

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR



Information:

Decision: X

Issue: The Kivalliq Wildlife Board is seeking a decision on the Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan.

Background: The issue of musk-ox management in Kivalliq has been on-going, and was most recently discussed in detail at Regular Meeting 63 (April 2010) and during in-camera conference call #011 (April 2010) when the Board approved proposed changes in boundaries to musk-ox management zones, removal of seasonal restrictions on harvesting, and an increase in total allowable harvest (TAH) in newly established management zones MX17 and MX18.

Overview: The proposed Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan aims to protect, conserve, and manage musk-ox in a sustainable manner in cooperation with co-management partners, communities, and government, and includes IQ, scientific and local knowledge while promoting regional involvement in decision making. An Action Plan is included as a component of the Management Plan and lists tasks that are considered essential to the sustainable management of the species. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated, as necessary, on an annual basis.

The Management Plan, which is supported by the KWB, GN-DoE, and NTI, proposes using the following three levels of management intensity depending on the status and trend of the population: (A) core management for stable or increasing populations, (B) enhanced management for declining population size, and (C) critical threshold management to be implemented when the population size drops below that required to support subsistence harvesting.

The management zone boundary changes, removal of seasonal restrictions, and increase in TAH (as previously approved by the Board) are recommended when musk-ox populations are stable or increasing in size.

This item was deferred from the RM 65 agenda, and NWMB Wildlife staff have since been in contact with Richard Connelly: staff recommended that the plan include criteria to use in determining when a switch from one level of management to another would occur, and that further information regarding what specific actions are involved in enhanced or critical management be included. A revised version of the Management Plan that included this information was provided to NWMB Wildlife staff in November 2010. The revised plan proposes a 5% harvest level during core management, intensified monitoring efforts and a 3% harvest level for 5 years when a declining trend is observed to promote herd growth, and a harvest level of 1-2% that will be reviewed annually should the herd size fall below that required for subsistence harvesting.

Recommendation: Wildlife staff recommends that the Board approve the most recent Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan.

Draft Resolution:

“Resolved that the NWMB, pursuant to subsection 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) approve the 2010-2015 Kivalliq Musk-ox Management Plan and the February 2010 Action Plan on the understanding that any modification to current NQLs and/or TAHs requires a decision by the NWMB.”

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