

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: 3-14-05

RESEARCHER: Steven Ferguson

TITLE: Jones Sound Narwhal Study

ORIGINALLY FUNDED: 2014-2015

NWMB FUNDING: \$45,000

PROJECT SUMMARY: The objectives of this project are to: 1) obtain information on the seasonal distribution and diving behaviour of Jones Sound narwhals as it relates to stock identity, climate change, autumn ice entrapments, and wintering area by using satellite transmitters; 2) gather information on the overall health of captured animals and the level of stress during restraint; and 3) determine narwhal diet by analyzing skin and blubber samples.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Amount from NWMB:	\$45,000
Amount from Others:	\$81,000
TOTAL	\$126,000
Expenses:	\$173,500
Difference	- \$47,500

COMMENTS: A research camp was established north of the narrow area at the head of Grise Fiord between August 14th and August 29th. Unfortunately, no narwhals were tagged so there are no scientific results to report. It was agreed that, if funded in 2015 the field crew would set up camp at Starnes Fiord or Makinson Inlet. The variance in the financial report was mainly due to higher charter costs than expected and the hiring of a term employee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. NWMB Wildlife staff do not have any recommendations for this reporting period. The project leader has met all of the reporting requirements to date. A final financial report will be required by June 30th 2015 as per the NWRT policy. Project results will be captured in the final project report which is required by September 30th, 2015.

CONSULTATIONS: Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

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