuit organization and HTOs -- is that  
13          we did not invite those observers that were on the  
14          aircraft to this meeting. It would have been really  
15          good if they were at this meeting to share their  
16          information. Because you as the Board is hearing  
17          information from David, who was the lead on the  
18          aircraft, but there was a number of Inuit on those  
19          aircraft and hunters on those aircraft, and it would be  
20          good, maybe, for public hearings in the future that we  
21          bring those observers to your meeting so they could  
22          share their observations during the surveys well.

23          So, in short, I believe we as a government take  
24          traditional knowledge serious, and that's why there's  
25          such, I think, at a national, international level where

1 people do not understand traditional knowledge and the  
2 value of traditional knowledge and incorporating Inuit  
3 observations in our decision-making process, concerns  
4 about decisions Board make, there's a lot of concerns  
5 about this decision that the minister accept it. And  
6 again, it's because I think a misunderstanding or not  
7 appreciation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and  
8 that we have to incorporate traditional knowledge, and  
9 I believe we do. That's my opinion.

10 Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

12 Paul.

13 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 And thanks, Drikus, for your comments.

15 I do believe -- and thanks, David -- for reminding  
16 me that there might be some people here in town that  
17 were on the survey that we could bring in later today.  
18 There might be a couple people that were on the survey.  
19 So we'll try and contact them later today to see if  
20 they can come to the meeting and give you insight into  
21 what they observed.

22 The minister, well, he accepted your  
23 recommendation or your decision of 34, and now they're  
24 recommending a reduction, well, to 28. That was the  
25 original.



1                   So I guess my question is, why not the 34 that the  
2                   minister accepted, or am I completely off here?

3       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Paul.

4                   And GN can give us clarification on that.

5       MS. SMITH:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6                   Yeah, Paul, I think it could have been a little  
7                   confusing just on kind of how this went, but what I  
8                   read was what the GN originally submitted to the Board  
9                   in September just to give context to this meeting. So  
10                  that was our original recommendation, which was then  
11                  turned over to the Board, that then recommended 34, and  
12                  our minister accepted. So there's no further  
13                  recommendation from the GN at this time to change that.  
14                  And we stand at 34.

15                  Thank you.

16       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you for that.

17                  Paul? Okay. NTI, no further questions?

18                  Kivalliq Wildlife Board, any questions to the GN?

19                  Any questions from Kivalliq Wildlife Board?

20       MR. GREENE:                   The chair of Kivalliq Wildlife  
21                  Board, Stanley, is in Whale Cove, so there's no  
22                  questions from Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

23       THE CHAIR:                   Okay. Thank you. Next up is  
24                  Arviat HTO, questions for the Government of Nunavut.

25       **ARVIAT HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

1 MR. KABLUTSIK: Yes, I'd like to ask you, when you  
2 did your survey in the summer, why didn't you bring  
3 along the folks that were on the aircraft with you guys  
4 doing the survey? The ones who came from the  
5 communities, why aren't they with you here from Arviat?

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

8 Drikus.

9 MR. GISSING: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

10 As I've mentioned, we identify that as a mistake  
11 as well. I think it would have been good. And  
12 hopefully, as Paul identified, we could bring in the  
13 observers that is in from Rankin, yeah, and they could  
14 hopefully provide the information from the surveys. We  
15 will try to bring them in.

16 THE CHAIR: Yeah, thank you.

17 I think that's a very important point, and it's  
18 something we should consider in future at all these  
19 hearings.

20 Thomas.

21 MR. ALIKASWA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 My question is regarding from Chester towards  
23 Manitoba, it seems there might have been a lot more  
24 survey done only on the shoreline, and I've hunted and  
25 guided hunters for caribou, and we've travelled about

1           150 kilometres outside of Arviat towards the south, and  
2           we see bears down there. We don't even reach them. We  
3           can only reach them when they're on the shoreline.

4           So how far in and out of the shoreline did you  
5           guys travel? How far inland, how far away from the  
6           shore is what I'd like to understand, the distance.

7       THE CHAIR:                       Thank you, Thomas.

8           David.

9       DR. LEE:                        Than you, Mr. Chairman.

10           Thank you, Thomas.

11           Firstly, I'm sorry for any confusion that I may  
12           have caused. The design on the survey was to make sure  
13           that we did go inland because all the communities  
14           identified that. So for the high density we travelled  
15           up to 100 kilometres inland, and even for the Nunavut  
16           portion, as I mentioned, because we had a musk ox  
17           survey right before, like, right before the polar bear  
18           survey, we actually surveyed inland almost up to the  
19           NWT border.

20           So it doesn't mean we didn't see polar bears  
21           inland. I was just trying to say that observing those  
22           bears inland becomes more difficult in Manitoba because  
23           of the trees. But we still went way inland to make  
24           sure that we covered that area.

25           I'm sorry, if I didn't express that we went

1 inland. We did go inland.

2 *Qujannamiik.*

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

4 Nick, go ahead.

5 MR. ARNAUKJUAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 I've got two, in fact. I will go with the first  
7 one. The recommend of no change for 28 polar bears,  
8 what happened this year in 2017, when there were 36  
9 allocated polar bear tags? I'm wondering if the  
10 Government Department of Environment is aware of this  
11 where they're recommending 28 polar bears. That will  
12 be my first question.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Nick.

15 Drikus.

16 MR. GISSING: Yeah, I think we already answered  
17 that that was our previous recommendation to the Board,  
18 and the Board did not support 28. They proposed 34.  
19 And then we issued 34 tags. So that's the reason it's  
20 not going to change unless the Board makes a new  
21 decision.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

23 Nick.

24 MR. ARNAUKJUAQ: Yeah, thank you.

25 Well, I'll give you the facts about Arviat. If

1           you're not aware, the federal government, I think, is  
2           more understanding about the Inuit.

3           In Arviat back in the '80s and '90s we used to  
4           have 20 tags, polar bear tags. And about that time  
5           there were increase in numbers of polar bears, so they  
6           gave us five additional red tags. And from there I  
7           don't know what happened to have our polar bear tags  
8           way down.

9           And I will point this out because we're right next  
10          to Churchill, and they consider Churchill as polar bear  
11          capital of the world. So this is how it's worked out.  
12          Because there are so many polar bears in Churchill,  
13          here in the Kivalliq we do have so many polar bears,  
14          but our tags given to us are so few.

15          And the decision made on the numbers is not right.  
16          There used to be 20, 25 in Arviat. If we can give like  
17          these back, and I can say as soon as the tags are  
18          handed out, the bears are caught asap, no trouble. And  
19          the surrounding communities really don't have issues.  
20          And Arviat has so many bears. We all know this. It's  
21          our experience, but all along they're being cut while  
22          they're increasing in number.

23          And that's it. Thank you.

24          THE CHAIR:                      Thank you, Nick.

25          Drikus, would you like to respond?

1 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 The only response I really have to that is that  
3 just to explain that when the Board makes the decision  
4 it's for that subpopulation for Western Hudson Bay. So  
5 when the Board made a decision of 34, that was for all  
6 the Western Hudson Bay communities.

7 We as the government know the NWMB does not have a  
8 say in how it's allocated between the communities.  
9 That's going to the RW0, and the RW0 decides how to  
10 distribute the 34 tags to the various communities.

11 I think that was the concern that Arviat feels  
12 they're not getting enough tags from the allocation,  
13 and that's really an issue with the RW0.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

15 Nick, any further questions? That's all for now?  
16 No further questions from Arviat?

17 MR. ALIKASWA: I would say why there are so many  
18 polar bears today, not just in Arviat, no doubt in  
19 Churchill, or even is it because there's dog owners in  
20 Churchill that are increasing the polar bears coming  
21 into the towns just in order to entertain tourists?

22 So I think the dog owners in Churchill should also  
23 be dealt with. Perhaps they're drawing in more bears  
24 this way. And then when they come into the  
25 communities, the polar bears, they first go to the

1 dump, and then from there they walk amongst the houses.

2 Our polar bear tags, everybody says regarding  
3 those that we need them back to the larger numbers.  
4 Some of them are shot and killed automatically and  
5 taken by the HTO and then, based on a draw, handled  
6 that way.

7 But there's other uses for Inuit regarding polar  
8 bears, but I'm just going to finish here.

9 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

10 GN, any comments?

11 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 Just the two comments, and I hope I did not  
13 misunderstand the question/comments that was posed to  
14 the GN.

15 The first one, as I understand it, they feel the  
16 observation in the communities, that there are more  
17 bears, not less bears. And I think that's consistent  
18 if you look at in the long term. Our understanding,  
19 from what I've heard, during from my time in Nunavut  
20 and meeting with people and talking to people in  
21 communities, like wildlife officers and people that's  
22 been there for a long time, is that if you take it over  
23 a 30-year period there seems to be a significant  
24 increase in polar bears from what was the '70s or '60s  
25 compared to what there is today. And I think a lot of

1 people are comparing it to over a long period of time  
2 that there's a been a significant increase in bears'  
3 observations in the communities. I don't think anybody  
4 disputes that. I think that's supported by science as  
5 well. And, again, somebody like Nick or David Lee can  
6 correct me if I'm wrong, but that's my impression.  
7 That's across Nunavut.

8 What we've heard in consultations is people that  
9 were born in the '60s or '50s and they look back at  
10 their life, when they were young, they didn't see polar  
11 bears. Today they see polar bears all over the place,  
12 and I think we've heard this at a lot of our meetings,  
13 and I think the issue now is that we have a lot of  
14 polar bears in the communities, and we're looking at  
15 these numbers that we're talking about here now is  
16 short term, what's happened over the last four or five  
17 years or ten years. We're not looking at it long term.

18 And the issue about dogs attracting bears into the  
19 communities, I know that this is a concern in Western  
20 Hudson Bay, especially up around the tourism activities  
21 in Churchill, and that people believe, especially in  
22 the Nunavut communities, is that what's happening in  
23 Churchill is making bears used to humans and making  
24 bears more dangerous.

25 I'm not very -- I can't really talk to that, but



1 I've heard that as well. And I have brought this up  
2 with the Manitoba director in discussions that people  
3 are concerned about this, and I'm not sure if they're  
4 addressing it.

5 But what I can tell you is that in Nunavut we are  
6 trying to address it through our bear-human conflict  
7 work where we are trying to provide advice and support  
8 to dog owners how to cache meat and put meat into  
9 containers that bears can't get to as a way to reduce  
10 attractants in communities and to reduce bear  
11 attractants to communities.

12 Unfortunately, Arviat is right on the coast, and I  
13 think bears are always going to move up the coast, and  
14 we are looking at different ways of trying to get bears  
15 out of that community. I know our conservation officer  
16 in Arviat, Joe Junior, is very active in trying to lure  
17 bears outside of the community. And we're trying  
18 different things. He's catching them, as you know, and  
19 relocating them and all in an attempt to reduce  
20 bear-human conflict in that community.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

22 Any further questions, Arviat? Thomas.

23 MR. ALIKASWA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 I have one question I remembered to ask.

25 Looking at the Western Hudson Bay, it's written

1           that it starts from around Chesterfield Inlet up to  
2           Churchill and then through the shoreline and then the  
3           other one regarding Foxe Basin, Baker Lake through  
4           Chester and north. So the tags that are given to the  
5           communities regarding Chester and Baker Lake, who gives  
6           these out in the Foxe Basin region, tags from them --  
7           or is it Western Hudson Bay quota tags?

8                       So I'd like to know where they're allocated from.  
9           I think they should be divided according to Foxe Basin.

10                      Thank you, Chair.

11       THE CHAIR:                      Thank you, Thomas.

12                      Drikus.

13       MR. GISSING:                    I'll seek assistance from David if  
14           I misunderstood this question. But Western Hudson Bay  
15           total allowable harvest goes to the RWO that's  
16           responsible for the Western Hudson Bay communities.  
17           Foxe Basin, where there's overlap between RWOs, it will  
18           be the two RWOs that will decide on allocation is my  
19           understanding. We as a GN are not getting involved in  
20           that allocation. So it will go to the RWO. If there's  
21           a community that falls within the Kivalliq Region, then  
22           the Kivalliq Region will be part of that decision on  
23           the allocation of Foxe Basin tags, if I understood the  
24           question. I might have misunderstood the question.

25       THE CHAIR:                      Thank you, Drikus.

1                   Thomas, did you get your answer? Okay. Anything  
2                   further from Arviat? Okay. One more, Nick. Go ahead.

3       MR. KABLUTSIAK:                   Thank you, Chairman.

4                   With that survey that was done about the numbers  
5                   that were counted, 18 polar bears in Nunavut, would  
6                   that be correct information? Thank you.

7       THE CHAIR:                        Thank you, Nick.

8                   David Lee.

9       DR. LEE:                         Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10                  Thank you, Nick. I think that's accurate. I'll  
11                  have to look at the numbers, Nick. So just to be  
12                  clear, that's the number that were counted observed,  
13                  but that's not the number that goes into the final  
14                  estimate. The 18 actually gets extrapolated to a  
15                  larger number to cover the entire area that we think  
16                  exist in Nunavut for areas that we didn't actually see.

17                  So even though 18 is the number observed, similar  
18                  to -- there were about 300 bears observed in total, but  
19                  the final estimate came out to a bit over 800. So  
20                  that's how -- I just want to make sure that there isn't  
21                  confusion. 18 isn't the exact number. It gets  
22                  inflated to a number that we think represents as close  
23                  a number we think exist in Nunavut for that time -- for  
24                  that time.

25                  *Qujannamiik.*

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

2 Okay. I think now we'll break for lunch, and then  
3 when we come back from lunch Whale Cove will be up next  
4 for questions to the GN. So we'll be back here at  
5 1:15. All right? Thank you very much.

6 (Proceedings ended 11:50 a.m.)

7

8 (Proceedings to recommence at 1:15 p.m.)

9

10 (Proceedings recommenced at 1:15 p.m.)

11 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone. I hope  
12 you had a good lunch, and we're right on time to  
13 continue.

14 We are a little bit behind just, so everybody is  
15 aware of that, but that's just typical for these types  
16 of meetings that we have, and it will happen. I just  
17 want to let everybody know that if we need to meet  
18 tonight after our supper we will that. We have the  
19 opportunity to do that too. So if we need to do that,  
20 we'll do that. We'll advise you.

21 So next up for questions to the GN is the HTO of  
22 Whale Cove. It's your floor, George. Go ahead.

23 **WHALE COVE HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

24 MR. ENUAPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 So my question is, why was the survey done only in

1           the summertime, the aerial survey? Why was it done  
2           only in the summertime?

3       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you. Simon.  
4           David Lee.

5       DR. LEE:                    Thank you.

6           And thank you, Simon. So that's a question that  
7           comes up from the HTOs because they prefer the surveys  
8           to be done in the fall.

9           One reason we did it in the summer was the last  
10          survey was done in the summer and we wanted to be able  
11          to compare the numbers from the last survey in 2011 to  
12          the new one to make sure what the population was doing.

13          The other reason it was done in the summer is  
14          because the design is to try to observe as many bears  
15          as possible as soon as they come off the sea ice onto  
16          land, and because we have a number of the bears that  
17          are collared, we have a general idea of when to go and  
18          survey the bears as soon as they come to the land.

19          And I guess the last one of the other major  
20          reasons is that that's a design that has worked in the  
21          past, and we weren't in the position -- or at least the  
22          GN -- I just assisted -- weren't in a position to try a  
23          new design. But there have been some discussions about  
24          doing a fall survey in the future. But it would  
25          complement this one. It wouldn't be in place of a --

1 unless we were able to discuss more ideas like some of  
2 the members have discussed, like Charlie, about  
3 including more ideas on how to survey.

4 I mean, ideally we would have a totally Inuit-led  
5 survey where one reason we do the aerial survey is  
6 because it's a method that's accepted by Manitoba, and  
7 we're surveying a majority of the bears in Manitoba.  
8 So that's another reason why we went with that method.

