

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Nunavut Wildlife Study Fund (NWSF) project progress reports for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Background: The NWSF file numbers identify the HTO, RWO, or community organization associated with the project, the year of original application and project number.

The NWSF committed funding to three projects in 2012-2013 for a total of **\$32,500**. One requirement of projects funded by the NWSF is that they provide interim progress and financial reports to the Board by January 15th.

It is not possible to determine if any funds are expected to be returned to the NWMB from project 212-12-01 at this time as the contribution agreement for the project was only signed on February 5th, 2013 and no interim financial or progress reports were submitted. NWMB staff will conduct a comprehensive review of the final financial reports (due June 30th) to ensure that all required NWMB funds are returned if not spent.

Since the communities of Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk both submitted proposals to complete community based muskox surveys (#244-12-01 and #246-12-01), the Board directed them to work together on a project design. The total cost of completing the project design was \$7500; therefore, the communities of Kugluktuk and Gjoa Haven received a total of \$7500 from NWSF, instead of \$7500 for each community that was originally approved. These communities contracted IMG-Golder to develop a survey technique for them. NWMB staff have accepted this document entitled "Development of a ground-based survey technique" as both the interim and final financial and progress reports for this project. A summary of this document is provided in **TAB 46** for Board members to review.

NWMB Studies Fund 2012-2013 Progress Reports				
Project #	Title	2012-2013 Funding	Funding to be returned	Tab #
212-12-01	Cumberland Sound Beluga Biopsy Study	25,000	N/A	N/A
244-12-01	Community Organized Muskox survey	Funding not needed	N/A	46
246-12-01	Omingmak Naonaiyaot	7,500	\$0	46
Total		32,500		

Consulted: Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Prepared by: Sarah Spencer, Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist, NWMB

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: 246-12-01
244-12-01

RESEARCHER: Barb Adjun
William Aglukkaq

TITLE: Development of a ground-based survey technique for muskox

ORIGINALLY FUNDED: 2012-2013 \$7,500

NWMB FUNDING: \$7,500

PROJECT SUMMARY: The objective of these projects is to conduct ground-based muskox surveys in order to get an accurate count so that the communities can contribute to a population estimate that could be used in future decisions about domestic and commercial harvests of muskox.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Amount from NWMB:	\$ 7,500
TOTAL	\$ 7,500
Expenses:	\$ 7,384
Difference	\$ 116

COMMENTS:

In order to develop a technique for ground-based muskox surveys, IMG-Golder used both western science and traditional knowledge. To gather information on the muskox populations and the land that the surveys are to be conducted on, harvesters from both communities were interviewed. Line transect techniques with distant sampling was recommended. Harvesters on snowmobile will count animals along a line and record the distance each animal was seen from the line. This technique has been used from aircraft during aerial surveys and many community members are already experienced in this type of sampling. The cost to complete approximately 10 days using this survey method is estimated to be \$10,660. It is expected that these surveys could 1) provide indicators of muskox population trends; 2) provide necessary supporting information required to obtain funding for aerial survey of the entire population; and 3) if adjacent communities are willing to undertake muskox surveys as well, they could ensure sustainable allocation of quota between communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. NWMB Wildlife staff do not have any recommendations for this reporting period. The project leader has met all of the reporting requirements. .

CONSULTATIONS: Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

PREPARED BY: Sarah Spencer, Terrestrial Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB