



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: The Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan

Background

- There is no formal TAH on grizzly bears. Currently, Inuit harvest bears for domestic use and in defense of life and property with no restrictions.
- There is no mandatory harvest reporting, and no regulations protecting family groups (females with cubs) or bears in dens
- Although there is no immediate conservation concern with current harvest levels, a defensible management system to ensure the harvest is sustainable will require adequate harvest monitoring and reporting
- A better defined management framework is needed to ensure the persistence of grizzly bear populations and facilitate the full economic benefit of this renewable resource (e.g. sale of hide, sport hunts, wildlife viewing, etc.)

Current Status

- The Department of Environment (DOE) worked cooperatively with relevant Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), communities and other stakeholders (e.g. Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.), seeking their input to develop a draft Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan over the last five years.
- Initial consultations with HTOs focused on identifying management priorities and goals.
- The draft plan was developed based on input received in initial consultations and then taken back to communities and HTOs for final review and input
- This draft management plan submission and its recommendations have the support of HTOs and provide a voluntary co-management framework for, harvest reporting, protection of family groups and bears in dens and help address human-bear conflicts.
- The DOE will submit recommendations on Sport Hunting allocations to the NWMB for decision and RWO distribution.

Consultations

A full consultation summary has been provided in a separate document.

Preliminary Consultations

- Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) and all Kivalliq HTOs in 2011-12
- Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven HTOs in February 2014

Second Consultations

- Kitikmeot and Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Boards (RWOs), October 2015
- All Kitikmeot Region HTOs and communities, October/November 2015
- All Kivalliq Region HTOs and communities, January/February 2016
- Environment Canada, NWMB staff, GNWT and internal DOE review in summer of 2015 and early 2016

Recommendation

DOE requests the NWMB approve the Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan

Attachments

Draft Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan

Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan Consultation Summary

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT

Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co- Management Plan

June 2017

Department of Environment in Consultation with:

Nunavut Communities
Hunters and Trappers Organizations
Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan

PREFACE

Management of grizzly bears in Canada is conducted at the provincial and territorial level. In Nunavut, the management of all wildlife is ultimately governed by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Within the direction of the NLCA, management must invite public participation and promote public confidence, particularly amongst Inuit.

The Minister of the Environment and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) hold the ultimate responsibility and primary responsibility for wildlife management respectively under the NLCA. The NWMB has the responsibility of approving management plans (Article 5 section 5.2.34 d(i)). This plan has been prepared with the cooperation of the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (DOE), Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), NWMB, and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), with input from the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the participation of Inuit.

Implementation of this management plan is subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This management plan has been developed cooperatively by co-management partners with the intent to provide guidance and direction to the co-management partners to help them with their decision-making and to identify goals and objectives for the management of the grizzly bear population. Ongoing communications between co-management partners, Inuit participation and cooperation will be fundamental to the plan's success.

Although current harvest does not pose an immediate conservation concern, close monitoring and additional management actions are required to ensure long term sustainability. The main actions of this plan, which are supported by the users voluntarily, include protection of family groups, bears in dens, harvest monitoring, and reducing human-bear conflict.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Based on Inuit observations and Inuit Traditional Knowledge, there is strong evidence that grizzly bears have increased in number in Nunavut as well as expanded their range, both in the eastern and northern portion of the territory. The scientific community generally agrees with this although studies in support are sparse. This apparent increase is at odds with southern grizzly bear populations where loss of habitat has reduced their range to only a fraction of what it was historically.

Although territory wide surveys have not been conducted, it is estimated that there are in the order of 1,500 to 2,000 grizzly bears in Nunavut (COSEWIC 2012). The information available on grizzly bears in Nunavut is uneven across the territory, with most of it being from the western part of the Kitikmeot region. This management plan will serve as a guide for long term sustainable use and management of the species.

In the past, grizzly bears were mainly present in the Kitikmeot and western portions of the Kivalliq. Inuit occasionally hunted grizzly bears for hides, fat, meat, and other traditional uses. With the recent range expansion, more bears are being hunted for subsistence and economic reasons. Under NLCA grizzly bear is listed both as a big game (Schedule 5.1) and furbearer (Schedule 5.2).

Human-caused death is the main cause of sub-adult and adult bear mortality in Nunavut. Across their entire range, loss of habitat and harvest are the main threats to grizzly bears. Grizzly bears generally exist at low densities, breed late in their life, and have small litter sizes and long birth intervals. In addition, grizzly bears need large areas of undisturbed land. The barren ground grizzly bear has the largest home range size documented with an annual range for males of 7245 km² and for females 2100 km². There is concern that the cumulative effects of various human-caused mortalities and increasing development on the land may cause the grizzly bear population to decline in Nunavut.