9 Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

11 Jackie, go ahead.

12 MR. NAPAYOK: My only question is I had asked  
13 before, does Churchill, Manitoba, region where they  
14 have their cubs -- I have asked this before --  
15 whereabouts do they have their cubs or give birth? And  
16 the answer I received was, we don't have the answer at  
17 this time. Do you have the answer at this time now?

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Jackie.

19 David Lee.

20 DR. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 And thank you, Jackie. I'm sorry that answer  
22 wasn't provided to you before. I just want to  
23 acknowledge you as a really well-respected Elder.

24 So I will defer on the denning areas. Although I  
25 know where they are, they're in Wapusk park in

1 Manitoba, but I'd like to defer to Nick because he  
2 works on that area exclusively.

3 But before you press the trigger there, Nick,  
4 there's another area which is on the Ontario border,  
5 and we also increased our survey coverage area in that  
6 area because Manitoba Conservation had identified that  
7 there had been more -- according to them -- more bears  
8 denning in that area, so we tried to capture those  
9 bears -- well, not physically capture, but survey those  
10 bears in that area.

11 And then I'll just defer the first part to Nick.  
12 Thanks.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.

14 Nick, go ahead.

15 DR. LUNN: Yes, the two main areas that we  
16 know polar bears den are in Wapusk National Park, and  
17 that's about a 12,000 square kilometre area centred  
18 sort of just south of Churchill, and bears will den  
19 anywhere from, you know, maybe 10, 15 kilometres from  
20 the coast all the way up to maybe 100 kilometres inland  
21 from the coast and down to the Nelson River, so that  
22 coast, that Wapusk National Park area.

23 Another area that we know bears are denning, as  
24 David just alluded to, there's a small number of bears  
25 denning closer to the Ontario-Manitoba border. How

1           many bears are denning in there we're not quite  
2           certain. That's the sort of work that people are  
3           starting to look into. But the two main areas are that  
4           little small area and then Wapusk National Park 12,000  
5           square kilometre area. Thank you.

6       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Nick.

7           Jackie.

8       MR. NAPAYOK:               Back in 1974, I moved here to  
9           Arviat, and in 1970 there weren't too many bears, but  
10          they increased in number in about 1974. And where they  
11          came from, there's different population of bears, and  
12          so we were able to identify bears from Churchill area  
13          that often went towards Arviat. And the ones from the  
14          Iglulik area, the ice and when it's a north wind, the  
15          large, huge ice -- we believe that brought many more  
16          bears from the Baffin area or towards the Coral Harbour  
17          area from Iglulik area.

18                So now there's increased number of bears in  
19          Churchill because of the dump and probably even  
20          reaching up to the Thompson area. There hasn't been  
21          much fluctuation with the Churchill area bears.

22                But I'm trying to make sense here. I think  
23          Churchill has a lot of beluga whales, white -- not  
24          narwhals, but beluga whales -- and the big river there,  
25          they give birth and calf on the river, and I think



1           that's what the polar bears are feeding on. Has there  
2           been any study on this or acknowledged this before?

3       THE CHAIR:                       Thank you, Jackie.

4           David Lee.

5       DR. LEE:                        Thank you again, Jackie, for that  
6           information.

7           So what you stated is consistent with the  
8           interviews that Gabriel and I did about not being many  
9           bears and then a lot more bears in the '70s.

10          For your question on beluga, I'll just mention  
11          that when we were surveying -- we saw bears on rocks,  
12          surrounded by thousands of beluga, and I was personally  
13          quite amazed to see that. In Churchill, I spoke to  
14          Jackie Badstone, and he said he's observed bears taking  
15          beluga. And, finally, I noticed there was a television  
16          program, a film program where they documented by video  
17          a bear taking a beluga calf.

18          So I'm not aware of any systematic scientific  
19          study. I'm just aware of anecdotal information. But  
20          I'll again defer to Nick since he's worked in that area  
21          much more than I have.

22          Thanks.

23       DR. LUNN:                       Yeah, I'm not aware of any  
24          systematic study of polar bears taking beluga or the  
25          number of beluga in Hudson Bay, but as David said,

1           there's lots of anecdotal information of bears on rocks  
2           and in the tidal flats ambushing and catching beluga  
3           whales. So we know they do do it, but in terms of  
4           numbers, there's no sort of science study that I'm  
5           aware of that people have looked at that specifically.

6       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Nick and David.  
7           Jackie.

8       MR. NAPAYOK:               And I don't know myself  
9           personally, but my daughter lives there, and she shares  
10          this information with me, so I'm always asking about  
11          wildlife there. So that was just a question I  
12          pondered. Thank you.

13      THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Jackie. Any other  
14          questions from Whale Cove? Simon.

15      MR. ENUAPIK:               Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to  
16          ask Ian this quota stating 34. Can we increase this?  
17          Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18      THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Simon. I'll direct  
19          that to the GN first.

20               Drikus, the floor is yours. You can defer if you  
21          want.

22      MR. GISSING:                I might defer to the NWMB.  
23               The answer to that is you can submit -- anybody  
24          can submit to the Board a recommendation to increase or  
25          reduce the population. If you have new information --

1 or not the population; the total allowable harvest. So  
2 if you believe you have new information that the Board  
3 should consider in the total allowable harvest, that  
4 can be submitted to the Board.

5 Just additional. We as the GN at this time is not  
6 proposing an increase in the total allowable harvest.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

8 And speaking on behalf of the Board, you're  
9 absolutely right. And, Simon, that's why we're here  
10 for the next two days is to listen to all the evidence  
11 and make a decision. Thank you.

12 Any other questions from Whale Cove? No? Okay.  
13 Thank you very much.

14 We'll move on to the next community.

15 Rankin Inlet, any questions for the GN? No?

16 My list is different, a little bit. If there's  
17 none from Rankin Inlet --

18 MR. AGGARK: Maybe we're invisible?

19 THE CHAIR: No, no, not at all.

20 MR. AGGARK: When David was there with the  
21 radio collars on the bears; for example, in Churchill  
22 the ones that are placed with collars, how far do they  
23 go? How far do they walk, according to the radio  
24 collars?

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Harry.

1 David Lee.

2 DR. LEE: Thanks.

3 And thank you, Harry. I'll have to defer to Nick,  
4 if he knows. If not, I know the person looking after  
5 the information. I can make the request.

6 I don't analyze any of that information, and I'm  
7 not responsible for it. We only used it for the  
8 purpose of knowing when to actually conduct the survey.

9 So I'll defer to Nick. Thanks.

10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David Lee.

11 Nick.

12 DR. LUNN: Yeah, thank you very much.

13 I'm going to put some slides up maybe tomorrow  
14 about movements of bears. The collared females  
15 basically move right across the bay, so bears that were  
16 collared in Churchill, their tracks will go all the way  
17 across to the Quebec side, they'll go up to sort of the  
18 bottom end of South Hampton Island, and they'll go all  
19 the way into Ontario and James Bay. The sort of  
20 general area, the home range size of bears is on the  
21 average of about 300,000 square kilometres they're  
22 travelling in the wintertime now, and that's up from  
23 about 240, 250,000 about two decades ago. So they  
24 cover a large area of the bay.

25 But bears that we collar in Churchill in Wapusk

1 National Park, they pretty much come right back to  
2 Wapusk National Park the following summer. So they  
3 spend -- they use the entire bay and then come back.

4 And then amongst individuals, you'll get some  
5 bears, individuals, that will use a lot of the bay and  
6 some bears that will use just a very, very small part  
7 of the bay. And we don't have answers on why they do  
8 that, but some females will spend most of the winter  
9 maybe just moving up and down the coast offshore and  
10 others that will go right across. Individuals do  
11 different things, but, by and large, they're using all  
12 of Hudson Bay.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Nick.

14 Harry. Any other questions, Chesterfield Inlet?  
15 Okay. Thank you, gentlemen.

16 We'll move on, then. Baker Lake, any questions  
17 from Baker Lake? Hugh?

18 **BAKER LAKE HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

19 MR. NATEELA: *Matnaa, sivautaaq.*

20 I'm just wondering if the government has  
21 considered using a different monitoring method. We've  
22 heard stories of where collars have negative impacts on  
23 some of the animals and collaring some of the bears to  
24 try and monitor, but then understand there were some  
25 negative impacts. Just wondering if the government has

1 thought of or considered going into using microchips,  
2 like something that won't really interfere too much,  
3 maybe, with the bears' hunting abilities. Just one  
4 question.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Hugh.

6 Drikus, I'll pass it on to you.

7 MR. GISSING: Maybe this is a question that  
8 Environment Canada could answer, because they're doing  
9 more the radio collaring. We in Nunavut currently have  
10 no collars in the Western Hudson Bay. But I know that  
11 the biologist, the polar bear biologists are looking at  
12 different ways -- ear tags and ear collars -- little  
13 ear monitors and different methods.

14 So maybe Nick can elaborate on that, if he can, or  
15 David Lee.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

17 Nick, go ahead.

18 DR. LUNN: Thank you very much.

19 I'll answer what I can, and David might have other  
20 information that he can add.

21 Putting collars on bears is not something that  
22 scientists do just for the sake of putting collars on  
23 bears. It's usually to answer a specific question that  
24 we've been asked, such as: Where do bears go? How far  
25 do they travel?

1           So to get that sort of information, are they going  
2 across the bay, the only way we can get those sorts of  
3 answers currently are by putting things such as radio  
4 collars on. And we put them on a very small number of  
5 bears. We would collar maybe 10 or 12 bears a year.  
6 And I'll get into more in my presentation. But that's  
7 the sort of number. When we start talking about areas  
8 and how much bears move, it's based on the movements of  
9 10 to 12 bears.

10           Right now it's only adult females. We can't put  
11 collars on adult males. Their skull width is much  
12 bigger than their neck, so no matter how tight you can  
13 put a collar on the neck of an adult male -- it's sort  
14 of like a traffic cone -- it would slide off.

15           We can't -- while we could put a collar on a  
16 subadult bear, they would stay on. The problem is  
17 they're growing. So if you put a tight collar on a  
18 growing bear, it grows bigger and bigger, and then you  
19 run the risk of a collar cutting into the neck of a  
20 bear. So we don't want that to happen. So the only  
21 groups that we can really collar are adult females with  
22 cubs.

23           We're looking at -- people have been looking at  
24 alternative methods. One of them is what is called  
25 RFID. It's sort of like a little bar code that you

1 would run through the scanner of a grocery thing, and  
2 that would give you an idea of a particular bear. So  
3 that's work that's being done in the U.S. at the  
4 moment, and they've had limited success.

5 Right now they build them into the ear tag so  
6 they're the size of the ear tag. And one of the  
7 problems is the ear tags come out. Another issue is  
8 the range that they have to get to get to the bear is  
9 really close. So you'd have to do a lot of, you know,  
10 in-close work with a helicopter or fixed wing trying to  
11 pick up that signal. The idea was we'd hoped that you  
12 could get it so it would have a much greater range so  
13 you would just fly over it and you could pick up who  
14 all those bears were.

15 So there is work being done on alternative  
16 methods. In Manitoba, the Manitoba Conservation staff,  
17 they're looking at putting these transmitters on the  
18 ears of subadults -- they're sort of the problem bears  
19 they have in town -- to see where they're going to  
20 during the wintertime. So they put a limited number of  
21 these little transmitters on in the ears.

22 Other people -- not us and not even in Canada --  
23 but other people have tried implanting them to try to  
24 make them to stay on, and that has failed.

25 One of the big problems with tracking polar bears



1 is that you need to get the signal up to a satellite,  
2 and to do so you need a lot of battery strength, and  
3 the batteries are what make up the bulk of one of these  
4 devices. So it's sort of a tradeoff between how long  
5 you can track an animal. So if you want to track it  
6 for a year or more, then you need a big battery which  
7 limits you to pretty much a collar. If you want  
8 something short term, a month or so, then you can put  
9 these miniature devices on, but then you don't get the  
10 answers that perhaps people are wanting answers to.

11 So we are working on it. The technology is  
12 starting to get there, but we don't have anything at  
13 the moment that we think can replace the radio collars  
14 or the collars for some of the questions that we're  
15 being asked.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Nick.

18 Hugh.

19 MR. NATEELA: Thank you for that answer.

20 Another issue that I wanted to bring up was, like  
21 many people, I guess, at this table and in Nunavut I've  
22 been thinking of ways how we can bridge the science  
23 world and traditional knowledge and IQ. And I think if  
24 there was a way we could sort of start involving some  
25 of our local young people to train them to be able to

1 start collecting along with the Elders and stuff. So I  
2 think that would be one way to bridge the science world  
3 and traditional and IQ. So I think I would certainly  
4 maybe recommend or ask the co-managers to see if they  
5 would be able to have more community-based monitoring  
6 work.

7 And I think this is the right direction for what I  
8 see here from the pamphlet for the community-based  
9 monitoring work, and I think this is one way. If we  
10 can start involving our young people, I think this  
11 would be one way of bridging the science world and IQ.

12 So I would certainly, I think, consider and ask  
13 all the co-managers to seriously look at this and, in  
14 fact, try and get all the Nunavut communities into this  
15 program asap, because currently I think I understand  
16 the way -- there's not too many HTOs in Nunavut now  
17 that can actually be able to put a management plan  
18 together on their own with their own data and so forth.  
19 So I think we need to try and get to that stage or  
20 reach that point where the community members will be  
21 able to put -- you know, with other data information  
22 they have to be able to come up with some kind of  
23 management plan on their own. And I think that's -- I  
24 would certainly ask the co-managers to seriously  
25 consider and look at this community-based monitoring

1           and I think that would be one way of bridging the  
2           science world and the traditional and IQ stuff.

3           I guess that was just more of a comment than  
4           anything, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

5           And the other thing I wanted to bring up as well  
6           is, I'm not sure. I think Baker Lake was sort of taken  
7           off the Western Hudson Bay section, and I think we're  
8           here at the table, we're discussing Western Hudson Bay.  
9           I was sort of wondering what -- you know, I guess it's  
10          nice to be here, we're happy to be here. But we have  
11          community members concerned. I guess one of the  
12          questions they wanted us to bring up was: If there is  
13          a formula that is being used now to allocate tags, what  
14          is the formula?

15          The reason why they want to ask now and they're  
16          asking questions is that, ever since this polar bear  
17          management and polar bear issue has been discussed over  
18          the years, Baker Lake has always sort of been left out.  
19          I think we all know why. It's, you know, a little bit  
20          inland. But some people, community members, think that  
21          it's such a strong word, but, you know, they're  
22          throwing words like, you know, "discrimination based on  
23          geography" and things like that. I don't know.  
24          Probably a strong word. But if you have people talking  
25          like that, then you certainly have to start asking what

1 the formula is and why certain group of people get so  
2 many and then another group gets just one or whatever  
3 it is, two.

4 And yet basically what we're doing is that these  
5 people, there are also beneficiaries. They have the  
6 right to be able to go out and try and, you know, catch  
7 polar bears. But I think they also need to be given  
8 the same equal opportunity. Because when you look at  
9 it, you know, there's money involved, and, you know,  
10 there are some things we could get into. So I guess  
11 that's one of the questions they ask is that for the  
12 co-managers to have Baker Lake included in the  
13 Western Hudson Bay, if they can get some tags from  
14 Western Hudson Bay. So they just ask the co-managers  
15 to keep that in mind, because Baker Lake is still  
16 interested in getting tags from Western Hudson Bay and  
17 also from Foxe Basin.

18 And so I guess they're kind of wondering how the  
19 allocations of tags are being allocated and  
20 distributed, and I guess they're just sort of saying I  
21 think we need to look at -- take another closer look at  
22 that to make it more fair, even, for all beneficiaries.

23 So having said that, I just want to throw that in  
24 as they had asked us to sort of bring this up at the  
25 table. Having said that, thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Hugh, for  
2 those comments. Very good comments, especially getting  
3 the young people involved and community monitoring.

