



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Polar Bear Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories for the Northern Beaufort Sea and Viscount Melville Sound Polar Bear Populations.

Background:

The inter-jurisdictional agreement process began in 2005 through discussions of the Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC).

The discussions identified a need for cooperative management of polar bear populations that are shared between jurisdictions, including allocation of the resource and combined efforts at research and monitoring.

A draft inter-jurisdictional agreement between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (NWT) for the Northern Beaufort Sea (NB) and Viscount Melville Sound (VM) Polar Bear Populations is under development.

The agreement will have many benefits. The agreement will:

- define a process to discuss future coordinated harvest changes when new population information becomes available;
- ensure research is carried out in a collaborative environment;
- support the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy, once completed;
- formalize current practices on data sharing, harvest management, and research and monitoring of populations.

Current Status:

The draft has been agreed upon, in principle, by the NWT government and the GN. It has been reviewed and supported by Wildlife Management Advisory Council and Inuvialuit Game council (WMAC/IGC) in NWT. In August 2010, NWMB provided its review of the draft to the GN, suggesting substantial revisions.

The GN will complete consultations with affected communities, RWO and NTI on the draft before further progress is made in the final negotiations of an agreement. Consultations with communities are planned for this winter.