



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: The Nunavut Polar Bear Management Plan

Background:

Nunavut's current management regime for polar bears is guided by a series of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that were developed in 2004 and signed by all HTOs and RWOs. The system of MOUs was inherited from NWT and although the most recent MOU was developed since the inception of Nunavut certain portions do not reflect the requirements of the NLCA.

The MOUs have a seven year review clause which passed in 2012. Although the MOUs are still functional the Department of Environment (DoE) felt that the MOUs warranted more than a review. Therefore to address the changes that are required for the NLCA and to address community concerns about polar bear management a broader approach has been identified.

Current Status:

The Department of Environment is working cooperatively with co management partners to develop a draft polar bear management plan. In early 2013 a Working Group was formed with staff from NWMB, NTI, DoE and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three RWOs. This working group was tasked with identifying the best process to develop and consult on a new Polar Bear Management Plan for submission to the NWMB.

The Working Group has developed a draft management plan over 2013 and completed consultations with all Nunavut communities in early 2014. Community consultations consisted of representatives from the co management partners travelling as a team to the regions and conducting two meetings per community, one with the HTO board and the second a public meeting.

The meeting discussions were recorded and used to revise the consultation draft to reflect community input. The next phase is currently underway and consists of regional meetings. The regional meetings are an in depth review of the revised draft with participants from each HTO and the working group with the intent of finalising the draft through identification of outstanding concerns and discussion of potential resolutions.

The intent is to further revise the draft management plan for a final review of HTOs and RWOs completed by December 2014. Once the draft has under gone

this final review it is the intent of the working group to submit it to the NWMB for approval in early 2015.

The new management plan will still feature many components of the old MOUs but will reflect changes in research methods and the implications of these changes, as well as include Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Inuit perspective in regards to management, research, and goals and objectives for managing polar bears.