



**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue: Review of the Polar Bear Management Memoranda of Understanding.**

**Background:**

Polar Bear Management Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) set out the objective of holding management meetings at least once every seven (7) years to review and update information, and to set the direction for continuing management of polar bears. The polar bear management MOU system has been in place since the mid 1990's, and the present MOU's have been in place since 2004/2005.

**Current Status:**

The existing MOUs have strengths and weaknesses. For example the flexible quota system and harvest reporting continues to function and provide valuable information for management, whereas the focus on mark-recapture inventories as a primary research method has lost much support due to concerns over handling of polar bears.

DOE is committed to the review of existing MOUs with an aim to identifying the components that have been successful for carrying forward into the future, and to identifying areas of concern so that they can be addressed or replaced with new approaches.

Our expectation is that with hiring of a new polar bear biologist we will initiate the review with communities in 2011/2012. The anticipated timeline for the completion of this review, and the establishment of a new system, is 2014/2015.

DOE will be discussing this issue with management partners in the near future to obtain input and views on how this review should be conducted, and how the various parties envision the future of polar bear management in Nunavut.