Grizzly bears can come into conflict with people when they are attracted to food and garbage in communities, at camps and cabins, or at industrial sites. Human-bear conflict often results in the death of the bear. There are programs to prevent bears from becoming problems by limiting attractants and/or reacting appropriately when bears are encountered. Human activities, particularly development, tourism activities, and private camps must be managed appropriately to minimize impacts on grizzly bears and their habitats.

The grizzly bear has been assessed as a species of Special Concern in Canada and is currently under consideration for listing under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Trade in grizzly bear parts is regulated domestically by the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Inter-provincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA), and internationally under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Nunavut's grizzly bear population is shared with the Northwest Territories (NWT). The NWT already has management systems in place and has encouraged Nunavut to also implement a harvest management system.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Sustainable grizzly bear management depends on active participation and support from all co-management partners. The following principles will guide conservation and management decisions, within the framework of the NLCA:

- To integrate Inuit societal values and Inuit traditional knowledge, collectively called *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* (IQ), in grizzly bear management;
- IQ and scientific knowledge will be considered jointly in decision-making;
- To consider public safety in management actions;
- To consider the ongoing social, cultural, and economic value of the grizzly bear in decision-making;
- To consider how grizzly bears interact with the ecosystem when considering management actions;
- Where there are threats of serious or irreparable damage to the grizzly bear population, lack of certainty will not be a reason for postponing reasonable or precautionary conservation measures, while considering that harvesting practice is essential part of Inuit culture.

3. GOAL OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

To maintain a viable and healthy grizzly bear population for current and future generations, and to ensure that grizzly bears remain an integrated and functioning part of the ecosystem while allowing monitored and sustainable harvest.

4. BACKGROUND

In 1947, the NWT Game Regulations provided a closed season for harvesting grizzly bears. Historically, grizzly bears were only occasionally harvested as they were not a central species to Inuit life. Grizzly bears were generally harvested when encountered, but encounters were rare. In the late 1980s, there was a quota system put in place for grizzly bears by the government of NWT, in both the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions. Each region was allocated 10 tags each year for sport hunts or the sale of hides. More recently the GN has determined that the current regulations require a decision from the NWMB in order to allow sport hunting tags to be issued in those same regions.

Traditionally, Inuit have managed grizzly bears and human-bear conflict problems by processing and caching food safely, by having few or no permanent structures that attract bears, and by harvesting bears that ventured too close to human settlements.

Recent grizzly bear expansion eastward to the Hudson Bay coast, and north to Victoria Island has resulted in increased frequency of human-bear interactions and associated property damage to cabins and cached meat. Now there is concern for public safety within communities and on the land within the range of grizzly bear in Nunavut, particularly in areas where bears have recently increased in numbers.

In Nunavut, human safety and the right of Inuit to harvest grizzly bears remain high priorities. There is a need to monitor harvest and limit other human caused mortality to ensure that current and future harvest remains sustainable without posing a conservation concern.

5. GRIZZLY BEAR CO-MANAGEMENT IN NUNAVUT

The following co-management partners participate in grizzly bear management. Their roles are defined in full detail in Article 5 of the NLCA. A brief summary of each follows, however the NLCA is the guiding document.

5.1 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

The role of the NWMB is defined in the NLCA sections 5.2.33 and 5.2.34, and consists of, but is not limited to, setting Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and Non-quota limitations (NQLs). In addition, the NWMB approves management plans and is responsible for status designation of threatened species. The NWMB is the main instrument for wildlife management in Nunavut.

5.2 Regional Wildlife Organizations

RWOs role is defined in sections 5.7.6 of the NLCA. These roles include, but are not limited to, regulating the activities of HTOs including allocation of TAH among communities.

5.3 Hunters and Trappers Organizations

HTOs role is defined in sections 5.7.2 and 5.7.3 of the NLCA. These roles include, but are not limited to, regulating the harvesting activities of members. This includes allocation of TAH among members and setting of harvest seasons. As per the NLCA, an HTO may develop rules for non-quota limitations relevant to their members.

5.4 Department of Environment

The Minister of Environment retains the ultimate authority over wildlife management in

Nunavut as per the NLCA. DOE staff conduct research, work to collect IQ, and make recommendations to the NWMB for decision. Conservation Officers enforce the *Wildlife Act* and regulations. Programs to reduce human-bear conflicts and to reduce and compensate for property damages caused by bears are being implemented.

