

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Request from the Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) for an increase in tags for the Foxe Basin Polar Bear subpopulation

Background:

The Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) in response to the NWMB's call for submissions to Regular Meeting (RM) No. 66, has submitted a request for an increase of 10 tags for the Foxe Basin Polar Bear subpopulation.

The request provides the following reasoning for the request:

- 1.) Cape Dorset has over 1300 residents and have only 10 tags compared to the other communities that harvest from the same subpopulation; and
- 2.) The polar bear population is healthy, more bears are being observed in recent years (Elders, traditional knowledge) and that the allocation is not enough to meet community needs.

NWMB Recommendations:

NWMB staff responded to a similar request from the Aiviq HTO on May 17th, 2010 in the following manner:

- 1.) Communicated to the HTO that the NWMB does not allocate the regional TAH as this is a responsibility that lies with the Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) and recommend that the HTO contact the RWO to request an increase in the allocation of the TAH for the subpopulation.
- 2.) Communicated to the HTO that following the completion of the 2010 aerial survey of the subpopulation¹, the NWMB would consider all of the "best available information" (including Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge) on the subpopulation, which may lead to an increase or decrease of the regional TAH based on the evidence provide to the NWMB.

NWMB staff recommend that the Board respond to this request and future similar requests in the same manner.

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife Management

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Wildlife Management Biologist

Dated: November 15th, 2010

¹ A report is expected to be submitted to the NWMB in the late summer/early fall of 2011 based on discussions with the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment

APPENDIX 1: Submission by the Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)

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November 12, 2010

To: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

RE: NWMB Regular Board Meeting No. 66

Cape Dorset Aiviq HTO board is requesting for 10 additional polar bear tags to our current quota of 10 tags per year on behalf of the community wishes.

Cape Dorset has over 1300+ inhabitants and harvest from the Foxe Basin population and we are the only community with merely 10 tags compared to the other communities that harvest from Foxe Basin population. We know that our request is reasonable since our polar bear population is healthy, in fact we've observe a lot more (increase) polar bears over the years (Elders, traditional knowledge) and feel that 10 tags are not meeting the community's needs. We enjoy polar bear meat and 10 bears just not enough to go around in our growing community.

We seek that Nunavut Wildlife Management Board members make the decision to increase our polar bear quota to 20 and achieve long term benefit to Inuit in Cape Dorset.

We're looking forward to hear your decision on our request and thank you on your ongoing efforts to take care of our wildlife and their habitat that is so crucial to Inuit and all Nunavummiut.

Yours Truly,



Quvianaqtulia Tapaungai
Chairman, Aiviq HTO Board

APPENDIX 2: Polar Bear Subpopulation Map

