

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt Reporting for 2010

Background:

The NWMB has requested that all Hunters and Trappers' Organizations (HTOs) and other interested organizations apply to the NWMB for allocation of walrus sport hunts. At the NWMB Regular Meeting No. 61 held in Iqaluit from September 26th to October 1st, 2009, the Board reviewed and approved applications received for walrus sport hunts. There were also two late applications submitted following the meeting that were also reviewed and approved.

Current Situation:

The NWMB approved the following Walrus Sport Hunt allocations for 2010:

- Hall Beach – 15 walrus;
- Henik Lake Adventures, Arviat – 6 walrus;
- Adamie Keatainak, Salluit, Quebec (Nunavik) – 8 walrus;
- Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour – 12 walrus;
- Luke Eetuk, E & E Outfitters, Coral Harbour – 12 walrus.

As of November 1st, 2010, 12 walrus sport hunt licences were issued in the community of Coral Harbour; 5 to E & E Outfitters (Luke Eetuk) and 7 to Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt). A total of 8 walrus were harvested, and 4 hunts were unsuccessful due to bad weather and did not occur. Licences were not issued for the remaining allocations.

For the 2010 Walrus Sport Hunt, walrus sport hunt reporting cards were developed and implemented for the first time. The sport hunt reporting cards were used to collect harvest information on landings, basic biology, and struck/loss from the walrus sport hunts. In 2008, DFO advised the NWMB that it was not possible to recommend sustainable harvest levels for walrus in Nunavut until more up to date estimates of walrus population size were available and better harvest reporting was provided by hunters.

DFO obtained a 100% return rate on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards; it was reported that the cards were easy to use and responses came in to DFO in a timely manner. The hunt report cards were successful in reporting all struck, loss and landed information. The number of strikes reported ranged from 2 to 15 per walrus, no walrus were lost, and one outfitter reported that three of six killed walrus, from one hunt, were left behind due to suspicions of the meat being contaminated with *Trichinella*. Unfortunately, no samples were collected to confirm *Trichinella* contamination.

Recommendations:

1. The NWMB consider the positive feedback reported on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards, the value of the information received and encourage continued use of the cards.
2. The NWMB defer the considerations of walrus sport hunting to the Baffin Bay and Foxe Basin Walrus Working Groups. Considerations will be given to strike limit, humane harvesting, animal wastage and the role of the outfitter.

Consultations:

DFO Central & Arctic Region

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Date: November 5, 2010