

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 2-15-13

Applicant: Stephen Atkinson

Title: Kane Basin Polar Bear Genetic Mark Recapture: Satellite Collar Recovery

Funding Requested: Single year funding \$15,000 2015/2016
Single year funding \$65,000 2014/2015
Single year funding \$62,000 2013/2014
Single year funding \$62,000 2012/2013

Rank: 16 / 18

Total Score 67.20 /100
(no deductions)

Scoring Breakdown: NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50
Regional Priority: 2.5/ 7.50
Quality: 23.00 / 35.00
Consultation: 12.00/ 15
Funding: 12.20 / 25

Project Summary:

The primary objectives of this project are to: 1) Remove all remaining active satellite collars from female bears in Kane Basin; and 2) collect data on condition and reproductive status of these individuals.

Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$ 15,000	16%
Other Contributions	<u>\$77,000</u>	<u>84%</u>
Total	\$92,000	100%

NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: #1 - Contributes to the establishment, modification or removal of levels of Total Allowable Harvest (S 5.6.16 to S 5.6.18) for stocks or populations where there is believed to be a conservation concern or that are priority species for harvest by Inuit.

Regional Priority: #6 Qikiqtaaluk- Kane Basin polar bear: genetic mark-recapture population assessment

Project design:

In April 2015, up to 9 adult females and accompanying offspring will be captured in order to remove their satellite collars. Using a helicopter the bears will be located and captured using standard immobilization procedures. For each bear captured standard body measurements will be taken and overall body condition assessed.

Application of results:

Information on polar bear abundance will be used for total allowable harvest recommendations, developments of management plans and updating status reports. Information on polar bear distribution, movements and habitat selection will be used to support land-use planning and environmental impact assessment processes. Information

on sea ice habitat selection may be used to model the effects of future changes in sea ice on polar bear habitat.

Community involvement / consultation:

Consultations with Grise Fiord Hunters and Trappers Organization took place during fieldwork seasons in 2012, 2013 and 2014. In community reporting of results is planned for the fall of 2015. Hunters and Trappers Organizations are planned for February 2015.

As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the project is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30th, 2015; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30th, 2015 and provide evidence that the research has done a “conscientious” job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that “conscientious” consultation has been conducted by June 30th, 2015.

Recommendations: If this project is funded, the following conditions should apply:

1. Funding should be conditional on other funding, as identified in the proposal, being approved. This should be confirmed in writing; and
2. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

Consultations:

Prepared By: Sarah Spencer, Wildlife Management Biologist

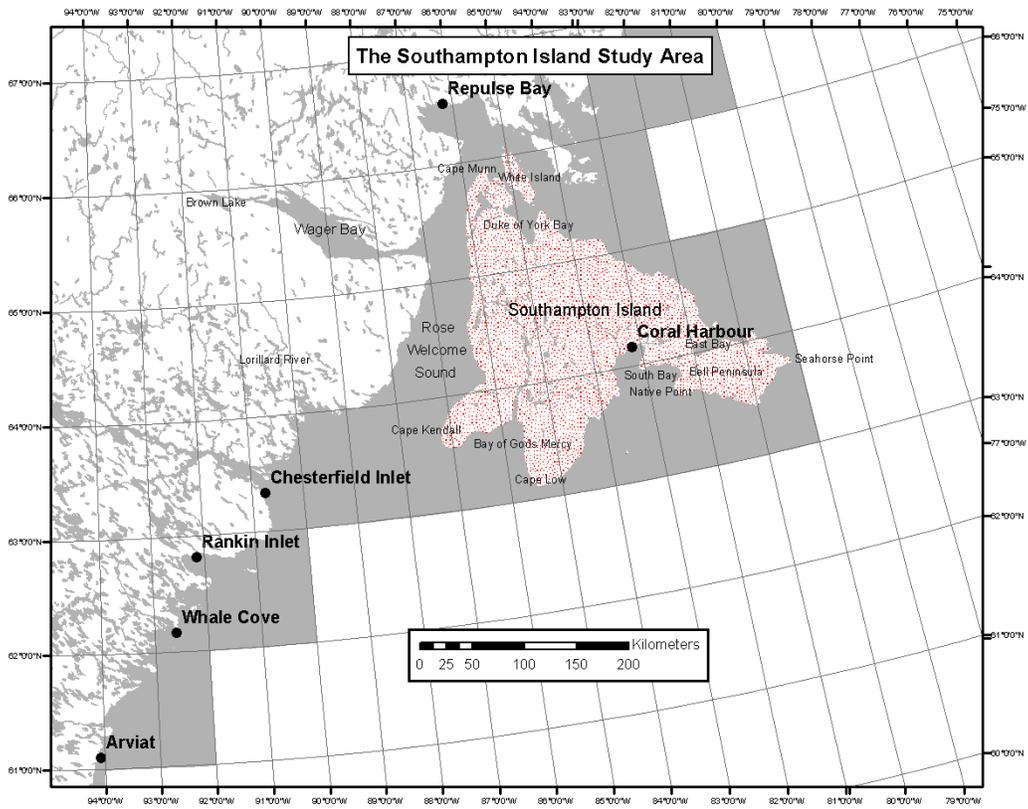


Figure 1 South Hampton Island survey area including White Island