

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**FOR**



**Information:**

**Decision: X**

**Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt applications for 2014**

**Background:** The NWMB has requested that all Hunters and Trappers Organizations and other interested individuals and organizations apply to the NWMB for allocation of walrus sport hunts. The letter requesting applications was sent out October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 with a deadline for applications of November 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Hunt plans require the NWMB's approval as per the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* 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:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Walrus Stock</b>	<b>Hunts Requested</b>
Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization	North and Central Foxe Basin	15
Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization	North and Central Foxe Basin	25
Luke Eetuk, E and E Outfitters, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	6
Dino Bruce, Tassiuq Outfitters, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	10
Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	8
Peter Kilabuk, Pangnirtung	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	2
Adamie Keatainak, Salluit, Quebec (Nunavik)	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	8

In November 2013 Fisheries and Oceans Canada published a Science Advisory Report on estimates of abundance and total allowable removals for Atlantic walrus in the Canadian Arctic. Based on this science advice, the average annual reported harvest for the Foxe Basin management unit between 1985-2010 exceeds the highest estimated total allowable removal level<sup>1</sup>. Survey coverage was inadequate to estimate abundance and total allowable removals for the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock. An Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area is under development and may include various total allowable harvest and non-quota limitation requests for decision that will come to the Board in 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Total Allowable Removal Level is the estimated total number of animals that can be sustainably removed from all combined human activities (i.e., harvested, struck and lost, ship strikes, net entanglements)

No concerns were raised by Hunters and Trappers Organizations. However, Adamie Keatainak of Salluit, Quebec has not yet obtained a letter of support from Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board. The applications are summarized in Appendix II.

**Prepared by:** Karla Letto, Wildlife Management Biologist

**Reviewed by:** Anna Magera, A/Director of Wildlife Management

**Consultations:** Jim Noble, Executive Director  
Allison McPhee, Fisheries and Oceans, Winnipeg  
Larry Dow, Fisheries and Oceans, Iqaluit  
Chris Lewis, Fisheries and Oceans, Iqaluit

**Date:** December 5<sup>th</sup> 2013

### **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>2</sup>

### 1. Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization

**Number of Hunts Requested:** 15

**Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns:** Residents of Hall Beach harvest walrus from the Northern Foxe Basin stock. An updated survey from 2011 could not distinguish the Northern Foxe Basin stock from the Central Foxe Basin stock. The estimated population size for this combined stock ranged from 8,153 to 13,452 walrus based on counts from different dates with different adjustment factors. The hunt plan did not identify any conservation concerns. However, based on the most recent peer-reviewed science advice on walrus population abundance estimates and total allowable removal levels for the Foxe Basin management unit, the average landed catch value calculated from harvest statistics from 1985-2010 exceeds the highest recommended total allowable removal level.

**Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels:** Hall Beach does not have a community quota. Over the past five years, on average less than one animal in sport hunts<sup>3</sup>, 49 animals in subsistence hunts, and 50<sup>4</sup> 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 during the months of July and August. The Hunters and Trappers Organization has conducted sport hunts in past years (e.g. 2006/2007, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2012, 2013). Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization 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, first aid kit, satellite phone, citizens band radio and Spot/GPS.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** If on ice or land, walrus will be shot then harpooned; if in 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 and used for community events.

**Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year:** 15

**Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year:** 9

**Number of Landed Animals Last Year:** 9

**Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year:** 1

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<sup>2</sup> All five-year averages are based on available data for the 2007/2008-2011/2012 hunting seasons. Not all categories of hunt data were reported in all years.

<sup>3</sup> Based on four years of data from the past five years.

<sup>4</sup> Based on four years of data from the past five years

## **2. Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization**

**Number of Hunts Requested:** 25

**Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns:** Residents of Igloodik harvest walrus from the Northern Foxe Basin stock. An updated survey from 2011 could not distinguish the Northern Foxe Basin stock from the Central Foxe Basin stock. The estimated population size for this combined stock ranged from 8,153 to 13,452 walrus based on counts from different dates with different adjustment factors. The hunt plan did not identify any conservation concerns. However, based on the most recent peer-reviewed science advice on walrus population abundance estimates and total allowable removal levels for the Foxe Basin management unit, the average landed catch value calculated from harvest statistics from 1985-2010 exceeds the highest recommended total allowable removal level.

**Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels:** Igloodik does not have a community quota. For two years (2008/2009 and 2009/2010) the Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization implemented a moratorium on walrus sport hunting and tourism. On average over the past 2 years since the moratorium, 3 walrus were harvested in the sport hunt<sup>5</sup>. Over the past five years on average 91 animals in the subsistence hunt<sup>6</sup>, and 92 animals total were harvested annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** A certified guide (guide, boat and tourism certifications) will guide the hunts around Foxe Basin from the middle of July to end of August. The Hunters and Trappers Organization has conducted sport hunts in past years (e.g. 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2012). The outfitters (no specification on which outfitter) will hold the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will have a harpoon, float, rifle, GPS, survival suit, HB radio, and satellite phone. One extra boat will follow the primary boat as an added safety precaution.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** The walrus will be shot then harpooned. Each hunter will be able to land one walrus, and if they are not successful the first time, they will be given another chance. The sport hunter can take the walrus head, tusk, penis, and bones. The rest of the meat will be given to the community as food.

**Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year:** None requested

**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

## **3. Luke Eetuk, E and E Outfitters, Coral Harbour**

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<sup>5</sup> Based on 2 years of reported data since the moratorium.

<sup>6</sup> Based on 5 years of reported data.

**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 in the sport hunt<sup>7</sup>, 6 animals in the subsistence hunt<sup>8</sup>, and 12 animals total were harvested annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Luke Eetuk, Mark Pootoolik and Ross Eetuk will guide the hunt around Southampton, Coats and Walrus Islands between beginning of July to the end of September. All three individuals have level 2 guide certificates. Mr. Eetuk has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past (e.g. 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013). E&E Outfitting holds the outfitter’s license and insurance. Each boat will have rifles, harpoons, buoys, ropes, tents, Coleman stoves, a lantern, flashlights, flares, and safety equipment (survival suits, ropes, satellite phone, and an anchor).

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** Walruses will be shot and then harpooned if in water. No indication of the number of walruses each hunter will be able to strike and land was given. If the hunter strikes and does not land the walrus he does not get a second chance. The sport hunter can take the tusk, cape or the full mount. The rest of the meat will be distributed to the community.

**Letter of support from Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes**

**Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 6**

**Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 3**

**Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 3**

**Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0**

#### **4. Dino Bruce, Tassiuq Outfitters, Coral Harbour**

**Number of Hunts Requested: 10**

**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 in the sport hunt<sup>9</sup>, 6 animals in the subsistence hunt<sup>10</sup>, and 12 animals total were harvested annually.

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<sup>7</sup> Based on 4 years of data.

<sup>8</sup> Based on 3 years of available data.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Local guides with big game guide licences and/or guides approved by the HTO will guide the hunts around Southampton Island between May and September 2014. Tassiuq Outfitters was registered as an outfitter in 2013. Sudliq Developments Ltd. will hold the outfitter's licence and insurance. Each boat will have 3 harpoons complete with harpoon heads and line, buoys, knives, rifles, and safety equipment (a personal floatation device, a SPOT, a satellite phone, and a first aid kit). One extra boat will follow the primary boat as an added safety precaution.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** Walrus will either be harpooned first then shot or shot then harpooned (does not specify when each hunting method will be used). Each hunter will be allowed to purchase two tags maximum. The hunter can take the tusks, head with tusks or entire skin. The walrus meat will be distributed to the community, elders and widows.

**Letter of support from Hunters and Trappers Organization:** Yes

**Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year:** 10

**Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year:** 0. Mr. Bruce received confirmation of walrus sport hunt tags too late last year to conduct a hunt.