5.5 Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated represents all beneficiaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area by ensuring the land claim is properly adhered too. The NLCA is constitutionally protected under Canada's Constitution Act, 1982.

5.6 Government of Canada

If listed under the SARA, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) would be responsible for a national management plan for grizzly bears. Currently ECCC is responsible for managing grizzly bears and their habitat on federal lands under their jurisdiction (National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries) as well as lands under the jurisdiction of the Parks Canada Agency (National Parks, National Park Reserves and National Historic Sites).

6. SPECIES DESCRIPTION

Inuktitut: Aklaq/Aklak (Inuktitut/Inuvialuit – Uummarmiut dialect);
Aghat, (Inuktitut - Inuinnaqtun);
Aklah (Inuktitut)

English name - Grizzly bear

French name - Ours grizzli, Ours brun

Latin name - *Ursus arctos* (Linneaus 1758)

6.1 Status

SARA Canada: No Status

COSEWIC: Special Concern (2012)

IUCN: Least Concern (2008)

Nunavut Wildlife Act: Not Assessed

6.2 General Description

Grizzly bears in Nunavut are similar in size to those in southern populations but are smaller than grizzly bears inhabiting coastal Alaska, in part possibly as a result of the lower primary productivity of the barrens. Grizzlies have a prominent shoulder hump, long front claws and fur color ranging from blonde through shades of brown to nearly black. Genetic diversity is substantially lower for Nunavut grizzly bears compared to other populations in North America.

6.3 Distribution

The current range of grizzly bears in Nunavut encompasses most of the mainland, and some of the southern islands of the Arctic Archipelago (Figure 1). Victoria Island is now inhabited by grizzly bears. Observations of grizzly bears have been recorded several times in recent years on several other large islands close to mainland Nunavut, including King William Island, Melville Island and historically on Southampton Island.

6.4 Biology

Grizzly bears in Nunavut are long-lived, with maximum age of 28 years recorded for both sexes. A primary cause of natural mortality for adult females is predation by males. Adult males will also kill cubs and yearlings in late spring to mate with the females; however, the majority of cub deaths occur during denning or within the first month of leaving the den, with malnutrition likely being the primary cause of mortality in cubs.

The mean age at first reproduction for female grizzly bears in Nunavut is approximately 8 years of age, which is later than most other populations in North America. Males can start mating at 4-5 years of age but most mating is done by more mature males.