4 But I'll pass it on to the GN to comment and  
5 answer his second question. Drikus.

6 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Just a comment on the community-based management.  
8 We are in full support of those approaches. I know  
9 that the Board had something similar where you had  
10 programs in the communities collecting traditional  
11 knowledge or hunter information.

12 We are working on a harvester support program that  
13 will put money into pockets of hunters and paying them  
14 for collecting of information. The challenge we have,  
15 as I've mentioned earlier on, is just capacity is  
16 having people on the ground. And we would be open to  
17 working with regional wildlife organizations -- so NTI  
18 or the Board, any other group -- that wants to look at  
19 those and collaborate with us on community-based  
20 projects as suggested. We're very open to that idea.  
21 It's a good idea.

22 On the issue of getting more tags to Baker Lake,  
23 as I've mentioned earlier, that is the role of the  
24 regional wildlife organizations, and your HTO chair is  
25 a member of the RWO, so that's where you should bring

1           it up is, when they discuss, when the regional wildlife  
2           board discuss allocation is that you should make your  
3           voice heard at those meetings, because we as the GN has  
4           no role in allocation. That's purely up to the  
5           regional wildlife organization, your RW0.

6       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Drikus.

7           Hugh?

8       MR. NATEELA:                Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9           And thank you for the answers.

10           I guess our next -- at least, we should be asking  
11           the RW0s if they're the ones responsible for allocating  
12           the tags, so I guess I'll just wait for the next group  
13           of presenters, Mr. Chair.

14       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you very much, Hugh. Okay.  
15           Any other questions from Baker Lake? Anything else?  
16           No?

17           Okay. Thank you very much. We're going to move  
18           on, then. Next on the list is any questions from  
19           Environment Canada to the GN.

20       DR. LUNN:                   No, no questions from us.

21       THE CHAIR:                   Okay. Thank you, Nick.

22           Any questions from World Wildlife Fund to the GN?  
23           None?

24       MR. LAFOREST:               No. Sorry, no questions.

25       THE CHAIR:                   Okay. Thank you.

1           Is there any questions from any Elders in the  
2           room, in the gallery or in the public or at the table  
3           to the GN? Bobby.

4       **ELDERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

5       MR. 00L00YUK:           Can you hear me? Thank you. We  
6           have an interpreter so I'll try to keep it short, and  
7           I'll speak in English.

8           I will share with you three topics of discussion  
9           and how Inuit have been left to try and pick up the  
10          pieces and fix it.

11          The first one, as we all know, was the near  
12          extinction of bowhead whales. Inuit had no part in  
13          killing and harvesting them by the thousands, and yet  
14          here we are still trying to pick up the pieces and fix  
15          it.

16          The second is sealing. European Union banned seal  
17          products. Never in that whole time were Inuit  
18          harvesting thousands of seals just for their fur, their  
19          skins. That's not the Inuit way.

20          And now, finally, we have this every year, polar  
21          bear management, and, namely, the Western Hudson Bay  
22          total allowable harvest. In the early years during the  
23          time when armed forces were stationed in Churchill,  
24          polar bear behaviour changed some, stayed in Churchill  
25          all winter scavenging off the dump, forever changing a

1 generation of polar bears.

2 And now today we are hit hard with another  
3 sensitive that nobody wants to bring up or sweep under  
4 the rug: Tourism and how it's changed polar bear  
5 behaviour for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear.

6 Some Elders here will agree with me when I say  
7 that 30 years ago even the biggest, strongest male  
8 polar bear, healthy, soon as he see an Inuk hunter,  
9 they'll turn around and run away. It's not like that  
10 anymore. They go right into communities, they have no  
11 more fear of man, some of them.

12 And Inuit, especially in the Western Hudson Bay  
13 area, are left to try and pick up the pieces and fix  
14 it. Maybe it's time for some form of compensation for  
15 the Inuit in the Kivalliq, namely, remove the rule of  
16 taking away tags for defense kills. It is not Inuit in  
17 the Kivalliq who introduce this to polar bears to be  
18 not afraid of man anymore. Inuit were never told -- we  
19 were always instructed by our Elders: Do not use your  
20 animals for personal gain. Do not play with them. And  
21 that's what we practice today.

22 It's time -- we do this every year, have this  
23 meeting, and the topic is total allowable harvest and  
24 how many can we get. The Inuit, trying to pick up the  
25 pieces and fix it for something we never damaged in the



1 first place, compensation is due.

2 Manitoba makes thousands, hundreds of thousands,  
3 if not millions, off tourism. What responsibility have  
4 they been given for introducing bears to man, not be  
5 afraid of them? These things need to be addressed as  
6 soon as possible. If not, it's time for the Inuit,  
7 along with the help of their regional Inuit  
8 organizations, to maybe come up with a class action  
9 legal lawsuit for something that we didn't. It's  
10 damaged our way of life, especially with the polar  
11 bears. It wasn't us that made them change their  
12 behaviour.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Bobby, for  
15 those comments.

16 GN, would you like to comment on that? Drikus.

17 MR. GISSING: No, Mr. Chair.

18 THE CHAIR: Okay. Is there any other Elders  
19 that would ask questions of the GN? Go ahead. And  
20 when you come to the mic, please state your mind.

21 MR. COMER: Thank you. My name is  
22 Thomas Comer. I'm a resident of Rankin Inlet. I've  
23 been a resident for the last 61 years, and I can be  
24 considered as an Elder as well.

25 My question is quite simple. Having listened to

1 Jack Napayok speak about the polar bear population as  
2 to where it came from around the Churchill area, he  
3 mentioned something about the ice breaking, and the  
4 polar bear being transferred into the southern  
5 Hudson Bay area.

6 My question is this: When the scientists began  
7 their scientific studies about the polar bear  
8 population, where did the baseline data come from?  
9 When did it start? How did it come to be? Where did  
10 this baseline data come from? Were Inuit involved in  
11 this baseline data to be established?

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Thomas.  
14 Drikus.

15 MR. GISSING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 I'm not sure I can answer that question. I'm not  
17 sure if maybe one of the scientists, maybe Nick or  
18 David has a response to that. I, unfortunately, don't.

19 THE CHAIR: Okay. I'll defer it to Nick,  
20 then. Nick, go ahead.

21 DR. LUNN: As best as I can answer, the start  
22 of polar bear research, sort of the baseline that you  
23 asked about, began in the late 1960s -- at least in  
24 Churchill. That predates me. I mean, I wasn't around  
25 then. But it started in about the late 1960s with work

1 in and around the town of Churchill. The work that I'm  
2 involved in, sort of more of the long-term stuff, that  
3 started in 1981. So sort of between the late 1960s and  
4 the early 1980s was sort of smaller scale studies.  
5 That's where the work began. That's where sort of the  
6 baseline started happening shortly after the closing of  
7 the military base, after the closing of the  
8 York Factory as a trading post. So sort of the  
9 mid-1960s is when it started. So it was after the  
10 closing of the various military bases, after closing of  
11 York Factory trading post.

12 So that's as best as I can answer.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Nick.

14 Is there any other questions?

15 If there's no other questions, we'll move on,  
16 then, to Kivalliq Inuit Association. Is there any  
17 representatives here from there? No?

18 Is there any questions from the general public,  
19 anybody else in the room, to the Government of Nunavut?  
20 If not, that concludes the Government of Nunavut's  
21 presentation and questions to you. Thank you very  
22 much.

23 Next on the list for presentation to the Board in  
24 regards to the Western Hudson Bay polar bear is Nunavut  
25 Tunngavik Incorporated. And we'll get it up on the

1 screen before you start, Paul.

2 **SUBMISSION BY NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED**

3 MR. IRNGAUT: I'll keep it short. I'll try and  
4 speak Inuktitut, and if I can't, I'll speak in English.

5 THE CHAIR: Okay. Paul, the floor is yours.

6 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 We're thankful for giving us the opportunity to  
8 speak during this hearing when we're dealing with polar  
9 bears -- NTI -- to increase the total allowable harvest  
10 for 2017-2018 polar bear season. They were increased  
11 by six, and altogether it's 34. This modification  
12 considered the knowledge, insight, and perspectives of  
13 Inuit who have been advocating for an increase on the  
14 grounds of both conservation and public safety.

15 NTI appreciates the NWMB's efforts to settle the  
16 increase of the regional total allowable harvest for  
17 the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation during the  
18 2017-2018 harvesting season. While NTI acknowledges  
19 the timing, logistical, and the financial challenges  
20 associated with in-person hearings, it must nonetheless  
21 be pointed out that Inuit harvesters will only be  
22 provided an opportunity to discuss future modifications  
23 of the Western Hudson Bay regional total allowable  
24 harvest. As I mentioned earlier, we are thankful for  
25 the hearing on this Western Hudson Bay polar bear

1 population. I know we have no problems with this  
2 hearing happening right now.

3 I know Inuit traditional knowledge and local  
4 knowledge is very important. Under Article 5 of the  
5 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, when you're dealing with  
6 wildlife, our community should not be worried with  
7 respect to dealing with managing wildlife.

8 As I mentioned earlier, we are hoping that Inuit  
9 traditional knowledge is used when managing wildlife  
10 when you're making decisions to avoid drastic decisions  
11 and deteriorate public confidence. For this to occur,  
12 it requires maintaining relationships and communication  
13 among different parties.

14 In previous hearings, NTI and the Kivalliq  
15 Wildlife Board and Arviat HTO have submitted Inuit  
16 *qaujimajatuqangit* on Western Hudson Bay. Our Inuit  
17 hunters and Elders observed very few polar bears in the  
18 earlier part of the 20th century. Beginning in the  
19 1980s, Inuit started to notice an increase in numbers  
20 of polar bears in the area. Initially, quotas imposed  
21 on Inuit and subsequently co-management with inclusion  
22 of Inuit have permitted the Western Hudson Bay polar  
23 bear population to increase.

24 Consequently, Inuit have repeatedly stated that  
25 the number of bears have increased, and public safety

1 is now a major concern. A Government of Nunavut  
2 analysis of coastal surveys conducted by the  
3 Government of Manitoba reveals that the number of adult  
4 male polar bears counted along the Western Hudson Bay  
5 coast from 2011 to 2016 have increased. Providing  
6 support to Inuit observations, the number of adult  
7 females with offspring counted along the coast has  
8 remained similar for the same period.

9 Under our Land Claims Agreement, 5.1.2(e), it says  
10 there is a need for an effective wildlife management  
11 system in Nunavut that complements Inuit harvesting  
12 rights and priorities and recognizes Inuit systems of  
13 wildlife management.

14 However, the Kivalliq Region have been put through  
15 hardship because of the changes in harvesting of polar  
16 bear in this area. When we first started in 2000-2001,  
17 there were 34, in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, and they  
18 raised the total allowable harvest to 56, which was the  
19 highest. In 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 they decreased  
20 to 8. So because of the difference, it's made a  
21 hardship for Inuit when we're talking about total  
22 allowable harvest.

23 In 2007 the NWMB -- there was 86 percent decline  
24 is what they said, when it used to be 56 that they were  
25 able to harvest using western scientific methods, and

1           it states that the polar bear are going to decline.  
2           Because of that, that's when NWMB made the decision  
3           because it affects Inuit.

4                     In 5.3.3(a) and (c) under our Agreement recognizes  
5           to ensure the public safety. Because of that, the  
6           rights of Inuit have been affected because it is a very  
7           serious issue, public safety and their properties and  
8           their hunting rights. And you have to recognize Inuit  
9           traditional knowledge is very important to us when  
10          you're making decisions on the Western Hudson Bay polar  
11          bear population.

12                    Thank you.

13                    Sorry, I apologize. I didn't see -- I'm going to  
14          mention this as well because you're going to have to  
15          decide when you're deciding on the total allowable  
16          harvest here -- I will speak in English so you'll  
17          understand clearly.

18                    NTI submits that the NWMB may wish -- may wish --  
19          to ponder whether moving away from flexible quota  
20          system and its associated credits and penalties to a  
21          multi-year fixed TAH could permit, improve relations,  
22          communication, and discussion among parties in  
23          developing shared management objectives.

24                    To reiterate, NTI's May 24, 2017, comments to NWMB  
25          on the Nunavut polar bear co-management plan revision,

1 the management and application of the flexible quota  
2 system has been an ongoing concern to NTI and Inuit  
3 harvesters.

4 With respect to public safety, the TAH continues  
5 to exert certain influence on the number of  
6 defence-of-life and property kills. Indeed, whereas  
7 the combined annual defence-of-life and property kills  
8 of Western Hudson Bay polar bears for Kivalliq  
9 communities by Kivalliq communities average only three  
10 bears between 2000 and 2001, in 2007 to present, the  
11 average jumped to eight from 2008-2009 -- sorry -- to  
12 2015 and '16 as in Figure 2.

13 Given the extent of the public safety concerns,  
14 modification of the TAH represent the sensible course  
15 of action. That's the part that I missed during my  
16 presentation. Hopefully I didn't mix people's train of  
17 thoughts on this one.

18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Paul.

20 Is there any questions from Board members to Paul?

21 Charlie.

22 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND**  
23 **COMMENTS**

24 MR. INUARAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 My question, first question, the polar bear for



1 the big communities and other Canadian communities with  
2 the Department of Environment and government and what  
3 they're able to sell, when we're trying to conserve our  
4 polar bears, my question to NTI is what can they do to  
5 sell or make money off their products?

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.

7 Paul.

8 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 The Western Hudson Bay polar bear population, they  
10 cannot sell any of the products; however, as NTI, we're  
11 not going to submit stumbling blocks for Inuit hunters,  
12 but it is the government has a program. If they say  
13 that the polar bear is in decline, population is in  
14 decline, then it would be the federal government that  
15 would impose a negative NDF. They have to do community  
16 visits to all the communities to inform them what the  
17 government or the federal government is changing. You  
18 could still make money off the Western Hudson Bay polar  
19 bear population before there were any concern from our  
20 government.

21 I hope I answered your question. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

23 Charlie.

24 MR. INUARAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 NTI, because they're working for the beneficiaries

1 under the Land Claims Agreement, I know our Elders,  
2 they have a lot of knowledge, and they talk with them,  
3 and they stand up on the knowledge.

4 I know the polar bears are not in decline even if  
5 they catch more. Are they using Inuit traditional  
6 knowledge? Our polar bear population is still strong.  
7 I know in the Hudson Bay, even if they increase the  
8 total allowable harvest, are you saying that we can do  
9 that without any worries of the polar bear declining?  
10 Is that what you're saying?

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.

12 Paul.

13 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 And thank you, Charlie, for the question.

15 I can say that we're not worried about our polar  
16 bear population because the polar bears that go to the  
17 communities, there's more and more that's being seen;  
18 however, the total allowable harvest, it's still the  
19 same. Even though they have only eight tags left and  
20 they cut the quota, I know they went all to defence  
21 kills in the past.

22 As I mentioned earlier, Inuit safety has to be  
23 priority. We can say, even if we increased the total  
24 allowable harvest, we would be in support of that.

25 Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

2 Charlie.

3 MR. INUARAK: Final question. The Inuit, their  
4 knowledge is from way, way past for their  
5 grandchildren, and they know what they have to do for  
6 public safety. I know you're working with them all the  
7 time, every Sunday, the Inuit and their knowledge,  
8 because they do think about things way into the future.  
9 If we get too many polar bears in our communities, our  
10 NWMB and the Department of Environment, we had to cut  
11 our quota. Did we make a mistake that time, or is that  
12 NTI's view about us? Did we make a mistake in the  
13 past?

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.

15 Paul.

16 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 And thank you, Charlie, for your question.

18 The Inuit traditional knowledge -- they didn't  
19 listen to us, we can understand that now -- in the past  
20 even though they mentioned that the polar bear was not  
21 in decline but actually increasing in numbers. But  
22 through my understanding -- if I make in a mistake, I'm  
23 sure I'll be told -- Inuit traditional knowledge in the  
24 communities, they didn't listen to the communities when  
25 they were deciding. I understand that clearly now.

1           Whether you made a mistake or not, I cannot say one way  
2           or the other because you were given the research  
3           information, and you used that information to decide.  
4           Whether you made a mistake or not, I cannot say right  
5           now.

6           Thank you.

7       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Paul.

8           Caleb.

9       MR. SANGOYA:               Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10           And thank you to NTI. We're worried about our  
11           Inuit. They have very understandable views. I don't  
12           have many questions. I'm just trying to make  
13           clarification.

14           As Inuit, we live in the north; our grandparents,  
15           our great-grandparents, all the way back. Up to today  
16           we hear the polar bears, they are the top of the food  
17           chain. With seals, fish, whales, they are not only to  
18           eat; they just kill the seal pups. We just see, not  
19           only in the Baffin, in Greenland and Alaska and here in  
20           the Kivalliq Region. It is our food staple. The polar  
21           bears are just decimating the seal population. I can  
22           say in the Kivalliq Region, in Rankin especially, where  
23           we are at today the seal pups, because of the polar  
24           bear population, there's hardly any now.

25           And the cabins are always in the line -- even

1           though they say there is a decline in polar bear,  
2           they're destroying cabins. If there's ten polar bears,  
3           they're always going to harvest seals, fish, birds, and  
4           they kill the birds in the nest.

5                     Inuit knowledge, if you're always trying to make  
6           money off the polar bear, that's not how we are. I  
7           know the government are happy, and if we have an  
8           increase in polar bears and if they can make money off  
9           it, we want them as a food staple, not polar bears.

10                    I know our Inuit from the past up to today,  
11           because it is our staple food, we want to eat them. We  
12           do not look for bears that are skinny and eating off  
13           the garbage dump. I know for our future generations,  
14           before it gets too hard, we should worry about the  
15           future.

16                    And outside of Nunavut area will not listen to the  
17           people outside. In the '60s during the end of that  
18           decade, it was like this: Our grandparents, if a white  
19           person said, "Shit in your pants," they would have  
20           probably tried to. But it's not like that today. We  
21           have to protect our food, so I'm pushing NTI to ensure  
22           that Inuit culture should be stronger to ensure that we  
23           have staple food and not just to make money off our  
24           wildlife.

25                    Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Caleb.

2 I think that's more of a comment, but Paul, if you  
3 want to.

4 MR. IRNGAUT: I understand what you're saying,  
5 and we've been told often, not just here, but also when  
6 we go to the other communities we've been told this  
7 over and over again: Our food or our diet, we need to  
8 protect it. We understand this clearly because we  
9 can't expect to always have high numbers of our diet,  
10 animals, wildlife to always be in good numbers, but  
11 when Inuit study wildlife, it's from A to Z. It covers  
12 everything, especially what we eat.

13 But studies and researchers focus on one specific  
14 animal without considering the environment or wildlife  
15 as a whole, so what you're saying is true. We need to  
16 protect our diets, our wildlife, especially what we  
17 eat.

18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

20 Board members any other question? Charlie.

21 MR. INUARAK: Since we're on IQ and while the GN  
22 delegates are listening, those bears, some of the bears  
23 have eaten other bears -- like, cannibalism -- and some  
24 of them are prone to attacking other bears. So have  
25 you ever heard about this? Do you have anything to say

1           regarding this? Some of us have found only cubs  
2           roaming around because the mother was attacked and  
3           eaten because some of the male bears are prone to doing  
4           this. They get a taste of the blood, I guess, and get  
5           used to attacking other bears to eat.

6           Anything on this topic?

7       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Charlie.

8           Paul.

9       MR. IRNGAUT:                Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10           And thank you, Charlie.

11           Yes, we've heard this over again, yeah, from a  
12           long time ago. Everywhere we go it's spoken about.  
13           And, like, practicing cannibalism between bears. And I  
14           thought they only attacked and ate cubs, but apparently  
15           it's not just mothers with cubs, but I also have heard,  
16           as long as this bear can break down anything with its  
17           teeth, then they'll attempt to eat it, attack it, and I  
18           believe this. Yeah, practicing cannibalism is true. I  
19           believe it.

20           Thank you.

21       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Paul.

22           Any other questions from Board members to NTI?

23           Doesn't look like it.

24           If not, is there any questions from staff to NTI?

25           Vickie, go ahead.

1        **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD STAFF QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

2        MS. SAHANATIEN:                      Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3                      Just one question, please. I just want to find  
4        out; in your general comments in the beginning you say  
5        that you support our increase, NWMB's increase by 6 to  
6        34, so at this time you feel that, based on the  
7        information we have at hand, that that is an  
8        appropriate level at this time.

9                      Thank you.

10       THE CHAIR:                      Thank you, Vickie.

11                      Paul.

12       MR. IRNGAUT:                      Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13                      Yes, we are supporting this, Mr. Chair, to  
14        increase by 6 for now. I can't say for future, but  
15        this is what we are presenting now.

16                      Thank you.

17       THE CHAIR:                      Thank you, Paul.

18                      Jason.

19       MR. AKEAROK:                      Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

20                      Thanks NTI for the presentation. In the  
21        submission you asked the Board to consider to move away  
22        from a flexible quota system. I think the view of  
23        government I think is that moving away from that could  
24        result in a lower TAH. Is that something, I guess,  
25        that NTI would accept, I guess, if the flexible quota



1 system was removed, a lower TAH?

2 *Qujannamiik.*

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Jason.

4 Paul.

5 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 We would have to -- like I said, we follow the  
7 advice of our members, especially HTOs and RWOs, and we  
8 would have to really consult them on this.

9 But for public safety concerns, that's one of the  
10 things that we -- that's why we mentioned the removal  
11 of the flexible quota system. And David will add to  
12 that.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul. David, go ahead.

15 DR. LEE: Thank you, Dan. And thank you,  
16 Jason.

17 Just for clarification, this point came up because  
18 it was a result of community consultations that we've  
19 participated on the polar bear management plan, and I  
20 realize that hasn't been finalized.

21 The point was that we're trying to avoid this  
22 massive penalization that occurs with the current  
23 system where, for example, if a community overharvests  
24 one or two female bears their quota is drastically  
25 reduced the next year, and that creates a lot of

1 hardship for the community. So that's why we were  
2 presenting that as an example of an option to discuss  
3 in order to help support the confidence in the  
4 management system, because having this TAH bounce up  
5 and down from year to year I don't think is helpful.

6 *Qujannamiik.*

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David Lee.

8 Yeah, I'll allow Caleb to go ahead, back to you.

9 Go ahead.

10 MR. SANGOYA: Briefly, when you say regarding  
11 safety issues, does that mean that you mean that you're  
12 supporting including seal pups and animals?

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Caleb.  
14 Paul.

15 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you.

16 I said earlier people shouldn't be in danger, not  
17 just from polar bear, but by the wildlife of our diet.  
18 And so if we dwindle down a number of wildlife animals  
19 that is part of our diet, we can be in danger, in a  
20 sense. So, yes, we are encouraging, for people's  
21 safety, not just polar bears but anything that is a  
22 part of Inuit diet that may be under attack, so-called,  
23 by polar bears, is our concern as well. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

25 Any other questions from staff? If not, our

1 lawyer, Michael, any other questions to NTI? No?

2 Okay. That concludes the Board's questions to  
3 NTI, then, and we'll go for our round around the table.

4 Next is the GN. Any questions for NTI?

5 MR. GISSING: No questions.

6 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Drikus.

7 Arviat HTO, any questions to NTI in regards to  
8 polar bears, western Hudson Bay polar bears? Thomas.

9 **ARVIAT HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

10 MR. ALIKASWA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 What I'd like to ask: I'm confused. When we say  
12 if we want to increase, I think, from 34 or 36, so how  
13 here in this meeting is this to be arranged,  
14 established in this meeting? That's what I'd like  
15 clarified.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Thomas.

17 And I'll try clarify that for you. That is the  
18 reason why we're here today. It's to listen to all of  
19 you, to all our co-management partners, and at the end  
20 of the day, it's up to the Nunavut Wildlife Management  
21 Board to come up with a TAH that we're going to report  
22 back to you. So we're listening to you, and that's why  
23 we're here today.

24 Michael, legal counsel, I'll allow you to add. Go  
25 ahead.

1 MR. D'EÇA: *Qujannamiik, itsivautaaq.*

2 I would just add that this hearing is for the NWMB  
3 to listen to all of its co-management partners to get  
4 all of your various views and to hear you ask one  
5 another questions to gather information.

6 The NWMB, I suspect probably at its next quarterly  
7 meeting, will likely be making a decision. So once it  
8 gets all that information, it gathers it together and  
9 analyzes it and looks at it and so on, and then it's in  
10 a position to make a decision.

11 And then, at that point, we're governed by  
12 instructions under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.  
13 The NWMB makes a decision, sends it to the minister,  
14 the Environment minister, the Nunavut Environment  
15 minister.

16 The minister will consider the NWMB's decision,  
17 and if there's any element of it that he disagrees  
18 with, he will reject the decision. But if he's happy  
19 with it, he accepts it, and then it becomes law.

20 If he rejects it, it comes back to the NWMB, and  
21 the NWMB will reconsider its decision in light of the  
22 minister's reasons. But, at the same time, the NWMB  
23 will go back to all the parties and say: The minister  
24 has rejected our decision for these reasons. We want  
25 to hear from you again, and the parties have an

1 opportunity to give their views. And then it goes back  
 2 to the NWMB again, and it will make a final decision  
 3 which goes to the minister, and the minister can accept  
 4 it, can verify it, or can reject it.

5 So there's a very strict formula in the Land Claim  
 6 as to decision-making. It does unfortunately take a  
 7 fair amount of time, but it's designed to ensure  
 8 fairness and to ensure that those who are affected by  
 9 that decision have an optimum opportunity to provide  
 10 their advice at each important point in the  
 11 decision-making process.

12 *Taima.*

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Michael.

14 Thomas, does that answer your question? Okay.  
 15 Any other questions from Arviat to NTI? No?

16 I'm sorry, I missed Kivilliq Wildlife Board. Do  
 17 you have any questions to NTI?

18 **KIVILLIQ WILDLIFE BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

19 MS. NETSER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 It's not really a question, just a comment coming  
 21 from KWB. We just want to thank NTI for your  
 22 submission to help increase the TAH for Western  
 23 Hudson Bay as IQ has been voicing this concern for a  
 24 while now.

25 So *qujannamiik*.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your comments.

2 All right. Oh, Paul, go ahead. Sorry.

3 MR. KABLUTSIK: Yes, I wanted to say the Kivalliq  
4 communities, if we're increasing the number of tags,  
5 this would be very helpful, very useful. The polar  
6 bear does not equal money to us. It doesn't only mean  
7 finance, financial means, gain.

8 But Inuit, regarding wildlife, polar bears, we  
9 like the hide, going hunting, camping. The polar bear  
10 hide is so useful in our culture. And 25 has been so  
11 cut in Arviat, and because of those cuts and also  
12 thinking about the bears that tend to the garbage dump  
13 and wander into the town, and then, like, putting  
14 children and people in danger. When this was  
15 happening, why on earth would they cut and decrease the  
16 number?

17 And so we have monitors and people who the polar  
18 bears surround and surround our community in our area  
19 and then go far off into the sea, into the bay, and  
20 they can go a very long ways, travel very far. But  
21 this is just basic knowledge to us, and we certainly  
22 would support increased number because polar bears and  
23 their hides, we don't see it as just financial gain.  
24 So I wanted to add those.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Paul. I  
2 think more comments than a question to NTI.

3 So anything else from Arviat? Okay.

4 We'll move on, then, to Whale Cove. Any questions  
5 for NTI? Jackie.

6 **WHALE COVE HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

7 MR. NAPAYOK: To Paul Irngaut, I'm not trying to  
8 warn you, I'm not saying don't increase the number, but  
9 what I'm saying; let's say if they are increased and  
10 Whale Cove, Chester and the other communities, what  
11 about regarding females? Please include this in your  
12 decisions. Would we have more policy regarding  
13 females? We've been told all along and following and  
14 abiding by don't capture, don't kill more females than  
15 males. So would there be a change there?

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Jackie.  
17 Paul or David.

18 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Chair.

19 And thank you, Jackie, for your question.

20 So this management plan in Nunavut, we had  
21 community consultants on it, what they thought of it,  
22 the fact that we couldn't get more females, and so this  
23 has been a question asked over and over.

24 It's not really putting them in danger, but we've  
25 been told by our government if it's going to stay this

1 way, if we're going to increase the number of bears  
2 caught and even if we increase the number of females,  
3 we can be putting them in danger. But if we decrease  
4 the number of females caught, it will be a healthy  
5 population. So this is the mentality and the facts why  
6 there's regulation.

7 So we would have to consider this afterward. We  
8 would have to determine that regarding females. The  
9 government will start coming up with a management plan.  
10 And we had referred to this in years past, and some  
11 HTOs and people want it completely removed and the  
12 number of males and females to just be the same. When  
13 we've consulted with the communities, this is what  
14 we've heard often, but this question you're asking  
15 would have to be pondered by NWMB, I believe.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

17 Jackie, go ahead.

18 MR. NAPAYOK: And also for us Inuit, it doesn't  
19 make sense to us, especially us Elders. When a polar  
20 bear does not have any more male bear around, they  
21 can't get pregnant, obviously. So you need to consult  
22 with the Elders more. The plan would have already been  
23 set out, the wisest plan, the most accommodating plan  
24 according to the Elders. But you turned your back on  
25 us. We're completely left out or ignored. So we



1           wouldn't have been arguing about increasing these  
2           females, decreasing these males, blah, blah.

3           Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Jackie, for those  
5           comments.

6           Paul?

7       MR. IRNGAUT:                I think that was more or less a  
8           statement, and I completely agree with Jackie.

9           Today I think things are going to change now, so  
10          this is being brought forward and presented to this  
11          hearing. So we're just kind of going hand in hand with  
12          what's been practiced, but breaking away from there,  
13          and I guess just repetition, bringing up these issues  
14          and concerns. So many times in the past we weren't  
15          referred to or consulted with and made to follow law,  
16          and we were law abiding citizens putting ourselves in  
17          danger.

18          Today now that we have NWMB we have a better  
19          practice, a better way, priorities for the people to be  
20          consulted with first, and they have to be included in  
21          decision-making.

22          Thank you.

23       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Paul.

24                Any other questions? Whale Cove? No?

25                Okay. We're going to move on, then, to

1 Chesterfield Inlet. Any questions from  
2 Chesterfield Inlet to NTI? Harry.

3 **CHESTERFIELD INLET HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

4 MR. AGGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 Not really a question. Polar bears, when it's not  
6 polar bear hunting season -- they seem to come into our  
7 communities more when it's not polar bear hunting  
8 season, i.e., spring and summer. The problem bears  
9 have to be put down. I'm not sure who to ask, but, for  
10 example, in Chesterfield Inlet, about how many tags are  
11 allocated for defence kills, is my question?

12 Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Harry.  
14 Paul.

15 MR. IRNGAUT: Yes. Thank you.

16 Defence kills can be practiced throughout the year  
17 any time, or if you're even protecting equipment,  
18 property, but especially human beings, protection of  
19 people. So we can practice defence kills any time.

20 Regarding trying not to capture or kill females  
21 more than males, this affects the number of tags. But  
22 when they split up and divide the tagging between the  
23 RWOs, it is up to them, it's up to the RWOs and to the  
24 HTOs how they want to divvy it up and how they want to  
25 manage the tags. It's up to you. It's up to you when

1           you're given that number of tags. So you can decide  
2           according to the Land Claims.

3           For instance, if you want to use it all for  
4           defence kills, the ones who wander into the communities  
5           only, it's up to you, or if you want to give it out to  
6           people who will hunt them, harvest them, it's up to  
7           you. And I'm just letting you know that. You have to  
8           be protected. You have to be safe. So it's really up  
9           to you.

10           Thank you.

11       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Paul.

12           Anything else from Whale Cove? Okay. Thank you  
13           very much, gentlemen.

14           Rankin Inlet, any questions for NTI? No  
15           questions? Okay.

16           Baker Lake, any questions, comments to NTI? No?  
17           Okay. Thank you.

18           Environment Canada.

19       DR. LUNN:                   No, we don't have any questions.

20       THE CHAIR:                   Okay. Thank you, folks.

21           World Wildlife Fund? No questions?

22           Any Elders in the -- go ahead, Bobby.

23       **ELDERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

24       MR. COMER:                   Thanks again, Mr. Chair. I'll  
25           keep it short.

1           I mentioned earlier we would like to see the  
2           practice ended of tags being removed from community  
3           total allowable harvests, because, as you had  
4           mentioned, first and foremost is public safety. That  
5           bear was a danger to society, kids, children, and  
6           personal property. That should not be deemed as a  
7           harvest. It's nuisance bear.

8           First and foremost, you're removing that bear from  
9           the practice of feeling comfortable enough to go into  
10          communities and endangering people. That's the Inuit  
11          way of thinking; get rid of the problem. And that if  
12          it's a female, make sure your conservation officer  
13          makes every reasonable effort to scare it away from the  
14          community. More needs to be introduced, more ways need  
15          to be introduced to community conservation officers,  
16          maybe with help from the World Wildlife Fund for more  
17          funds on safe practice of removing female polar bears  
18          with cubs from communities. That's what we want to  
19          see.

20          But I can't stress enough that we would like to  
21          see the practice ended of removing tags of allowable  
22          harvest of polar bears because of nuisance polar bears  
23          that are a danger to society anyways. You have  
24          mentioned public safety is number one. And, of course,  
25          we would like to see every reasonable effort made to

1           scare it away from the community. But bears don't  
2           forget. They will go and move to the next community  
3           and enter that community again.

4           So you're doing two things: You're protecting the  
5           community first; second, you're getting rid of the  
6           problem bears that think it's okay to go into  
7           communities. That's one way to end these bears that  
8           think it's okay to go into communities and endanger the  
9           public. That's what I would like to see, and the  
10          practice of removing total allowable harvest tags,  
11          mainly Arviat. Our friends from Arviat are hit the  
12          hardest every year. Where does that bear go? It  
13          doesn't benefit the people, the community, nothing.

14          Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you very much for those  
16          comments, Bobby. More of a comment. If NTI wants to  
17          respond, or not, that's fine.

18          Okay. Any other questions from Elders in the  
19          gallery?

20          If not, Kivalliq Inuit Association is not here, I  
21          don't think. Okay.

22          No any questions from the public? Anybody else,  
23          questions?

24          Okay. If not, then that concludes NTI's  
25          presentation. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

1           With that, we'll move on. We have next scheduled  
2           the Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Board, but I think we're  
3           going to hold off on you until tomorrow until your  
4           people get here. I think hopefully they get here  
5           tonight or today. So we're going to move on, and we're  
6           not sure yet who's next in place, but I'll let you  
7           know.

8           We're going to take a 15-minute break right now  
9           for coffee. Thank you.

10       (ADJOURNMENT)

11       THE CHAIR:                   Okay. Thank you all for coming  
12           back again, and we'll resume.

13           We're going to do a little housekeeping first  
14           here. As we said, Kivalliq Wildlife Board will present  
15           tomorrow their presentation when they have their people  
16           here.

17           And another issue that has come up, we've asked  
18           Environment Canada to give us information, and they're  
19           going to do that tomorrow, too, hopefully. Even though  
20           we have not received a written submission from  
21           Environment Canada, our legal counsel is going to speak  
22           to you to consider to allow them to make a  
23           presentation. So I'll turn it over to Michael.

24           Michael, go ahead.

25       **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL - BRIEFING**

1       ON RE: ENVIRONMENT CANADA PROVIDING A SUBMISSION

2       MR. D'EÇA:                               *Qujannamiik, itsivautaaq.*

3               I just wanted to obtain the views of all the  
4       parties around the table, but I'll explain the  
5       situation.

6               Nick, on behalf of Environment Canada, has  
7       offered, as the Chairperson has mentioned, to prepare  
8       and deliver a presentation tomorrow. And my  
9       understanding is it addresses Environment Canada's work  
10      on Western Hudson Bay polar bears and addresses a  
11      number of issues that have arisen during today's  
12      discussions. And the NWMB believes that this would be  
13      helpful to all of the parties. We're all gathered  
14      together for these two days, and it would be that much  
15      more information for everyone to know about.

16              However, the usual protocol that the NWMB  
17      follows -- and it's all in the name of fairness -- you  
18      know, NWMB hearings, the Board places a lot of emphasis  
19      on being fair to all the parties. And that translates  
20      into having procedures that everybody knows about and  
21      agrees with.

22              So the usual procedure is that all  
23      presentations -- all formal submissions, I'll put it  
24      that way -- must be filed ahead of time. So you'll  
25      recall when this hearing was first announced the NWMB

1 put out an invitation: Do you want to provide written  
2 submissions? Provide them by this date. And then you  
3 show up at the hearing, and you make your oral  
4 presentations, generally relying upon your written  
5 submissions. And that arrangement ensures that there's  
6 no surprises, that if you do want to review a  
7 particular submission, you can look at it ahead of time  
8 and be prepared at the hearing.

9 So to ensure that fairness to all the parties, the  
10 NWMB wants to ask the various parties around the table:  
11 Do you have any objection to Nick preparing and  
12 delivering that presentation I just described to you  
13 for tomorrow? So it's not something that you can look  
14 up in your binder ahead of time, but it's certainly  
15 something that you will see, and a copy will be  
16 provided to you in due course.

17 And I want to again emphasize that the intention  
18 of this presentation is not to give an advantage to a  
19 particular party or to surprise anyone. On the  
20 contrary, it's to help inform everyone while we're all  
21 gathered together and to provide as much relevant  
22 information as is possible.

23 So I'm going to hand it back to the Chairperson,  
24 but my understanding is he'll go around and ask the  
25 parties around the table, "Do you have any objection to



1 Environment Canada preparing" -- I suppose this  
2 evening -- I don't know if Nick's probably started it a  
3 little bit, but he's been at the hearing all day --  
4 "preparing and then delivering tomorrow during their  
5 presentation time a more elaborate presentation than  
6 the letter?" I think it's a letter that is within your  
7 hearing binder.

8 So, Mr. Chair, I'll turn it back to you. *Taima.*

9 THE CHAIR: Yeah, thank you for that  
10 clarification, Michael.

11 So we did receive a letter from Environment  
12 Canada, and I want to make that clear that we do have  
13 something, but I know, hearing the concerns and  
14 questions today, that Nick is available and going to  
15 expand on that and provide a more detailed presentation  
16 if we allow him to do that, and I think it is a good  
17 idea. However, I will go around the table with all  
18 parties involved and ask your permission for this to  
19 happen.

20 And I'll start with the Board. Is everybody in  
21 agreement that we get more detailed information from  
22 Environment Canada tomorrow? Okay. That's good.

23 NTI, are you okay with that?

24 MR. IRNGAUT: You have to ask GN first, I think.

25 THE CHAIR: Okay. GN, are you okay with that?

1 MR. GISSING: No objection, Mr. Chair.

2 THE CHAIR: NTI?

3 MR. IRNGAUT: I would stomp my feet, but no  
4 objection.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

6 Kivalliq Wildlife Board? Okay. Thank you.

7 Arviat HTO, are you okay with that? Okay.

8 Whale Cove, HTO, you're good? Okay.

9 Chesterfield Inlet? Okay.

10 Rankin Inlet? Okay.

11 Baker Lake?

12 MR. NATEELA: There's no objections.

13 THE CHAIR: World Wildlife Fund?

14 MR. LAFOREST: No objections.

15 THE CHAIR: Any Elders.

16 Kivalliq Inuit Association not here.

17 And the general public.

18 All right. Thank you all for working in  
19 cooperation like that.

20 And you got the clearance to do that tomorrow,  
21 Nick. Okay?

22 DR. LUNN: Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: All right. So we'll move on. Our  
24 next presentation and presenters to the NWMB is the  
25 community of Arviat.

1           Arviat, you will have the floor to present any  
2           information you would like to the Board in regards to  
3           the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population. The  
4           floor is yours.

5           **SUBMISSION BY ARVIAT HTO**

6           MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:           Thank you, Chairman. His  
7           presentation, he has his notes up in his room, so while  
8           he is going to get them I have mine here.

9           Thank you. I'll start off some things in English  
10          regarding some issues or concerns that we have. And I  
11          don't know how you properly say this, the species at  
12          risk history. As of now, if I understand, the  
13          Western Hudson Bay polar bear is not that stable but a  
14          species of concern.

15          But what I want to say about this is the  
16          committee, who they are, and as the saddest matter like  
17          the wildlife in Canada in general because what I often  
18          find is any species like caribou, beluga, polar bear,  
19          they're all less normal conditions, as they say.

20          I'll say it in Inuktitut properly. With respect  
21          to polar bears, they let us know that the polar bear  
22          population, the mortality rates or when the females are  
23          not as healthy. I understand the reasoning.

24          Around Churchill, Manitoba, in the wintertime when  
25          the polar bears are small, but when they're getting out

1 of their dens, the researchers take pictures, or the  
2 people in Churchill do research, they take pictures of  
3 the cubs that just come out of the dens, which causes a  
4 problem for the wildlife.

5 When females have cubs, we should leave them alone  
6 when the females have cubs. However, they just went  
7 there to take pictures of cubs, and that's why they say  
8 that the mother is not as healthy and skinny and the  
9 cubs haven't eaten properly because of the tourists  
10 bothering our wildlife, especially our polar bear.

11 And around Arviat in the past there was hardly any  
12 polar bears. We know that. But right now there's a  
13 lot of polar bears, but our government tells us that  
14 they're in decline. I can say myself with certainty  
15 what the aerial surveys that you did, you said you saw  
16 only 18 in Nunavut area, but to our east and south in  
17 one day you can see more than 19. There's 7 or 9 polar  
18 bears that are together around our community. And in  
19 the summer and spring and fall there's always polar  
20 bears around our community, and they stick around that  
21 area, and once it gets cold then they do leave the  
22 community, but they'll come back in the spring.

23 Species At Risk, I do not agree. They make rules  
24 and laws that affect us in Nunavut. We know more about  
25 our wildlife. We see them every day, we deal with them

1 every day. However, I understand that polar bear,  
2 caribou, every year they are said to be in decline, and  
3 sometimes I don't even believe that listing.

4 Inuit know. They have the knowledge about our  
5 wildlife. We manage them properly. When we go out  
6 hunting we use our traditional hunting skills, and the  
7 furs and the hides is still our staple to this day.

8 Around Arviat especially over the last two years,  
9 I noticed at our dump and our sewer, sewage treatment  
10 plant there was 15 polar bears just lying around. Here  
11 we do not just act as tourists for our wildlife. I  
12 know if there was a lot of us watching those polar  
13 bears, it's not our way. And once we were getting  
14 tags.

15 We know down south the Dene are not allowed to  
16 harvest any polar bear. I understand that. They  
17 harvest grizzly bears instead because our polar bears  
18 have the taste of seals, and their taste is different  
19 than grizzly bears.

20 I know we could learn from this. And in the  
21 communities, in our community, we can manage them  
22 properly. Once we have an agreement, it will be okay.  
23 This is what I'm expecting.

24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Nick.

1 Paul.

2 MR. KABLUTSIK: My thoughts with respect to polar  
3 bears what we're sitting around this table for, I  
4 understand it clearly. I hope you understand me  
5 clearly when we're trying to deal with polar bears in  
6 the future.

7 There's a lot of polar bears at our dump, up to 15  
8 at a time, and then they go between our houses. They  
9 already know that they're not going to be affected by  
10 the people in the community.

11 And in the spring when we go to our cabins,  
12 there's a lot of cabins out there by the shore. The  
13 polar bears go through our cabins where we go dry our  
14 meat and fish, and polar bears are destroying our  
15 cabins. They move all over the place, and we are told  
16 that they are in decline, but I won't believe them  
17 because I see them more often. They go around, they  
18 come back, they go to where we hunt, harvest our food,  
19 and then they go back down to the ocean and they come  
20 back in the communities.

21 The people that harvest polar bears, if they  
22 increase the total allowable harvest, it would be  
23 better. Used to be 25 for Arviat because there's a lot  
24 of polar bears in our communities now, but once they  
25 cut the allowable harvest for our community, they're

1 running around in our community now, and they're coming  
2 back. And it's a public safety issue. It has to be  
3 dealt with. I wonder how we'd be able to do that.

4 Thank you very much.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Paul.

6 Any more information from Arviat? Okay. Thank  
7 you very much, gentlemen, for your presentation.

8 Any questions from the Board to the community of  
9 Arviat? Caleb.

10 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

11 MR. SANGOYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 I just want clarification with the Arviat HT0. To  
13 harvest polar bear, how many do they want to increase;  
14 to keep it the same or decrease? What would you like  
15 to see? You said it earlier, and that's my question.

16 The cabins that are being destroyed by polar  
17 bears, if there's a defence kill, would you take that  
18 away from the community, or what's your view on that?

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Caleb.

20 Thomas.

21 MR. ALIKASWA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 The tags for Arviat, we lost out on many tags with  
23 defence kills, and we can only harvest a few during  
24 polar bear season. It is a big community, as well.  
25 There's around 3,000 people in our community, and it is

1           becoming a bigger community, and the tags that we get  
2           for Arviat is not enough for our community. We would  
3           be happy -- myself, especially -- if we go back to what  
4           it was in the past.

5           And the next question that you asked: The cabins  
6           that are being affected, in the springtime where you go  
7           dry your meat and fish, I don't know -- we do try and  
8           get compensation whenever our cabins are destroyed. So  
9           they apply to the Renewable Resource office for  
10          compensation. That's the only information I can give  
11          you.

12          Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you very much, Thomas.

14          Caleb.

15   MR. SANGOYA:                We want to hear what they have to  
16           say, how many polar bears do they want to harvest, or  
17           if they don't have a, quota how you would like to  
18           conserve those polar bear population. We want to hear  
19           from the HTOs, HTAs more than we do from the Government  
20           or NTI. We want to hear from you more because we are  
21           here for you. It will be easier if we hear from you.

22   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Caleb.

23          Nick.

24   MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:            Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25          Yes, right now every year our total allowable



1 harvest tags is what we meet on every year, and then  
2 they decide in the communities how many they're going  
3 to harvest this year or that year. Last year we had  
4 13 -- no, 8 -- and Baker Lake has 1, Chesterfield is  
5 part of -- then Rankin, Whale Cove, Arviat. Then we  
6 split up those tags.

7 Right now we got an increase last year. However,  
8 right now, if it's understandable, our government is  
9 suggesting 28; however, for us in our communities in  
10 the Kivalliq Region it's not enough. I made it clear  
11 in Arviat 20, 25, to not change, it would be a lot  
12 better.

13 And we do not indiscriminately destroy wildlife,  
14 and if we have to destroy a polar bear out of season it  
15 does affect our tags. We'd have to wait for polar bear  
16 season. However, with defence kills it affects our  
17 allowable harvest, even though we don't agree with  
18 that. That affects us with respect to harvesting polar  
19 bears.

20 Just like when they're pulling on a hook, it will  
21 benefit, so if we can add onto that, our government --  
22 I would like to see an increase up to 20 or 25 tags is  
23 what we'd like to see, tags for Arviat for our future  
24 if that goes forward.