**Number of Landed Animals Last Year:** 0

**Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year:** 0

## **5. Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour**

**Number of Hunts Requested:** 8

**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 in the sport hunt<sup>11</sup>, 6 animals in the subsistence hunt<sup>12</sup>, and 12 animals total were harvested annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Mr. Emiktowt and Darcy Nakoolak will guide the hunts around Walrus, Coats and Southampton Islands between May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup> 2014. Both individuals have levels 1 and 2 guide certificates. Mr. Emiktowt has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past (e.g. 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013). Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt) holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will include harpoons, a killer spear, rope, buoys, knives, hooks and hook retrievers,

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<sup>9</sup> Based on 4 years of data.

<sup>10</sup> Based on 3 years of available data.

<sup>11</sup> Based on 4 years of data.

<sup>12</sup> Based on 3 years of available/reported data.

and proper safety equipment (survival suites and vests, throw buoy, life raft, CB radio, VHF radio, a satellite phone, SPOT messenger, flares, reflectors). They will also take the additional precaution of informing people about their whereabouts and checking with Environment Canada for weather information.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** If on ice or land, walrus will be shot then harpooned; if in water, walrus will be harpooned then shot. The hunter will only be allowed to strike once to land. The hunter can take the tusks, hides, baculum and/or bone. The rest of the walrus will be distributed to the community.

**Letter of support from Hunters and Trappers Organization:** Yes

**Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year:** 6

**Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year:** 6

**Number of Landed Animals Last Year:** 4

**Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year:** 0

## **6. Peter Kilabuk, Pangnirtung**

**Number of Hunts Requested:** 2

**Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns:** Residents of Pangnirtung 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:** Pangnirtung does not have a community quota. Sport hunts were not conducted in Pangnirtung between 2007/2008 and 2011/2012. Over the past five years, on average 10 animals were taken in subsistence hunts<sup>13</sup>, so 10 animals were taken total annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Mr. Peter Kilabuk and Mr. Ricky Kilabuk will guide the hunt in Cumberland Sound between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. Both individuals are experienced hunters and lived in the area since birth. Mr. Kilabuk holds the outfitters licence and insurance. Each boat will include high powered rifles, floats, harpoons, pulleys, knives, rope, adequate containers for the storage of meat and safety equipment (full body float suit, flares, first aid kit, radio and satellite phone). As well, Mr. Kilabuk indicated that he would use scheduled communication as an extra safety measure.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns:** If on land, walrus will be shot then harpooned; if in water, walrus will be harpooned then shot. Each hunter will be allowed to harvest a maximum of one walrus. If a hunter strikes but does not land a walrus he will be allowed a second strike if and when other options have been

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<sup>13</sup> Based on 1 year of available/reported data.

exhausted. The hunter will take what regulations allows. The remaining meat will be distributed to community members.

**Letter of support from Hunters and Trappers Organization:** None yet.

**Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year:** None requested.

**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

## **7. 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.

**Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels:** Salluit does not have a community quota. Sport hunts were not conducted in Salluit between 2007/2008 and 2011/2012. Over the past five years, on average 15 animals were taken in subsistence hunts, so 15 animals were taken total annually.

**Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns:** Mr. Keatainak and 3 local Inuit guides will guide the hunt around Nottingham and Salisbury Islands during the month of August. Mr. Keatainak hunts walrus annually in the proposed area for subsistence purposes and successfully guided two hunters in 1997. Mr. Keatainak has insurance with a coverage of two million dollars and will be applying for his 2013 outfitter permit from Quebec. Each boat will have harpoons, avataqs, a canoe (with outboard), hydraulic winch for carcass handling, grappling hooks, rifles (>300 caliber, minimum 180 grain bullet), 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 canoe. Walrus will be driven a distance offshore to allow for selection of suitable targets. Animals will be harpooned by the hunter or 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 hunters will be able to take the skull including mandibles, cape, tusks and baculum. Samples of the meat will be sent to the Makivik Research Centre for parasite testing, and if approved, the meat will be distributed to Salluit community members.

**Letter of support from Makavik Corporation or Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board:** None yet.



**Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 8**

**Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 0**

**Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 0**

**Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0**