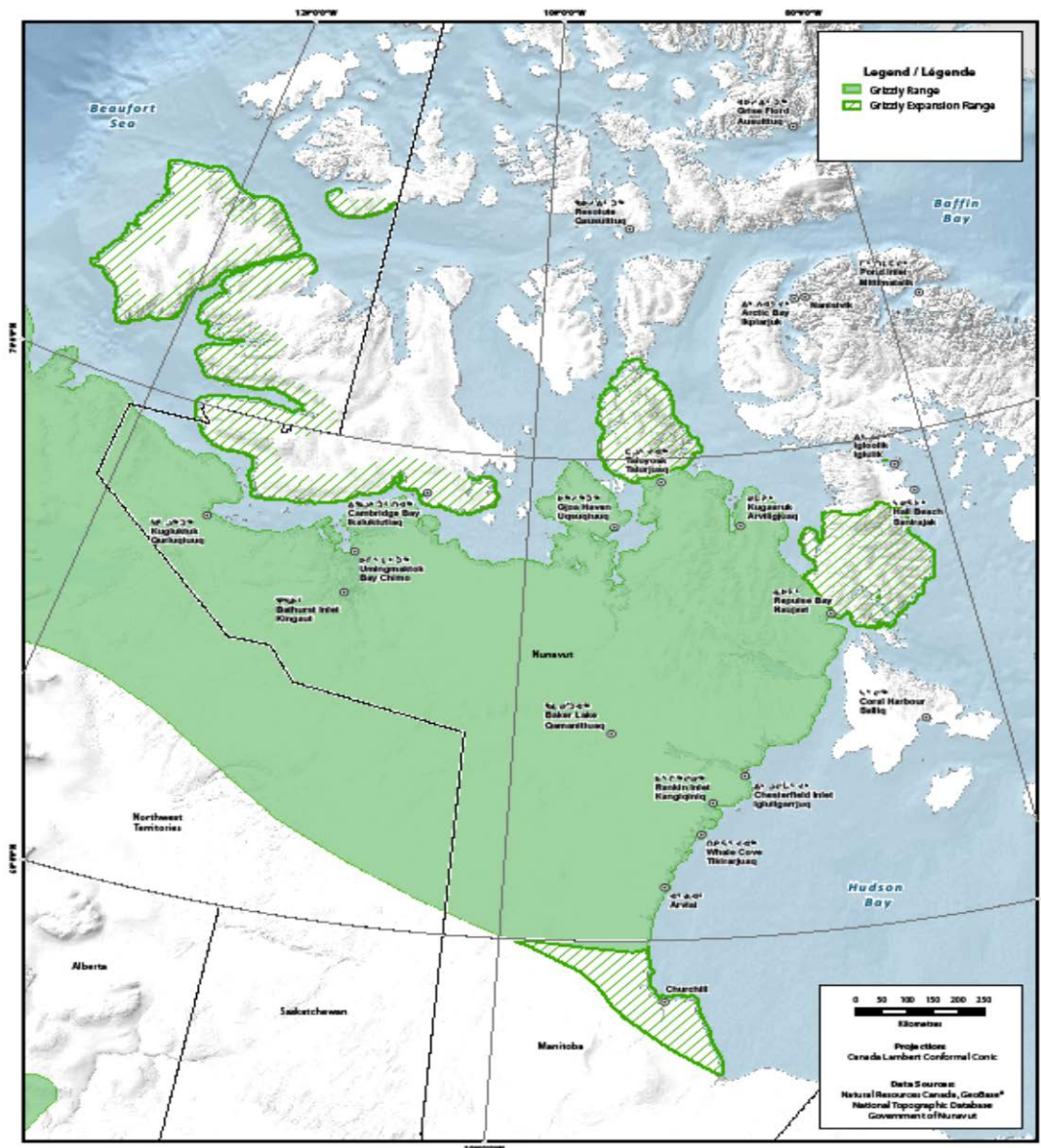


Figure 1. Range of grizzly bear in Nunavut.

Mating occurs from April to July and there is delayed implantation with gestation beginning in the fall. Litter size range from 1-4 with 2 being most common. Cubs are born in January and nurse in the den until the female emerges in early May. Males typically emerge from their dens in late April. Denning usually begins in the last two weeks of October (females prior to males). The cubs remain with their mother until about 2 years old, and the sow can mate again only after the cubs leave, or cubs are lost. The mean interval between litters is 2.8 years.

Grizzly bears are predators of caribou and muskox in Nunavut. Where available, Arctic ground squirrels are preyed upon by grizzly bears, and make up a significant

component of their diet. Occasional prey items noted for grizzly bears also include red-back voles and several species of lemmings (*Dicrostonyx and Lemmus spp*), ptarmigan (*Lagopus spp.*), Arctic hare, nesting ducks and geese and their eggs, ringed seal, beached whales, and spawning fish. Sedges and berries are also important dietary components. IQ suggests that grizzly bears are very resilient and capable of adapting to various environments.

The common parasites of grizzly bears include worms of the genera *Diphyllobothrium* and *Baylisascaris*. Other diseases of note that have been observed in grizzly bear populations include *Clostridium* infections (i.e. botulism), toxoplasmosis, canine distemper, and rabies. *Trichinella spiralis* in grizzly bear populations is a concern for public health. It is likely that *Trichinella* infects grizzly bears throughout Nunavut. Grizzly bear meat should be properly cooked prior to consumption to prevent trichinosis in humans.

7. CONSERVATION THREATS AND CHALLENGES

Nunavut has an adaptive wildlife management system whereby threats of any kind, including those posed by industrial activity or change in distribution/abundance due to climate change, can be identified and responded to quickly through the NLCA process. The following are current and/or potential future threats facing grizzly bears in Nunavut.

7.1 Industrial Activity, Habitat, and Climate Change

Grizzly bears in Nunavut require a large area to sustain a healthy population, find adequate food and denning sites, and for social interactions.

Human resource development is generally considered detrimental to grizzly bears and their habitat. Particularly, grizzly bears in tundra habitats are more likely to be displaced by human activity due to lack of available security (forest) cover. Several active and proposed mines and other industrial pursuits in Nunavut may affect bears indirectly due to increased hunter access from road development leading to an increase in human-bear conflicts and harvest. Co-management partners should provide information and guidelines into process of environmental impact assessment on how to minimize impacts of development on grizzly bears and their habitat.

