# NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



<u>FOR</u>

Information:

**Decision: X** 

# Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt applications for 2013

**Background:** The NWMB has requested that all Hunters and Trappers' Organizations (HTOs) and other interested individuals and organizations apply to the NWMB for allocation of walrus sport hunts. The application process was delayed this year. The letter requesting applications, detailing hunt plans, was sent out September 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 with a deadline for applications of October 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Hunt plans require the NWMB's approval as per NLCA S.5.2.34 (d) (i) and S.5.6.48 before licenses are issued. At the NWMB meeting in May 1999, the Board approved an interim policy for evaluating requests for sport hunts (Appendix I). The Board further requested that those conducting hunts report their struck, lost and landed animals at the time of application the following year. The following table summarizes the hunts requested for the current season:

Applicant	Hunts Requested
Hall Beach HTO	15
Aaron Emiktowt, Coral Harbour	6
Luke Eetuk, Coral Harbour	6
Adamie Keatainak, Salluit, QC (Nunavik)	8

No conservation concerns were raised by the communities. The applications are summarized in Appendix II.

Prepared by: Anna Magera, Fisheries Management Biologist

Consulted: Sarah Spencer, Wildlife Management Biologist

Date: October 26, 2012

### Appendix 1- Interim NWMB Policy for Walrus Sport Hunts

In deciding the number of sport hunts to approve for a particular community, it is recommended that the NWMB's policy be to ensure, to the extent reasonably possible, that sport hunting in the community develops in such a manner that the following 4 conditions are met:

- (i) no conservation concern arises;
- (ii) hunter and public safety are maintained;
- (iii) humane harvesting takes place and the whole animal is used; and
- (iv) the developing industry is healthy and will continue to deliver a quality product, thus serving and promoting the long-term economic, social and cultural interests of Inuit harvesters (See *NLCA* Sub-section 5.1.3 (b) (iii))

Accordingly, until the Walrus Working Group offers a more detailed analysis and recommendations, it is recommended that the NWMB apply the following 3 criteria in deciding upon the number of sport hunts for a community:

- 1. In a community that is not subject to a quota (beyond the individual limit of 4), attempt to ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous 5 years (condition i);
- 2. Ensure that a hunt plan is in place that meets the safety, humane and other requirements necessary under the *NLCA*, the *Fisheries Act* and the Regulations (conditions ii and iii); and
- 3. Ensure that the community or enterprise starts with a relatively small and closely monitored number of hunts (the "pilot" stage), prior to permitting an expanded sport hunting effort (condition iv).

In addition, the NWMB may wish to consider what percentage of the overall quota or average harvest for the last 5 years should be allocated to sport hunts.

### Appendix 2 - Summaries of Applications<sup>1</sup>

# 1. Hall Beach HTO

#### Number of Hunts Requested: 15

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Hall Beach harvest walrus from the Northern Foxe Basin population. Updated scientific data is lacking. The community did not identify any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Over the past five years, on average less than one animal in sport hunts<sup>2</sup>, 53 in subsistence hunts<sup>3</sup>, and 54 animals total were harvested annually.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Certified and experienced hunters and guides will guide the hunts around the Foxe Basin from the middle of July to end of August. The HTO has conducted sport hunts in past years (e.g. 2006/2007, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2012). Hall Beach HTO will hold the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will be fully equipped with hunting equipment (no specification as to what type was provided). There will also be a safety boat, "fully equipped" with communications, GPS and PLB.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage **Concerns:** If on ice, walrus will be shot then harpooned; if on water, walrus will be harpooned then shot. No indication of the number of walruses each hunter will be able to strike and land was given. If a hunter strikes but does not land a walrus he will be allowed a second strike. The sport hunter will take what their province/territory allows. The remaining meat will be fermented.

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 15 Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 5 Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 1 Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 1

### 2. Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour

### Number of Hunts Requested: 6

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Northern Hudson Bay - Davis Strait population Updated scientific data is lacking. The community did not identify any conservation concerns.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All five-year averages are based on available data for the 2007/2008-2011/2012 hunting seasons. The 2012/2013 season was not considered because hunt numbers were not yet available. Not all categories of hunt data were reported in all years. <sup>2</sup> Based on the one year of data reported out of 3 years when sport hunts occurred.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Data was available for 4 years.

**Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels:** Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60. Over the past five years, on average 6 animals were harvested in the sport hunt<sup>4</sup>, and the average subsistence harvest was 5 animals<sup>5</sup>, for a total of 11 animals annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Aaron Emiktowt holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Mr. Emiktowt and Inuit guides (with outfitter and Level 1&2 big game training) will guide the hunt around Walrus, Coats or Southampton Islands between August and September 2013. Mr. Emiktowt has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past (e.g. 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012). Each boat will include a 150-foot rope, harpoons, hooks, killer harpoons, and proper safety equipment (life jackets, CB radio, a satellite phone, fire extinguisher, spot light, and buoys). They will also take the additional precaution informing people about their whereabouts.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** Walrus will either be harpooned first in the water, or shot first when on land. Each hunter only be allowed to strike and land one walrus. However, the hunter may get another chance to strike and land a walrus is he followed commands during the hunt. The hunter can take the whole hide, skull, tusks, or baculum. The walrus will be consumed by people or dog teams in Coral Harbour.

Letter of support from HTO: None yet

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 6 Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 5 Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 3 Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: None

### 3. Luke Eetuk, E&E Outfitting, Coral Harbour

#### Number of Hunts Requested: 6

**Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns:** Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Northern Hudson Bay – Davis Strait population. Updated scientific data is lacking. The community did not identify any conservation concerns.

**Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels:** Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60. Over the past five years, on average 6 animals were harvested in the sport hunt<sup>6</sup>, and the average subsistence harvest was 5 animals<sup>7</sup>, for a total of 11 animals annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Luke Eetuk, Mark Pootoolik and Ross Eetuk will guide the hunt around Southampton and Coats Islands. All three individuals have level 2 guide certificates. Mr. Eetuk has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past (e.g. 2009,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Data was reported for 4 years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Data was reported for 2 years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Data was reported for 4 years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Data was reported for 2 years.

2010, 2011, and 2012). E&E Outfitting holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will have rifles, harpoons, buoys, ropes, tents, Coleman stoves, a lantern, sleeping bags, flashlights, a flare, and safety equipment (survival suits, CB radio, ropes, flares, satellite phone, and an anchor). Two boats would be used in the hunt to enhance safety.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** Walruses will be shot and then harpooned. Each hunter will land only one walrus, with no second chances. The sport hunter can take the tusk, skull/cape or the whole skin (except if the hunter is from the United States). The rest of the meat will be distributed to the community.

### Letter of support from HTO: Not yet

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 6 Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 0 (poor weather) Number of Landed Animals Last Year: N/A Number of struck and Lost Animals Last Year: N/A

# 4. Adamie Keatainak, Salluit, Quebec (Nunavik)

#### Number of Hunts Requested: 8

**Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns:** Residents of Salluit harvest walrus from the Northern Hudson Bay – Davis Strait population. Updated scientific data is lacking. The community did not identify any conservation concerns. Salluit does not have a community quota.

**Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels:** Sport hunts were not conducted in Salluit between 2007/2008 and 2011/2012. Over the past five years, on average 16 animals were taken in subsistence hunts<sup>8</sup>, so 16 animals were taken total annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Mr. Keatainak and 3 Inuit assistants will guide the hunt around Nottingham and Salisbury Islands. Mr. Keatainak retains the outfitting license and insurance and will be applying for his 2013 outfitter permit from Quebec. He hunts walrus annually in the proposed area for subsistence purposes and successfully guided 2 sport hunters in 1997. Each boat will have harpoons, avataqs, a canoe (with outboard), a winch, grappling hooks, rifles (>300 caliber, minimum 180 grain bullets), and safety equipment (survival suits, 8-person life raft, GPS, depth sounder, satellite phone, HF radio, and flares).

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** The hunt will occur from a 41' fishing vessel and a freighter cance. Walruses will be driven a distance offshore to allow for selection of suitable targets. Animals will be harpooned by the hunter and guide, and then shot by the hunter; the applicant indicated this will minimize potential loss due to sinking. Each hunter will land only one animal and will be allowed a maximum of two strikes. The hunter must land the walrus by the second strike or the hunt will be deemed to be over. The hunters will be able to take the skull, cape, tusks and baculum. Samples of the meat

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Data was reported for 4 years.

will be sent for testing, and if approved, the meat will be distributed to Salluit community members.

Letter of support from Makavik Corp.: No

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: None Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: N/A Number of Landed Animals Last Year: N/A Number of struck and Lost Animals Last Year: N/A