

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt applications for 2015

Background: On September 30th 2014, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) issued a call for walrus sport hunt applications inviting all Hunters and Trappers Organizations and other interested individuals or organizations to apply to the NWMB for approval of walrus sport hunts. The deadline for submission of applications was October 31st 2014.

Hunt plans require the NWMB's approval as per *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Sections 5.2.34 (d) (i) and 5.6.48 before licences are issued. In May 1999, the Board approved an interim policy for evaluating requests for sport hunts (Appendix 2). 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 summarizes the hunts requested for the 2015 season:

Applicant	Walrus Stock	Hunts Requested
Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	6
Luke Eetuk, E and E Outfitting, Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait	6
Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization	North and Central Foxe Basin	15

In September 2014, at the NWMB's Regular Meeting (RM 003-2014), Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a Proposal for Decision to establish a management unit boundary and total allowable harvest for the North and Central Foxe Basin walrus stocks (see map in Appendix 1). This proposal was made in response to a recent Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientific report identifying a conservation concern for Foxe Basin walrus. The Board has decided to consider this proposal at a public hearing in January 2015. The same scientific report was unable to estimate abundance and total allowable removal for the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock due to poor survey coverage.

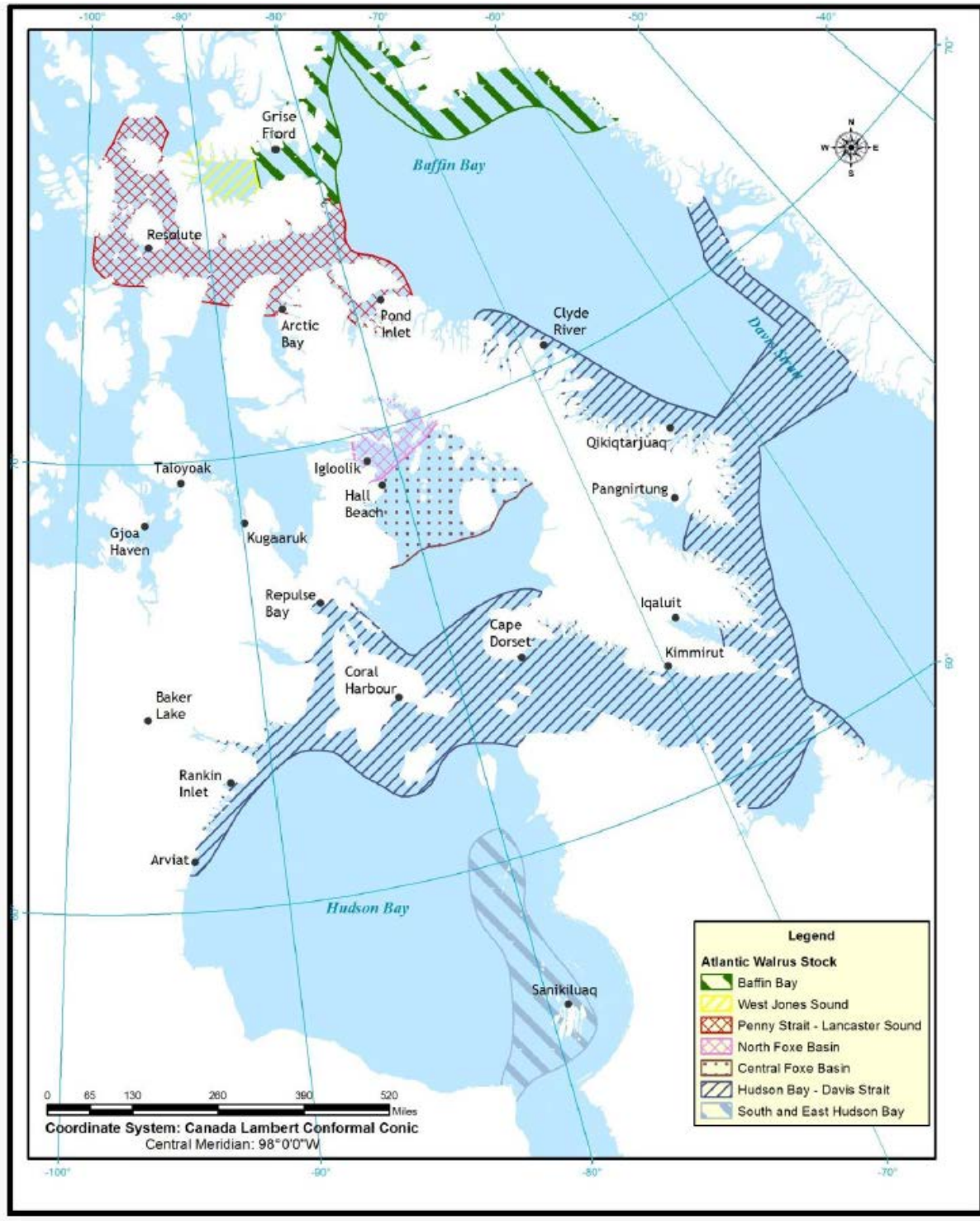
Both Aaron Emiktowt and Luke Eetuk have provided letters of support from the Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization. The applications are summarized in Appendix 3.