25 And the cabins that you mentioned earlier, yes,

1           they are destroyed not only by polar bears but by  
2           grizzly bears too. There are more grizzlies in and  
3           around our community as well. Yes, polar bears do go  
4           to the cabins, and they destroy property.

5           Thank you.

6       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Nick.

7           Charlie.

8       MR. INUARAK:               Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9           I want to ask the delegates from Arviat, because  
10          we hear on local CBC Radio that the polar bears are in  
11          and around the community of Arviat, and then they end  
12          up having to chase them away, and they affect the  
13          properties. I know the wildlife that you caught,  
14          harvested, seals and caribou and fish; when there's a  
15          lot of polar bears in and around your area, what's  
16          happening to the seals? Are they being affected, or is  
17          it just the people of Arviat? How do the hunters feel  
18          about polar bears and the food that they eat? Are they  
19          being affected?

20       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Charlie.

21          Thomas.

22       MR. ALIKASWA:             I'll try to answer that question.

23          As people from Arviat, in July, during the month of  
24          July, summer, from there all summer the polar bears are  
25          around our community. Right to the fall there's a lot

1 of polar bears in around our community. And even if  
2 you try to go spend the night out, you can't be in a  
3 tent out anymore because there's too many polar bears  
4 all summer. They're destroying property.

5 And on the lake (Inuktitut spoken) close to Arviat  
6 that's where we have our nets for fish, and you can  
7 tell the polar bears are eating the fish out of the  
8 nets. That's how they are affecting us. As a resident  
9 of Arviat, there's too many polar bears. It's going to  
10 start again this summer because it is a place where  
11 polar bears congregate. They even had to increase the  
12 Renewable Resource staff to monitor and ensure the  
13 safety of the public.

14 And your other question, the seals that you asked  
15 about, in the past, in the '70s, in the past, close to  
16 Arviat there used to be a lot of seals, I remember  
17 myself, when I was young. But today it's not like that  
18 anymore. There's hardly any seals around our  
19 community. And even if you go seal hunting by boat you  
20 hardly see them anymore. Only every once in a while we  
21 have a few seals around our area. We have to go really  
22 far.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Thomas.

25 Charlie.

1 MR. INUARAK: Yeah, you're so busy with polar  
2 bears, and how much you're dealing with them is what we  
3 hear about. For Department of Environment and the  
4 governments here, do they not listen to your crisis, or  
5 is it just you as the HTO who are striving to cope with  
6 what's going on and what's happening?

7 That's my question, Mr. Chair.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.

9 Nick.

10 MR. ARNAUKJUAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 In Arviat when we have increased number of bears,  
12 the different bodies, the hamlets, the NWMB, KWB, or  
13 WWF do come hand in hand in agreement to support us  
14 people to keep us safe. They work together, they do.

15 And it is more managed by the government wildlife.  
16 They're at work. But there's an agreement between the  
17 hamlet and the WWF in regards to the polar bears,  
18 especially in the more increased times of the year,  
19 over a span of two months, let's say.

20 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Nick.

21 Charlie.

22 MR. INUARAK: Okay. And you also mentioned the  
23 researchers from Environment, through the aerial  
24 surveys they tend to look more on the shoreline, but if  
25 they were to -- you said you see more inland further

1 out, and this is a characteristic of a polar bear what  
2 you're sharing, because they go wherever they want, and  
3 they go far places. So perhaps if the length of the  
4 research and surveys are made longer.

5 Are you aware of these indicators, the people from  
6 Arviat?

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.  
8 Thomas.

9 MR. ALIKASWA: If I can answer it, and I've  
10 mentioned it, I've repeated myself over and over to  
11 different boards. Myself, I'm a guide every year for  
12 sports hunters through Henik Lake Adventures. I'm part  
13 of the guides there looking for the caribou.

14 So about 150 miles we are brought by plane to the  
15 tree line west of Arviat, and for the last two years or  
16 for two years we have caught polar bears in these  
17 areas.

18 They would accommodate us to have research and  
19 surveys done further inland. And so if you're trying  
20 to count polar bears, we encourage you to go further,  
21 further out and include these in your numbers.

22 I hope I answered you correctly. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Thomas.  
24 Go ahead, Charlie.

25 MR. INUARAK: And my last question. The people

1           who do the surveys said between 800 to 1,000 is the  
2           population number from their surveys. Do you see this  
3           as true, or referring to your knowledge would there be  
4           more, or what would you say? While I'm here, can you  
5           share with me, are the numbers true for you?

6       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Charlie.

7           Nick.

8       MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:           Yes, your question, counting polar  
9           bears, us HT0 in Arviat are aware of this. I can say  
10          it's not true, and there are more than 1,000. Common  
11          knowledge. Especially it's due to the fact that Arviat  
12          is so close to Churchill. Churchill is identified as  
13          the polar bear capital of the world. If you properly  
14          count them, they're not in dwindling number, but they  
15          are increasing in number.

16               And I heard earlier this morning you may think you  
17          see one bear, but usually there's always two or three  
18          with their cubs. So this is what we constantly  
19          consistently see, two to three cubs. And the numbers  
20          they presented are not too true, so this is based on  
21          Inuit fact.

22       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Nick.

23           Jorgen.

24       MR. BOLT:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25               Just a quick question. Is there any sports hunts

1           there for polar bears, and if they are, are they coming  
2           from -- from where are the tags?

3           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Jorgen.

5           Thomas.

6   MR. ALIKASWA:               Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7           Us people in Arviat, before they take away from  
8           our quotas, yes, there used to be polar bear hunters  
9           coming in, sports hunters, but now we don't even touch  
10          that. The sport hunters do not come anymore.

11          Thank you.

12   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Thomas.

13          Any other questions from the Board? If not --  
14          Noah, go ahead.

15   MR. MAKAYAK:               For the people who conduct the  
16          surveys on polar bears, I'm not too aware of them, but  
17          the people who provide the tags or even regarding what  
18          kind of management system is conducted in Manitoba or  
19          Churchill, is it all over Manitoba or in  
20          Northern Quebec if our polar bears go across and reach  
21          Northern Quebec?

22          So the people who conduct the surveys, from what  
23          we were presented earlier, if they come up with these  
24          numbers, then are these the same bears? Are we talking  
25          about the same polar bear population because the

1 weather and the environment affects where they go? Or  
2 is it just the Baffin Region versus Kivalliq Region?  
3 They all conduct surveys. Do they do this as well?  
4 Manitoba or Northern Quebec, how's their management  
5 system, is my question.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Noah.

7 I'm not sure that's directed to you as an HTO, but  
8 I know tomorrow during Environment Canada's  
9 presentation, Noah, maybe they can answer your question  
10 tomorrow would be a better opportunity, I think. Is  
11 that okay, Noah?

12 MR. MAKAYAK: Okay.

13 THE CHAIR: All right. Any other Board  
14 members questions? Caleb.

15 MR. SANGOYA: My question earlier was not  
16 answered. For the bears that you harvest, do you not  
17 want it to affect -- what's the exact number of tags  
18 you wish for for Arviat? So that's my question. How  
19 many tags do you want for it not to be touched, or do  
20 you want it increased or decreased for the bears that  
21 you can catch in Arviat?

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Caleb.

23 Thomas.

24 MR. ALIKASWA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 Sorry I didn't answer you earlier. I was trying



1 to say earlier that people from Arviat, their tags are  
2 not enough, too few in number. And if we can have this  
3 increased we would like it to increase the number of  
4 bears we can catch in Arviat, and especially if we can  
5 return it. The regional used to be 20 something, about  
6 25 before. If we could get back to this number, this  
7 would help us.

8 Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Thomas.

10 Okay. No other questions from Board members?

11 Any questions from staff? Vickie.

12 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD STAFF QUESTIONS AND**  
13 **COMMENTS**

14 MS. SAHANATIEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 I think just in the discussions there is a lot of  
16 information that we don't readily have because I guess  
17 information is not recorded by the community or by the  
18 government, as well, when the bears are arriving in  
19 town, the real, maybe, hot spot areas. We saw a bit of  
20 information earlier, but we don't have that at our  
21 hands handy today, and I'm thinking down the road it  
22 might be a very good idea if the community HTO,  
23 collaborating with organizations with ourselves, to  
24 collect additional information on what you're  
25 experiencing with the bears in the fall, the timing,

1           because the surveys are done, you know, in the summer  
2           for certain reasons.

3           We don't have that information in the fall. That  
4           would be useful to help us just make assessments and, I  
5           guess, determinations and understand, I guess, the  
6           level of public safety hazard and what you're  
7           experiencing.

8           So I'm thinking more to the future here that  
9           perhaps we could look at more intensive type of  
10          monitoring along Western Hudson Bay with the  
11          communities to get that more ecological information  
12          that people have been asking about behaviour,  
13          distribution and so on during the fall and how that  
14          affects your hunting and your ability to use your  
15          quotas effectively.

16          More of a comment. Thank you.

17          THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Vickie.

18          Again, more of a comment from Vickie about  
19          gathering more information.

20          Yeah, Nick, go ahead.

21          MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:           Thank you, Chair.

22          So this research survey determining the numbers is  
23          applied every year in Arviat when they come in from  
24          Arviat. And as Inuit we know, we recognize different  
25          bears. But as soon as they cross the bay and continue

1 down the shoreline, and for many years, about 400 have  
2 passed through every day pretty well on a daily basis.  
3 And after they've passed the bay most don't return,  
4 they just continue going down.

5 Except when they do at our dump. Someone had  
6 caught a bear from the dump, or they caught a bear with  
7 a tag with a little GPS attached to it. And if you  
8 don't know the film, the series called *Polar Bear Town*,  
9 who described them as danger bears, the bear was killed  
10 in Arviat. So all these film crew were whatever, what  
11 are they going to do about it?

12 But for us, the matter about monitoring, yes,  
13 Inuit we normally don't count to see how many bears  
14 there are now. It's not our practice to count bears  
15 just for the sake of knowing how many they are. But we  
16 understand about the male, the female, the cubs, things  
17 like that, and the age.

18 But we're going to work harder as HT0 concerning  
19 polar bears, especially in the fall, and we practice  
20 this by the wildlife officers and the different  
21 organizations that I mentioned earlier are there, and  
22 we manage what we can to control them, especially  
23 during peak times in Arviat.

24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Nick.

1 Any other questions or comments from staff?  
2 Michael, anything? That's it for Arviat. We'll  
3 move on to the next questioning.

4 GN, do you have any questions for Arviat?

5 MR. GISSING: No questions.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Drikus.

7 Nunavut Tunngavik Paul.

8 MR. IRNGAUT: No questions. Thanks.

9 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, any  
10 questions?

11 MS. NETSER: No questions.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

13 Whale Cove HTO, any questions to Arviat?

14 MR. ENUAPIK: No questions.

15 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Simon.

16 Chesterfield Inlet, any questions to Arviat?

17 MR. AGGARK: No questions.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Harry.

19 Baker Lake, any questions?

20 MR. AKSAWNEE: No, thank you, no questions.

21 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada, any questions?

22 MS. VALLENDER: No questions. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you. World Wildlife Fund,  
24 any questions?

25 **WORLD WILDLIFE FUND QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

1 MR. LAFOREST: Thank you, Mr. Chair, just a quick  
2 comment.

3 The WWF support of the Arviat patrol is something  
4 we're really proud of and that we'll continue. And  
5 we're always open to conversations with the HTO and the  
6 community. I know we work with the hamlet to  
7 administer the patrol, but any suggestions from the HTO  
8 or the community to improve it, it's in conjunction  
9 with GN, they lead it. In the end, we just support.  
10 But always open to suggestions on how those funds could  
11 be best placed in the community to help.

12 Thanks.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

14 Any questions from the Elders and the public in  
15 the gallery for Arviat?

16 If not, KIA is not here. No questions from them.

17 Any questions from the public? Anybody else in  
18 the gallery? Okay. No questions.

19 Gentlemen, thank you very much for your  
20 presentation and voicing your views and concerns.

21 Thank you very much.

22 We're going to move on, then. Whale Cove, if you  
23 would like to make a presentation to the Board. Thank  
24 you.

25 SUBMISSION BY WHALE COVE HTO

1 MR. ENUAPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 I asked earlier regarding if we can increase polar  
3 bear tags. This winter we were in danger in  
4 Whale Cove. Even the past years I can say we have been  
5 in danger, and we couldn't shoot them, catch them, kill  
6 them. And they were amidst our houses, even sleeping  
7 in between the houses, and we were rendered powerless.  
8 So, yes, we were given ten tags, but it's still too  
9 small. It's not enough.

10 Elders -- I often ask them regarding polar bears:  
11 Do you think they're more in number or fewer in number?  
12 And they all say there are so many more now today.  
13 They always give me the same answer. I love learning  
14 from our Elders, asking them questions. I have total  
15 faith in them.

16 But we're talking about danger? Yes, I can say  
17 Whale Cove was not safe. Two people were attacked on  
18 the ramp of the Co-op store, and there were five  
19 different polar bears sleeping under houses, houses  
20 with people in them. We did everything we can to scare  
21 them away, but they just come back.

22 And their character has changed. They're just  
23 prone to being amongst Inuit people. This is  
24 dangerous. And I do not mind at all if the number of  
25 bears that we can catch can be increased because we

1 value people, Inuit, more than animals, polar bears.

2 And so we're in favour of the numbers being increased.

3 And I'm going to ask if Mr. Napayok wants to share  
4 anything.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

7 Jackie.

8 MR. NAPAYOK: Just the same every year, every  
9 year. They seem to be growing in number, not coming  
10 from -- I'm sure you understand when they're coming  
11 from the north. They're not really coming from the  
12 north; they're coming from the south from Arviat area  
13 every year, and they're increasing in number from  
14 south.

15 And we often say as Elders -- I have to say this.  
16 Part of the reason around the fall, toward fall, toward  
17 the end of August, the last week of August, let's say,  
18 we see many more belugas in Whale Cove, white belugas,  
19 not narwhals. And this is no doubt a factor because  
20 hunters do not sink the carcass. They just harvest it,  
21 and leave it on the shoreline. This is due in part why  
22 we're seeing more polar bears coming around. And  
23 they're supposed to -- if they don't cut up the lungs  
24 and the innards, then it's just going to always float.  
25 So you need to butcher it properly in order for the

1           carcass to sink into the sea to leave it there.

2           And Charlie asked earlier, the people of Arviat,  
3           if they see more or less seals according to the past.  
4           And he was told in the past, yes, there was always a  
5           lot of seals. This is true. And even in Whale Cove we  
6           used to have more seals. This isn't even in regards to  
7           polar bears, if you don't mind my saying.

8   THE CHAIR:                   Yes, that's fine.

9   MR. NAPAYOK:               And the bears, if you're going to  
10           work with -- if the bears -- we know they're going to  
11           damage property. And I don't really want to say this,  
12           but we have our homes in Nunavut. When somebody from  
13           the south comes, this particular person, well-known by  
14           Arvimmiut, and there used to be a lot more seals. But  
15           they are so few in number now, and I don't really --  
16           I'm being hesitant.

17           But the sound of the sonar or the loud-sounding  
18           noise like that of a killer whale was sunk in  
19           Whale Cove, and I think this is the reason why there's  
20           fewer seals and sea mammals around, and I think this is  
21           part of the problem. But also in Naujaat -- I think  
22           even all the Arvimmiut heard this. No one's bringing  
23           this up, so I'm sharing it. So this is part of the  
24           reason for the polar bears too.

25   THE CHAIR:                   Thank you very much, Jackie and



1 Simon.

2 Anything that you would like to present?

3 MR. ENUAPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 I also want to say that we're often in danger, and  
5 for the past two years we haven't had a wildlife  
6 officer, and this makes it more difficult. We have a  
7 hard-working bylaw, the only one, really, responsible  
8 for chasing them away. And I often ask him when  
9 there's bears: How often do you see them each night?  
10 The last time I asked him when we started seeing more  
11 bears, he said he's seen nine bears just outside of  
12 Whale Cove, and he scared them all the way, and they  
13 all came back. They just keep coming back now to our  
14 towns.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 THE CHAIR: Okay. I'm going to open it up for  
17 questions from the Board. I just want to acknowledge  
18 Whale Cove and Arviat stressing the safety factor of  
19 the people is a huge concern to you.