Climate change is affecting terrestrial and marine environments; however, impacts on grizzly bears are not clear. It is challenging to predict and mitigate the effects of climate change on habitat.

7.2 Harvest

Some demographic estimates, such as reproductive parameters for the Kitikmeot region, are from 1990s and little information is available for the Kivalliq. Ongoing studies to determine population status and trend will provide local estimates to extrapolate to

territorial estimates. Despite the limited data, there is adequate information, both scientific and local knowledge, to advise decision-makers on appropriate management actions.

Kitikmeot Region:

During a grizzly bear collaring project from 1996 to 1999 in the west Kitikmeot/Slave Geological Province, grizzly bear population (3 years old or older) was approximated at a density of 3.5 bears /1,000 km². In 2008-2009, DOE estimated a density of 5 bears/1,000 km² in a 40,000 km² area around Kugluktuk using genetic mark-recapture hair snagging technique. In 2011, to the east of Kugluktuk, in the Doris North Gold project area, Rescan (2012) detected 6 bears/1,000 km² (39 grizzly bears in a 6,500 km² study area) using hair snagging technique. With the same technique, to the south, at the Sabina-Back River project area, Rescan (2013) reported a detection of 6–8 grizzly bears/1,000 km² (109 grizzly bears in ~18,000 km² study area).

From 1988 to 1995 and from 1996 to 1999, collaring programs on grizzly bears allowed an estimate of the population growth rate of the bear population in the west Kitikmeot. Annual population growth rates were estimated at 1.026 (2.6%) from 1988 to 1995 and 1.033 (3.3%) from 1996 to 1999. Given the west Kitikmeot area is estimated at approximately 150,000 km² of land, we can therefore estimate a grizzly bear population from 780 to 915 based on the high and low population growth rates above. This slightly increasing trend is consistent with Inuit observations of more grizzlies on the land.

Between 1995 and 2014, the annual harvest of grizzly bears in the Kitikmeot region has fluctuated from 4 to 22 bears/year, with an average of 13 bears/year. Based on an estimate of 780 to 915 bears and the indicators of a positive bear population growth rate, the current harvest rate (1.4 to 1.7%) and the average annual harvest of 13 bears is sustainable. DOE considers a maximum harvest rate of 2% for Nunavut grizzly bears as sustainable; therefore the west Kitikmeot could sustain a slight increase in the annual harvest provided that females are protected.

Kivalliq Region:

Grizzly bear densities in the Kivalliq are lower than in the west Kitikmeot; however, adequate scientific studies have not been conducted to estimate actual densities, with the exception of a pilot study on a small scale by Arviat HTO in the periphery of North Henik Lake in 2013. Where 7 individual grizzly bears (4M:3F) were identified with no extrapolation to a regional population estimate.

Local and scientific observations indicate an expansion of grizzly bear range eastward, resulting in an increase in local abundance. Grizzly bear harvest in the Kivalliq has increased substantially since 2008. From 1995 to 2007 the harvest averaged 5 bears annually. From 2008 to 2014, the average annual harvest increased to 18 bears. Based on the available scientific information (increasing proportion of females in the harvest

and decreasing proportion of adults in the recent harvest) the current harvest level is probably not sustainable over the long run and may cause a population decline, highlighting the need for harvest monitoring and reporting.

Nunavut Wide:

Although there has not been a complete survey of the grizzly bear population in Nunavut, it is estimated that between 1500 and 2000 grizzly bears live in Nunavut (hair snagging studies and visual observations from caribou and muskox surveys). The maximum recommended harvest rate for grizzly bear in Nunavut is 2% of population estimate. With this estimate, the harvest should be around 30 to 40 bears/year. In the absence of better information, a conservative harvest of 30 bears/year seems reasonable (2% of the lowest estimate and 1.5% of the highest estimate).

The average Nunavut harvest from 1995 to 2014 was 22 bears/year. Currently, male grizzly bears represent 80% of the harvest between 1995 and 2014. However, the proportion of females in the harvest varies annually. The harvest of females, and especially females with cubs, is considered to have a greater negative impact on the population. Nevertheless, a highly male biased harvest can also be detrimental.

Considering science and IQ agree that bears have increased in number and range, the current territorial annual harvest average of 22 bears per year does not present an immediate conservation concern.

Sport hunting is an activity that provides economic benefits to communities; the DOE supports the continuation of sport hunting and use of commercial tags. The sport hunting limits or the allocation of resident non-beneficiary harvest limits will be subject to NWMB decision and RWO allocation.

