

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt Reporting for 2011

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. The NWMB held a conference call on February 10, 2011, to review applications received for the 2011 walrus sport hunt season. One application was overlooked during the first conference call and was reviewed on March 1, 2011, and one late application was reviewed on April 11, 2011; both were reviewed during conference calls. The NWMB and the Minister of DFO approved all 2011 walrus sport hunt applications.

Current Situation:

The NWMB approved the following Walrus Sport Hunt allocations for 2011:

- Hall Beach HTO – 15 walrus
- Igloolik HTO – 25 walrus
- Adamie Keatainak, Salluit, Quebec (Nunavik) – 8 walrus
- Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour – 6 walrus
- Luke Eetuk, E & E Outfitters, Coral Harbour – 6 walrus
- Joe Amarualik, Resolute Bay – 3 walrus.

During the 2011 walrus sport hunt season, seven (7) walrus sport hunt licences were issued in the community of Coral Harbour; one (1) to E & E Outfitters (Luke Eetuk) and six (6) to Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt). A total of six (6) walrus were harvested, and one (1) hunt did not occur due to bad weather. In Hall Beach, two (2) licences were issued, and two (2) walrus were harvested. In Igloolik, six (6) licences were issued, six (6) walrus were harvested. No licences were issued for sport hunts in Resolute Bay or Salluit, Quebec.

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 hunters provided better harvest reporting. In response to this, walrus sport hunt reporting cards were developed in 2010 by DFO Eastern Arctic Area staff.

For the 2011 Walrus Sport Hunt, sport hunt reporting cards were utilized for the second season. The sport hunt reporting cards were used to collect information on landings, biology, and struck/loss.

In 2011, DFO obtained a 100% return rate on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards and 91% return rate of biological information; 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, lost and landed information. The number of strikes reported ranged from 1 to 5 strikes per walrus, 1 walrus was lost.

In 2010, DFO obtained a 100% return rate on the walrus sport hunt reporting cards. Biological information was not requested at that time. The hunt report cards were successful in reporting all struck, lost and landed information. The number of strikes reported ranged from 2 to 15 per walrus, no walrus were lost.

Consultations:

DFO Central & Arctic Region and Eastern Arctic Area

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Date: November 9, 2011