20 Any questions from the Board Members? Okay.

21 David.

22 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND**  
23 **COMMENTS**

24 MR. KRITTERLIK: I have a question. I am from  
25 Whale Cove, as you all know. I was originally from

1 Arviat, so I know pretty well the two communities  
2 you're talking about.

3 But also being an Elder, I know a bit about some  
4 things, but there are a lot of questions within the  
5 communities in regards to scientific and technical  
6 knowledge. We are going by that knowledge that we  
7 never used before.

8 One question that would satisfy a lot of Elders is  
9 that, how do you distinguish the population within the  
10 same quota system? How do you divide the Coral Harbour  
11 quota from Western Hudson Bay or even Northern Quebec?  
12 Those are the questions that we often ask, and we've  
13 been advised this afternoon that the current system is  
14 what moved the population, what moved the wildlife.

15 Paul Kablutsiak mentioned before that there's a  
16 circulation going on in Hudson Bay, ice packs that  
17 carry polar bears. Knowing that, getting that from the  
18 Elders from the communities, also from technical  
19 knowledge we heard that a collared polar bear who was  
20 collared in Churchill, Manitoba, was tracked across the  
21 bay to northern Manitoba.

22 Now, those are the kind of questions that the  
23 communities would like to really find out: How do you  
24 put the western population separately from all the  
25 other areas? And that's why I mentioned before that,

1           yes, we are including the IQ, yeah, IQ in the studies  
2           or surveys, but I mentioned that jokingly that having a  
3           local Inuit person in the helicopter doesn't make him a  
4           scientist right away, he's only being included in the  
5           survey, but his IQ is not taken from him. Something to  
6           think about.

7           Thank you.

8       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you for those comments,  
9           David. Jorgen, do you have a question?

10      MR. BOLT:                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11           Yeah, you said your bylaw officer was a pretty  
12          busy boy there; no wildlife officer. I don't know why  
13          that is. You know, every community should have a  
14          wildlife officer, especially somebody like that, some  
15          communities like that.

16           But you mentioned that the bylaw officer was using  
17          a deterrent. What kind of deterrent is he using?  
18          Like, bear bangers or rifles, or what kind of deterrent  
19          is he using? Because when I was working as a wildlife  
20          tech in the mines, that was my job also to chase away  
21          wildlife. And I've had, like, using deterrents, a  
22          helicopter, and then using bear bangers and then just,  
23          you know, pushing them as hard as I can. Because they  
24          were -- they were literally habituating these animals  
25          before I got there. And I said you can't do that.

1           That's not the way to do it. You have to let them know  
2           the first time that you're serious.

3           And so my job was to chase these animals away. I  
4           chased a lot of grizzly bears in helicopters and stuff.  
5           They were pretty much habituating these animals by just  
6           doing little deterring jobs, if you will. And I said,  
7           no, you can't do that. That's not the way to do it.  
8           You need to scare them good the first time, and after  
9           that they might not come back.

10          And we started. I chased a lot of bears, and I  
11          said, no, just get right down on top of them and push  
12          them as hard as you can. Push them. Push them. And  
13          using bear bangers and stuff like that, most of the  
14          time those bears never came back to the mine.

15          And just my question is, what kind of deterrents  
16          are you using?

17          Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18          THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Jorgen.

19          Simon.

20          MR. ENUAPIK:                Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21          They use cracker shells and rubber bullets for the  
22          .12 gauge gun. Thank you.

23          THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Simon.

24          Caleb.

25          MR. SANGOYA:                Mr. Chairman.

1           In the past before we got the Nunavut Land Claims  
2 Agreement, before these agreements were in place our  
3 government used to decide for us, when it was the NWT  
4 government. Once we have defined rights, the  
5 communities have the opportunity to speak.

6           How many polar bears do you want to see in your  
7 community, and for safety issues and the polar bears  
8 that come into the communities, how we can manage that?

9           I saw in our binder, November 24. Before that  
10 date we had written submissions to give to the NWMB  
11 Board and to the government, did the same thing as  
12 well, and NTI. I wanted to see their submissions.

13           And the communities that are affected, how many  
14 would you like to see? And the sex selection of them  
15 for males and females, I haven't seen what your wishes  
16 are. What is it in your community that you would like  
17 to harvest? How many would you like to see with the  
18 sex selection harvesting, and how many you would like  
19 see in your community? It's not in your written  
20 submission, so I want to find out what your community  
21 feels like with respect to how many they can harvest.

22           I know the government has their own agenda, but  
23 the communities have the opportunity under the Land  
24 Claims Agreement, especially the HTOs in the  
25 communities. This is what I would like to hear from

1           you more than I do from the government. I'd like to  
2           hear what the communities' wishes are, and written. If  
3           it's 100 or 200, don't worry about that. Don't even  
4           consider the government's guidelines. But when we're  
5           deciding on what kind of decision we want to make,  
6           that's my question to you.

7                     I would like more information from Arviat and  
8           Whale Cove because of the amount of polar bears they  
9           have. That's my question. What is your numbers that  
10          you would like to see, total allowable harvest and to  
11          ensure the safety of the public?

12                    Thank you.

13          THE CHAIR:                   Thank you.

14                    Simon.

15          MR. ENUAPIK:                Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16                    We have heard from Inuit. The male and female  
17          ratio has been the question as well, and I've been told  
18          that the sex selection should be taken off and not used  
19          that anymore. But we were told, if that is taken off,  
20          the polar bear tags would be decreased for the  
21          community. That's what we were told in our community.

22                    I know it's not only for polar bears that destroy  
23          cabins. Even wolverines, they're really strong.  
24          Wolverines are affecting our cabins, not only just  
25          polar bears, through my experience, and grizzly bears,

1 as well, because we do get grizzly bears in local.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Simon.

4 Just following up on Caleb's question, does  
5 Whale Cove have a number in mind of the number of polar  
6 bears that you would comfortably like to harvest in  
7 your community?

8 MR. ENUAPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 I asked our board members. They would like to  
10 see 20. If there are at least 20 that we can harvest,  
11 it would be better. Over the last two years we  
12 couldn't harvest any polar bears. During polar bear  
13 season it was really hard to be a board member for the  
14 HT0. We can't do anything. People complain to us  
15 board members, and we couldn't do anything, couldn't  
16 harvest any bears over the last two years. We couldn't  
17 even think properly anymore as a member from  
18 Whale Cove. We even considered suicide.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Simon.

20 Any other questions? Oh, Charlie.

21 MR. INUARAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 Let me ask the question, because it is mentioned  
23 more and more often on TV. With climate change and the  
24 polar bears are getting skinnier and starving, in  
25 Whale Cove do you see that? Are the polar bears not as

1 healthy, or are they so healthy they're increasing?  
2 What are your thoughts on the health of the polar bear?  
3 Are they getting skinnier? What is your view on this  
4 issue? If you could let me know, I would be happy.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.  
6 Simon.

7 MR. ENUAPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 The polar bears we see, they're not hungry. Some  
9 of them were -- most of them, in fact -- were all  
10 healthy and fat. Three or four were sick, and you  
11 could tell they were unhealthy. And someone did  
12 harvest one because it was becoming a nuisance bear.  
13 You could see that the lower jaw was broken, and  
14 because of that it was a danger to the public.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Simon.  
17 Charlie.

18 MR. INUARAK: So the polar bears are not in  
19 decline because of their health? They're using  
20 their own -- there are some that are fat and some that  
21 are fit. It's still the same. Is that what I hear  
22 from you?

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Charlie.  
25 Simon.



1 MR. ENUAPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Yes, right now this year the polar bears, spring,  
3 summer, fall we had polar bears in our community.  
4 Every one we saw looked healthy. As I mentioned, there  
5 were three, maybe four polar bears that had a disease  
6 or had some problems, so they had to destroy them, but  
7 right now the polar bears that we see this year,  
8 they're all healthy.

9 Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Simon.

11 Any other questions? If not, any questions from  
12 staff? Vickie.

13 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD STAFF QUESTIONS AND**  
14 **COMMENTS**

15 MS. SAHANATIEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Just a short question. So it was a few months ago  
17 NWMB helped the Government of Nunavut to have a course  
18 in Whale Cove for polar bear guard training. I'm just  
19 wondering how you felt about it. Was it successful?  
20 Would you like to see more of that to help deal with  
21 this public safety problem that you're having?

22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Thanks, Vickie.

24 Simon.

25 MR. ENUAPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1                   Yes, that was a good course. There were ten  
2                   people that were instructed; however, if we can have a  
3                   longer process. Only two days the training was, it  
4                   would seem like they were rushing. If we could train  
5                   them a lot longer, it would be better.

6                   Thank you.

7       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Simon.

8                   Michael, legal, any questions? Okay. No  
9                   questions. That wraps up NWMB Board members and staff.

10                  GN, any questions to Whale Cove?

11       MR. GISSING:               No questions.

12       THE CHAIR:               NTI, any questions?

13       MR. IRNGAUT:              No questions.

14       THE CHAIR:               Kivalliq Wildlife Board, any  
15                  questions?

16       **KIVALLIQ WILDLIFE BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

17       MR. DEAN:                I just want to get clarification.

18                  The numbers that both Arviat and Whale Cove have  
19                  suggested for tags, that's for your community that you  
20                  want; right? The 20 to 25 that Arviat suggested, it  
21                  sounds like that was the case. I just want to make  
22                  sure it's clear, not for the whole Western Hudson Bay  
23                  population.

24       THE CHAIR:               Thank you. I think that is my  
25                  understanding that they're speaking on behalf of their

1           own communities.

2                   But, Simon, go ahead, if you want to add.

3       MR. ENUAPIK:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4                   Yes, myself, I would like to see 20 for  
5       Whale Cove. That's what we would like our total  
6       allowable harvest to be for our community.

7       THE CHAIR:                   Nothing else, KWB? No more  
8       questions?

9                   Arviat HTO, do you have any questions. No?

10                  Chesterfield Inlet, any questions for Whale Cove?

11       MR. AGGARK:                  No questions.

12       THE CHAIR:                  Rankin Inlet.

13       MR. TARTAK:                 No questions.

14       THE CHAIR:                  Baker Lake, any questions for  
15       Whale Cove?

16       MR. NATEELA:                No questions.

17       THE CHAIR:                  Okay. Environment Canada?

18       MS. VALLENDER:              No questions. Thank you.

19       THE CHAIR:                  World Wildlife Fund?

20       MR. LAFOREST:               No questions.

21       THE CHAIR:                  Any questions from Elders or the  
22       public to Whale Cove? No questions.

23                  Whale Cove, that concludes your presentation and  
24       questions to you. Thank you very much for voicing your  
25       concerns. And we'll move on to the next community.

1           Chesterfield Inlet, if you would like to make a  
2           presentation to the Board in regards to the Western  
3           Hudson Bay polar bears.

4           **SUBMISSION BY CHESTERFIELD INLET HTO**

5           MR. AGGARK:                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6                   I apologize for not having a written submission  
7           with respect to this question; however, it is pretty  
8           much the same as Arviat and Whale Cove. We have  
9           concerns for our community.

10                   We are both on Western Hudson Bay, and the other  
11           half is from Foxe Basin where we get our tags from.  
12           This causes a problem for us. For example, when you  
13           add them all, we can get nine polar bears in one year,  
14           four from Western Hudson Bay and five from Foxe Basin.

15                   The sex ratio between female and male is not the  
16           same, and it causes us issues. For an example, our  
17           youth do not know what sex it is, whether it's a male  
18           or female, because they don't have the experience. The  
19           polar bears that just left their mothers, whether it's  
20           a male or female, they don't distinguish.

21                   This fall, November 1 when our season opened, when  
22           someone went out to harvest a bear they caught two  
23           females right away. And on the Western Hudson Bay we  
24           were able to harvest four, one female and three males.  
25           In Foxe Basin we have five that we can harvest, two

1 female and three males. Because of that, we do end up  
2 in a situation where we're harvesting too many females,  
3 and from the Western Hudson Bay then we will get  
4 penalized for that. Therefore, for next year it would  
5 be better; for example, if we had ten that we could  
6 harvest, five and five would be better.

7 And the polar bears that come to our communities  
8 and have become problem and nuisance polar bears, we  
9 don't like destroying the bear. The RCMP and our  
10 Renewable Resource Officer try to scare them away, and  
11 they just come back. I wonder how we would be able to  
12 fix this situation. During off season if we can get  
13 help for our community, even if we can have a cage or  
14 trap them and send them out of the community it would  
15 be better that way, I think. I'm not sure.

16 As well, as someone mentioned earlier, in  
17 August there's a lot of whales in and around the  
18 communities, and the harvested whales do get put into  
19 the water, and some of them are left on the shore, and  
20 that causes the polar bears to come close to the  
21 community. I know it's a community concern that needs  
22 to be addressed in our community, but not everybody  
23 listens to the HT0. We have to fix that in our  
24 community ourselves.

25 And in the spring when people go out hunting for

1 walrus and then they cache them close to the community,  
2 that's another reason why the polar bears are close to  
3 our community. What else I can add on right now, I  
4 think I'll end my submission right there.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Harry.

7 Anything else from anybody else? Nobody?

8 Okay. Any questions to Chesterfield Inlet?

9 Caleb.

10 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

11 MR. SANGOYA: I want to hear from you, as well,

12 what your quota should be with respect to safety.

13 Those defence kills, would you like that to be added on  
14 or have a different system for that? Have you  
15 considered that?

16 MR. AGGARK: The system that we're using right  
17 now during off season, the defence kills in the spring  
18 and summer when they're female, our tags are taken away  
19 from us. We don't like that situation. Our quota for  
20 next year, if it's not there, if they don't take it  
21 away from us that would be better for us.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Harry.

23 Any other questions from Board Members to  
24 Chesterfield Inlet?

25 If not, staff? Nothing? Legal? No questions?

1 Government of Nunavut.

2 MR. GISSING: No questions.

3 THE CHAIR: NTI.

4 **NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

5 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I was supposed to ask the question earlier for  
7 Arviat and Whale Cove. The polar bears that you  
8 encounter that go into your communities, are they  
9 always female, or is this male and females, or is it  
10 more females?

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Harry.

13 MR. AGGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 THE CHAIR: Go ahead, Harry.

15 MR. AGGARK: The polar bears that come into our  
16 communities in the fall are more females, maybe because  
17 of the males being harvested more often, or from  
18 Churchill through Arviat when the weather is getting  
19 cold before the ice is there, they come by the shore.  
20 They pass by Chesterfield all the way up towards  
21 Naujaat and Coral. Not sure whether the females are  
22 before the males, but they do seem to be more abundant  
23 that come through our community.

24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Harry.

1                   Okay. Kivalliq Region Wildlife Board, no  
2                   questions?

3       MS. NETSER:                   No.

4       THE CHAIR:                   Arviat, any questions for  
5                   Chesterfield Inlet? Harry? Nick.

6       **CHESTERFIELD INLET HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

7       MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:               I have one question for  
8                   Chesterfield. With respect to the Western Hudson Bay  
9                   population, you're included. How many years have you  
10                  been included on the Western Hudson Bay population? Do  
11                  you know how long has it been being included with the  
12                  Western Hudson Bay population?

13      MR. AGGARK:                   From my recollection from the  
14                  beginning when they had the boundaries listed before,  
15                  once we found out about the borders, that's when we  
16                  were included. But I don't know exactly what year that  
17                  was. We were taken off the Western Hudson Bay  
18                  population, but we were brought back in.