Protection of family groups, bears in dens, and adequate harvest reporting is required to ensure harvest remains sustainable. This will also demonstrate that harvest rates are defensible to other jurisdictions and help maintain trade and sport hunts, which are identified as important by communities.

7.3 Grizzly Bears and People

Currently, in many areas of Nunavut, the number of bears encountered in communities and on the land has increased, thus increasing the potential for human-bear conflicts. This public safety issue requires appropriate management action by co-management partners. Although co-management partners in some communities have developed community human-bear conflict management plans, continued efforts at implementation, training and funding for these plans is needed to ensure success.

7.4 Working Together

Nunavut's grizzly bear population is shared with the Northwest Territories. Cooperative efforts between jurisdictions on research and monitoring, and consultation should be

encouraged. Within Nunavut it is important for co-management partners to effectively participate in management and regulatory processes. An open dialogue with sharing of information and knowledge is crucial to successfully work together, yet this remains a challenge due to logistical constraints and the capacity of co-management partners.

8. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The following subsections describe general objectives to address the above threats and challenges, followed by more specific actions to help achieve the objectives.

8.1 Industrial Activity, Habitat, and Climate Change

Grizzly bears on the barrens have the largest recorded home ranges in North America. This means that they require significant space to sustain a healthy population, find enough food and denning habitat, and carry out social interactions.

The management of human activities and the environmental impact assessment process are key to ensuring sustainable development of the land, providing economic and social benefits to communities. The environmental impact assessment process should consider grizzly bear needs when assessing proposals of human activity within their range and there should be mitigation and safety measures undertaken to reduce human-bear conflicts.

The potential effects of climate change include changes to primary productivity, which may impact prey species (both plants and animals), as well as changes in denning periods. Understanding the potential impacts, both negative and positive, are key to long-term sustainability of grizzly bears.

Objectives:

- Minimize the impacts of land use activities on grizzly bear movements, habitat, vegetation and prey species
- Ensure co-management partners have the resources and information to effectively participate in management actions
- Examine potential impacts (individual and cumulative) of increasing resource development activities and focus research to better understand climate change impacts, both negative and positive, on ecological conditions that are important to grizzly bears

Actions:

- Provide input into environmental assessment process under (Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for development projects
- Continue to collect scientific and Inuit knowledge on grizzly bears for use in decision-making and regulatory reviews
- Develop a monitoring plan to provide information on:

- i. potential subpopulations delineation
- ii. population status and trend
- iii. impacts of climate change and potential cumulative impacts of anthropogenic land use.

8.2 Harvest Management

Human-caused mortality is the main cause of death in adult and sub-adult grizzly bears; therefore, management of harvest is a key component of grizzly bear management. Harvest, other than defense kills, is conducted as part of traditional and subsistence activities or as part of commercial activities (sale of hides and sport hunts with HTO approval). Considering their relatively low density and long generation time, the grizzly bear population in Nunavut can only sustain a limited harvest.

The current harvest pattern appears to have allowed grizzly bears to increase; however, long term effects of various harvest scenarios require further investigation. Monitoring and obtaining reliable population estimates as well as ensuring harvest levels are sustainable will become increasingly important as the level of human activity increases. Protection of breeding females, family groups, and bears in dens will help mitigate the effects of harvest.

Objectives:

- Maintain a sustainable harvest of grizzly bears and monitor the harvest through reporting and sample collection
- Protect family groups and bears in dens
- Reduce defense kills to allow for increased subsistence harvest while reducing risk to the public in the communities and at camps

Actions:

- Develop a harvest reporting program to support decision making, with appropriate harvest samples and harvest information
- Hunters, on a voluntary basis, refrain from harvesting family groups and bears in dens
- Utilize bear awareness and damage prevention programs to reduce defense of life and property kills (DLPK) and Conduct community education and awareness program to reduce human-bear conflicts

8.3 People and Bears

Many problems with bears could be avoided and often result from poor site management or from avoidable encounter-related issues.

From 1980 to 2014, 172 grizzly bears were reported killed in defence of life and property (average of 5/year) representing 27.3% of total reported grizzly bear deaths. However, some problem bears that were shot were reported as subsistence kills, and therefore, the actual number of bears killed as a result of conflicts with people is higher

than the reported number.