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Reviewed by: Peter Kydd, Director of Wildlife Management

Date: November 7th 2014

Appendix 1



Stocks of Atlantic walrus in Nunavut. Hall Beach harvests walrus from the Northern and Central Foxe Basin stocks. Coral Harbour harvests walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock.

Appendix 2

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, human 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 3

Summary of Applications¹

1. 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 Hudson Bay-Davis Strait population. Scientific data on this stock 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 5 years, an average of 6 animals has been harvested annually in sport hunts² and 10 animals in subsistence hunts³, with a total of 16 animals harvested annually.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Aaron Emiktowt, Darcy Nakoolak and Eric Emiktowt will guide the hunts around Walrus and Coats Islands between July and September 2015. The guides have level 1 and 2 certificates. Aaron Emiktowt has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past. Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt) holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will carry harpoons, rifles, spears, buoys, rope, retrieval hooks, pulleys, a killer spear and proper safety equipment (satellite phones, flares, CB radio, personal floatation devices, survival suits, life raft).

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot then harpooned or harpooned then shot. The hunter will only be allowed to strike once and land. The hunter can take the skull, tusks, cape, and baculum. 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: 8

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 6

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 5

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

¹ All five-year averages are based on available data for the 2009/2010-2013/2014 hunting seasons. Not all categories of hunt data were reported in all years.

² Based on 5 years of data, from 2009-2013

³ Based on 4 years of reported data, from 2009-2013

2. Luke Eetuk, E and E Outfitting, Coral Harbour

Number of Hunts Requested: 6

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait population. Scientific data on this stock 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 5 years, an average of 6 animals has been harvested annually in sport hunts⁴ and 10 animals in subsistence hunts⁵, with a total of 16 animals harvested annually.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Luke Eetuk, Ross Eetuk and Mark Pootoolik will guide the hunts around Southampton, Coats, and Walrus Islands between July and September 2015. All three have level 1 and 2 guide certificates. Luke Eetuk has had hunt plans approved and has guided in the past. E and E outfitting holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will carry harpoons, rifles, buoys, rope, a global positioning system and proper safety equipment (survival suits, anchors, satellite phone).

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot first, and then harpooned. Each hunter will be allowed to strike once and land. If the walrus is lost, no second chance to strike will be allowed. The sport hunter can take the full mount or cape, skull, tusks, and baculum. 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: 3

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 3

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

⁴ Based on 5 years of data, from 2009-2013

⁵ Based on 4 years of reported data, from 2009-2013

3. 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 and Central Foxe Basin stocks. The estimated population size for these two stocks combined ranges from 8,153 to 13,452 walrus based on counts from different dates with different adjustment factors. The estimated total allowable removal for these two stocks combined ranges from 135 to 166. The community did not identify any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Hall Beach does not have a community quota. Over the past five years, the average number of walrus harvested annually has been 3 in sport hunts⁶, 71 in subsistence hunts⁷, and 74 total.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Experienced hunters and certified guides will guide the hunts around Foxe Basin during July and August 2015. The Hunters and Trappers Organization has had hunt plans approved and has conducted sport hunts in past years. 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 the type). Safety equipment will include floater suits, a first aid kit, satellite phone, CB radio, global positioning system, and a safety boat.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: If in water, walrus will be harpooned then shot; if on land or ice, walrus will be shot then harpooned. If a hunter strikes but does not land a walrus, he or she will be allowed a second strike. The sport hunter will take whatever parts of the animals 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: 2

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 2

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

⁶ Based on 4 years of reported data, from 2009-2013

⁷ Based on 4 years of reported data, from 2009-2013