19                  Thank you.

20      THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Harry.

21                  Arviat, any more questions?

22      MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:               No more. Thank you.

23      THE CHAIR:                   Okay. Whale Cove, any questions  
24                  to Chesterfield Inlet?

25      MR. ENUAPIK:                   No questions.



1 THE CHAIR: Rankin Inlet, any questions?

2 Baker Lake, any questions?

3 Environment Canada?

4 MS. VALLENDER: No questions.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

6 World Wildlife Fund, any questions? No questions.

7 Any Elders or anybody from the public, any  
8 questions to Chesterfield Inlet HTO? Doesn't look like  
9 any.

10 Thank you very much, Chesterfield Inlet, for your  
11 presentation.

12 We're going to move on next to Rankin Inlet. Do  
13 you have a presentation to give us to the NWMB?

14 **SUBMISSION BY RANKIN INLET HTO**

15 MR. SIGARDSON: I do not have a presentation, but  
16 the number my board came up with was 40 for  
17 Western Hudson Bay.

18 THE CHAIR: That's the number that Rankin  
19 requests?

20 MR. SIGARDSON: Total for Western Hudson Bay.

21 THE CHAIR: What was the number again?

22 MR. SIGARDSON: 40.

23 THE CHAIR: 40?

24 MR. SIGARDSON: Yeah.

25 THE CHAIR: Yeah, 4-0.

1           So I'm still going to give the opportunity for  
2           anybody -- and I'm not sure if you can answer any  
3           questions -- but opportunity to ask Rankin Inlet HTO  
4           any questions that anybody might have. And I'll just  
5           open it up because I don't think there will be too  
6           many. Charlie.

7           **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

8           MR. INUARAK:                   Let me ask the question. On the  
9           local radio we're hearing more, I know Arviat is the  
10          first that gets the polar bears first and then  
11          Whale Cove and Rankin. It's the same group of polar  
12          bears that reach this area from Churchill? That's my  
13          question, because that's where we are.

14         THE CHAIR:                    Thank you, Charlie.  
15   Rankin, go ahead.

16         MR. SIGARDSON:                We don't see the numbers that they  
17   do in Arviat. We're a little bit further inland.

18         THE CHAIR:                    Okay. Thank you.

19   Any other questions from the Board? I'm going to  
20   do this properly because I'll get it mixed up, so I'll  
21   follow the process. Any other questions from the  
22   Board? Doesn't look like it. Staff.

23         MR. SANGOYA:                  Hey, from the Board.

24         THE CHAIR:                    From the Board. Caleb.

25         MR. SANGOYA:                  Yeah, I'm the Board.

1 THE CHAIR: You are.

2 MR. SANGOYA: We were told when we had our first  
3 hearing here 2013, around Rankin Inlet people that were  
4 hunting, there was someone mauled by a polar bear.

5 The ten that were destroyed we hardly see polar  
6 bears inside the community, but just outside. In  
7 between, there's a lot of polar bears outside the  
8 community. I don't believe that is true. It is  
9 something that Rankin residents are worried about to be  
10 in a tent down by the shore. It was heard on the radio  
11 that it is scary to be out in a tent. Or can you go  
12 out hunting anywhere between Whale Cove and  
13 Chesterfield?

14 MR. SIGARDSON: I couldn't actually answer that.  
15 I wasn't in Rankin in 2013, but I do know people that  
16 go down the bay will not stay in tents.

17 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Clayton.

18 All right. Any other questions from any of the  
19 Board Members?

20 Staff? Legal? No.

21 GN?

22 NTI? Kivalliq Wildlife Board?

23 Arviat HTO? Nick.

24 **ARVIAT HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

25 MR. ARNAUKJUAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 I know the communities of Whale Cove, Rankin,  
2 Arviat, polar bears do come to our communities quite  
3 often. We do know that.

4 I'm asking the total harvest of polar bears that  
5 you can have, how many people went to Arviat to go  
6 harvest a polar bear?

7 THE CHAIR: Clayton, we'll go through the  
8 Chair here, okay, so I'll acknowledge you.

9 Thank you, Nick.

10 Clayton, go ahead.

11 MR. SIGARDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 I think it was six, but I'm not 100 percent sure.  
13 But those people that went to go hunt in Arviat were  
14 from Arviat. They live in Rankin now.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Clayton.

16 Nick.

17 MR. ARNAUKJUAQ: Thank you for that information.

18 As Inuit, we don't have any problem with our  
19 community members, Whale Cove, Rankin. They do travel  
20 towards our community. Every year they show up in our  
21 community to harvest a polar bear. But I do realize --  
22 I'm saying they were harvesters that originally came  
23 from Arviat. They do come close to our communities to  
24 harvest polar bears that are around our community.

25 I think we have to train the people. We're not

1           stingy about our polar bears, but looking at our  
2           community, only the people from Arviat should harvest  
3           around our community. I know they're not the only ones  
4           that are harvesting around that area. People come from  
5           local in Rankin to harvest polar bears. So my  
6           question: Is that okay?

7           Thank you.

8       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Nick.

9           Clayton.

10       MR. SIGARDSON:            I can't really answer that.

11       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Clayton. And that is  
12           kind of -- that is putting you on the spot to answer a  
13           question like that. I think that's a whole board  
14           question that needs to be answered, and you can take it  
15           to your board.

16           Anything else from Arviat, Nick? No? Okay.

17           Whale Cove, any questions for Rankin Inlet?

18           Simon?

19       MR. ENUAPIK:               No questions.

20       THE CHAIR:                   Chesterfield Inlet?

21       MR. AGGARK:                No questions.

22       THE CHAIR:                   Baker Lake?

23       MR. NATEELA:                No questions.

24       THE CHAIR:                   Environment Canada?

25       MS. VALLENDER:            Nothing. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

2 World Wildlife Fund?

3 Any questions from anybody in the gallery, Elders,  
4 public, for Rankin Inlet?

5 If not, thank you Clayton, and that concludes your  
6 presentations that you had, and your presentation was  
7 basically giving us a number that you feel comfortable  
8 with for the whole Western Hudson Bay population, which  
9 is 40. Okay. Thank you.

10 Next to present, our last community, Baker Lake.  
11 Do you have a presentation that you want to give us to  
12 the Board NWMB? Now is the time.

13 **SUBMISSION BY BAKER LAKE HTO**

14 MR. NATEELA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 We don't have anything written or to bring  
16 forward. We're here for the hearing to attend the  
17 hearing. And we were wondering about our participation  
18 with this hearing, and due to the fact that not long  
19 ago Baker Lake was removed from the Western Hudson Bay  
20 management.

21 But now we've been given one floating tag, I  
22 believe it's called, from the Foxe Basin pack. But the  
23 folks in Baker Lake have shared, if we're allowed, that  
24 we have been asking to have a tag from the Western  
25 Hudson Bay region. And so that's what we're sharing

1 with you today, if we're allowed from the Western  
2 Hudson Bay, Baker Lake is eager and willing. So I want  
3 to clarify that.

4 And the Elders, some of the Elders, they eat polar  
5 bear meat. There's some folks that lived by the sea in  
6 their lifetime, and I know we're further inland, but of  
7 course there's Inuit who eat sea mammals, part of their  
8 diet, raised and grew up that way, and they wish to  
9 still eat it and harvest it. Keep this in mind when  
10 you're making your decision. We have to be part of the  
11 process.

12 And so this is pretty much all I have to share for  
13 now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Hugh.

15 Any questions to Baker Lake from Board Members?

16 David K.

17 **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

18 MR. KRITTERDLIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 We know the folks in Baker Lake. Their ancestors  
20 are originally from the seashore coastline, and, of  
21 course, there are still many who grew up with this  
22 diet, including sea mammals, part of what they've grown  
23 up harvesting and eating.

24 So we're always aware of each other's characters  
25 and diets, and we all grew up with the principle of

1 sharing, and we can't be stingy when it comes to  
2 wildlife. So on this principle, if they wish to be  
3 included with sea mammals and other mammals, then they  
4 have every right.

5 The other thing; how many would you ask for, can  
6 you say?

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.  
8 Hugh.

9 MR. NATEELA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 We'd like all of them. But based on the principle  
11 of sharing, we'll ask for half. I can't really say,  
12 give a number. I'm not sure. Our fellow board members  
13 really haven't concluded this. They throw some numbers  
14 here and there, time to time, but to give an actual  
15 number I can't provide at this moment, with regrets,  
16 Mr. Chair, but I can find out and get back to you.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Hugh.

18 MR. KRITTERDLIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 And so what are you allowed at the present time?

20 THE CHAIR: Thanks, David.  
21 Hugh.

22 MR. NATEELA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 Right now we do have one floating tag from the  
24 Foxe Basin. That's what's given to us right now, just  
25 one from Foxe Basin.



1 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Hugh.

2 David.

3 MR. KRITTERDLIK: You don't have one from the  
4 Western Hudson Bay population?

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David.  
6 Hugh.

7 MR. NATEELA: Right now, no, but perhaps our --  
8 just got that Western Hudson Bay tag for Baker not too  
9 long ago, Mr. Chair.

10 THE CHAIR: Yeah, thank you, Hugh. And that's  
11 my understanding too. Baker Lake used to get one all  
12 the time from Western Hudson Bay, but I think the  
13 Kivalliq Board can explain that further.  
14 Go ahead.

15 MR. GREENE: Yeah, I just wanted to say, I was  
16 present at the KWB AGM, so I think I can answer this.  
17 With the total allowable harvest of 34 there was  
18 discussion amongst the board members, which is the  
19 chairs of the Kivalliq HTOs, about how to distribute  
20 those 34 tags. And I know that Richard Aksawnee did  
21 request one tag for Baker Lake, and during the  
22 conversation he agreed that Baker Lake would be okay  
23 with not having one this year.

24 And the decision was ultimately decided that  
25 Arviat, Whale Cove, and Rankin Inlet would get ten tags

1 from the Western Hudson Bay population, and  
2 Chesterfield Inlet would get four.

3 But, Hugh, I'll make sure that Stanley and Richard  
4 know your concern, and then it will have to be  
5 discussed at the KWB level.

6 So thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much for that  
8 explanation.

9 Good? Any other questions from the Board? Caleb.

10 MR. SANGOYA: I'm not sure if it's a question.

11 In the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement it states a  
12 beneficiary can harvest in Nunavut anywhere any time  
13 according to the Land Claims. Caribou, seals, polar  
14 bears are up to us, except for the regional  
15 organizations have divided and managed the tags. So  
16 they're the only ones whose door we knock on, and if  
17 you request it from them, I'm sure they'd oblige to  
18 your request. Have you approached them?

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Caleb.

20 Hugh.

21 MR. NATEELA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 This is my first time to attend this kind of  
23 hearing, and my partner here is a very new member,  
24 newly elected. So both of us perhaps really aren't  
25 able to answer your question. Those that can really

1           answer you may not be present here right now. On our  
2           behalf, we can't give you an answers. Sorry.

3       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Hugh.

4           Any other questions from the Board? If not, any  
5           questions from staff? Nothing. Michael?

6           GN?

7           NTI?

8           Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

9           Arviat HTO? Nick.

10       **ARVIAT HTO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

11       MR. ARNAUKJUAQ:           This is just more of a comment.

12           About ten years ago, back then Baker Lake used to have  
13           two tags, and I would not know if it was from Western  
14           Hudson Bay or Foxe Basin, but they would be going to  
15           Arviat to hunt polar bear -- I think I'll say it better  
16           in Inuktitut.

17           So they go to Arviat to hunt for polar bear. They  
18           were so excited and really celebrated when they caught  
19           a polar bear. So I don't know when this stopped. I  
20           know we used to see folks from Baker Lake, when they  
21           were given two tags, they would go to Arviat and hunt  
22           polar bears.

23       THE CHAIR:                   Thank you, Nick. Good  
24           information.

25           Anything else from Arviat?

1 Whale Cove, any questions?

2 MR. ENUAPIK: No requests.

3 THE CHAIR: Chesterfield Inlet?

4 MR. AGGARK: No questions.

5 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada?

6 MS. VALLENDER: No questions.

7 THE CHAIR: Rankin Inlet?

8 World Wildlife Fund?

9 Any Elders or anybody from the public, any  
10 questions for Baker Lake? Go ahead, Thomas.

11 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

12 MR. COMER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 I just want to apologize. I was speaking in  
14 English earlier. It was simply because my question was  
15 to the scientific community.

16 Now this question is for Inuit. Just before my  
17 father passed away, he was very much an Elder in his  
18 old age, and he was lying beside my mother. And we all  
19 as Inuit know when someone is about to pass on, their  
20 last words is what we wait for.

21 So before he died he said, "There are so many  
22 bears now." And my mother replied, "No, there are no  
23 bears. Where are they?" And my father replied,  
24 "They're out there." And so these last words became so  
25 true. And this was what he said on his deathbed, so

1 I'm sharing this true story.

2 My question: You folks from Baker Lake said  
3 earlier regarding discrimination just because you're  
4 from inland, but you have every right to participate  
5 and be included in any process for tags. So perhaps  
6 your question is or your request would be, can we have  
7 20? And I think the folks from Rankin Inlet are basing  
8 their request on behalf of the whole region. It's  
9 really up to you how many you want, but why don't you  
10 request for 20 to the folks of Baker?

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Thomas.

13 Baker Lake, would you like to respond to that?  
14 Hugh.

15 MR. NATEELA: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Ever since the beginning, the last 30, 40 years in  
17 polar bear management, we're aware of different times  
18 we have been given one to two tags, but because they're  
19 more inland, when they're discussing polar bears it's  
20 different for us just because of our location. And we  
21 don't deal with as many polar bears as the other  
22 Kivalliq communities. It's hard to answer your  
23 question, but we've discussed all these ideas.

24 Due to the fact that we have rights under the Land  
25 Claims, as long as we're respectfully included in any

1 process that we participate, and that's why I asked  
2 earlier, how do you establish when you're divvying up  
3 the tags, what do you follow? What is the formula?

4 According to this, sometimes they'll leave us out.  
5 The current formula, maybe re-examine it. Should we  
6 re-examine it? That's our conclusion, and that's fine  
7 because we have to ask questions. The ones that are  
8 collaborating are really the ones who deal with bears  
9 more.

10 But when they're going to give tags according to  
11 the formula, they give them out, the ones, they're so  
12 hungry for the tags and their strife that comes about  
13 and arguments, it's like it's a free-for-all, and then  
14 fighting breaks out amongst. So isn't it time we  
15 re-examine this so that it doesn't bring us to that  
16 point? I'm asking for us all to reconsider because of  
17 these facts that we see today.

18 I don't know if I answered that guy correctly, but  
19 for community tags, if we can get one or two from the  
20 Western Hudson Bay population. (Inuktitut spoken), if  
21 this can be -- if it's still stable and won't affect  
22 the numbers, we'd support 40 according to the guy from  
23 Rankin Inlet and what he shared earlier.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 THE CHAIR: Hugh, thank you very much for that

1 information.

2 If there's no further questions from the public,  
3 Baker Lake has concluded their presentation and  
4 question-and-answer period. So thank you very much,  
5 gentlemen.

6 And I think we're going to end it for the day,  
7 then. And tomorrow we're going to start at 8:30, and  
8 we'll start off with the Environment Canada  
9 presentation. Nick, is that okay?

10 DR. LUNN: Yes, that's fine.

11 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you very much.

12 So thank you very much for your input today and  
13 everybody's cooperativeness and listening to what  
14 everyone has to say, and we'll see everybody tomorrow  
15 at 8:30 in the morning. Good night, everybody. Have a  
16 good night.

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 (Proceedings ended at 5:01 p.m.)  
19 \_\_\_\_\_

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1     **Certificate of Transcript**

2  
3     I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing pages  
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13                                   "Adele Jones"

14                                   Adele Jones, CSR(A)

15                                   Official Court Reporter  
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