Inuit have encountered grizzly bears for generations, and have observed an increase in the number of grizzly bears as well as range expansion. Along with the observed increase in bears there have been increasing concerns of public safety, as well as increasing damage to property and food caches. Harvesting of grizzly bears for subsistence, and economic benefit is still very important. Ensuring defense kills are minimized and traditional harvest is maintained is important to communities.

Objectives:

- Continue to develop and improve methods for protection of people, property, and meat caches
- Improve community involvement in protection activities
- Ensure adequate support for community bear monitors (including training and equipment)

Actions:

- Reduce the number of defense of life and property kills (DLPK) by:
 - i. Promoting public bear awareness and safety through education
 - ii. Identifying factors leading to human-bear conflicts
 - iii. Improve communication to the public about bear safety, deterrence, and available programs
 - iv. Making deterrent tools available to land users
 - v. Install and maintain electric fences in key areas (research camps, Outpost camps, mining and exploration camps, etc.)
 - vi. Ensure the Wildlife Damage Compensation and Wildlife Damage Prevention programs are accessible to the public and adequately funded
- Develop and implement Community Bear Plans
- Provide education and training on the use and maintenance of electric fences and other deterrent tools

8.4 Working together

This plan was developed with the participation of co-management partners. This is a positive step towards improved cooperative management but more can be done both within Nunavut and with neighboring jurisdictions. Within Nunavut there is a need for improved communication and sharing of knowledge, as well as increased participation of Inuit in research projects.

Objectives:

- Increase involvement of Inuit in research programs

- Improve collection and archiving of IQ so that it is accessible for decision-making.

Actions:

- Develop collaborative research partnerships, particularly for IQ studies, to increase capacity
- Continue to work with HTOs on Inuit involvement in research.

At the inter-jurisdictional level, improved cooperation should be encouraged. This cooperation may include government-to-government and user-to-user agreements.

Objectives:

- Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination
- Build cooperative research programs in areas such as population monitoring and traditional knowledge studies.

Actions:

- Pursue inter-jurisdictional agreements for data sharing and joint research programs
- Develop a knowledge and information sharing framework for co-management partners
- Seek research partnerships with external researchers to increase capacity.

10. PLAN REVIEW

In order to be sure that the goal and objectives of this management plan are realized, it is essential to measure progress on the implementation of the plan. The review of objectives in this management plan will occur with co-management partners initially after 5 years, and then every 7 years.

The number of grizzly bears and the trend (population, reproduction, survival rates etc.), the conservation of habitat, incorporation of IQ, number and types of bear-people conflicts are all essential performance measures with which to measure the success of grizzly bear conservation in Nunavut.

Appendix A - Proposed Research and Monitoring

Recommended Harvest Monitoring Program

- Date, location and type of kills and submission of samples
- Human – Bear conflict monitoring.

Population Monitoring

- Trend in abundance through hair snagging studies
- Changes in distribution
- Delineation of subpopulations
- Number of females with cubs / yearlings and number of cubs / yearlings by collaring females.

Appendix B – Selected Relevant Literature

- COSEWIC. 2012. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Grizzly Bear *Ursus arctos* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xiv + 84 pp. (www.registrelep.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm).
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Consultations on the Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan

2011-12, 2014 and October 2015 to February 2016



Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut Iqaluit, Nunavut

Executive Summary

Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (DOE) representatives conducted consultations with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), and communities from 2011- 2016 in two separate phases. The purpose of the preliminary consultations was to provide co-management partners with an overview of the current lack of management system for grizzly bears, highlight the need for a system, and to gather input on potential management goals and priorities for management.

The draft plan was then developed based on the input from the preliminary consultations. This was followed by a second round of consultations focusing on the initial draft, and input from targeted questions, to help further refine the draft plan.

The focus of the plan is to ensure there is adequate monitoring and reporting of harvest, secure support for protection of family groups and bears in dens, improve efforts to reduce human-bear conflict, and define actions to implement these management efforts. Discussions focused on the increasing number of bears observed in most areas, concerns about public safety and property damage, the need to ensure that harvest is sustainable and defensible, and the need to protect family groups. Support for these management actions was received in the form of HTO's passing motions of support for the proposed management actions.

This report attempts to summarize the comments made by participants during the consultations.

Preface

This report represents the Department of Environment's best efforts to accurately capture all of the information that was shared during consultation meetings with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Regional Wildlife Organizations and communities of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Environment, or the Government of Nunavut.

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1.0 Report Purpose and Structure

This report is intended to collate and summarize comments, questions, concerns and suggestions provided by the HTOs, RWOs, and communities to develop a grizzly bear co-management plan. Preliminary consultations were conducted with communities about grizzly bear management to identify the management goals and priorities of:

- Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) and Kivalliq HTOs in 2011-12;
- Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven HTOs in February 2014.

After these preliminary consultations, a draft management plan was developed incorporating the priorities identified. Secondary consultations on the draft management plan were then conducted with:

- Kitikmeot and Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Boards (RWOs), October 2015;
- All Kitikmeot Region HTOs and communities, October/November 2015 and
- All Kivalliq Region HTOs and communities, January/February 2016.

The draft was revised based on input received and shared again with HTOs, RWOs, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) staff, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) for a final review in April 2016. The draft has received direction and input from stakeholders from its inception to completion.

2.0 Purpose of Consultations

The purpose of the preliminary consultations was to discuss the current status of grizzly bear management in Nunavut, current harvest rates and to identify management goals and priorities for grizzly bears. After the preliminary consultations the draft management plan was prepared and presented at the KWB and the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) annual meetings and to all relevant HTOs and other co-management partners to obtain further input and direction.

2.1 Format of Meetings

For the second round of consultations the draft management plan was shared with co-management partners. In September 2015 a translated PowerPoint presentation, outlining the process, and a summary of the draft by each section and its intent, was submitted to HTOs and RWOs. The boards were requesting to review it and consider specific questions. Later, the HTO and public meetings in the communities were held in the evening or afternoon and ran between 1 to 3 hours depending on HTO/community engagement. Meetings were facilitated and lead by the DOE Carnivore Biologist, who was also the presenter. DOE Regional Wildlife Managers for Kitikmeot and Kivalliq participated where possible in their respective regions. Additionally the draft management plan and process was presented at the KWB and KRWB

annual general meetings in October 2015. A translator was present for HTO and public meetings to ensure adequate access for all participants.

A short introduction explained the purpose of the consultation, need for a management plan, historical perspective, legislative uncertainty, and the current management system and harvest rates. Here are some specific questions DOE representatives asked of the HTOs and community members during the consultations;

- Do the guiding principles and goals of the plan reflect IQ?
- Reflection of Inuit knowledge and perspective in the document, are the statements made accurately reflecting current knowledge?
- What are the main issues and challenges from the communities' perspective in regards to grizzly bears? Increasing numbers? Public safety? Ability to have sport hunts? maximum harvest?
- What research do communities want to see, and what will they support?
- What specific actions would communities like to see to implement the management plan?

The participants were invited to ask questions, raise concerns, or provide recommendations throughout the meetings. After the presentation, questions/discussion continued until no further questions were raised. At the end of the meetings DOE requested that HTO boards pass a motion in support of the management plan.

3.0 Summary by Community

The objectives were made clear to the HTO members prior to and at the start of each meeting. There were many similar questions, concerns and suggestions raised by HTO Board members across the regions. The Inuit perspective, expressed during consultations, is that all species must be harvested based on need and/or purpose and must be preserved and managed accordingly. During the first phase of consultations, it was identified that Kitikmeot region HTOs want to keep defence kills to a minimum and use the resource for sport hunting, whereas, Kivalliq HTOs (except Arviat) consider grizzly bear as a nuisance and public safety issue and want to keep the population to a minimum. Both regions are in agreement to provide protection to family groups (mothers and cubs) to keep the reproductive potential intact, and to ensure that Nunavut's grizzly bear management system is defensible to other jurisdictions and able to maintain harvest.

When preliminary consultations started in the Kivalliq region, in 2011, Environment and Climate Change Canada officials were completing a CITES non-detriment finding (NDF) for the grizzly bears. During the KWB AGM in June 2011 the uncertainty around legislative management authority, current harvest numbers, and lack of formal harvest management system, along with the possible consequences of negative NDF, were specifically presented and discussed. The KWB passed motion #KWB-AGM-2011 -06-02-J supporting the development of a management plan and urges their members to adopt local hunting rules that include:

1. A buffer zone will be established around each Kivalliq community from which local harvesters will be allowed to harvest Grizzly Bears without further restrictions mentioned below. The area of the buffer zone or distance from the community is yet to be determined through consultation with the communities.
2. Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother and within the designated buffer zone.
3. Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed in any way.

The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

In late 2011 and early 2012 all Kivalliq HTOs supported the KWB motion and development of management plan. The idea of community buffer zones was dropped because most of the land in Kivalliq region is not accessible during the summer.

In early 2014, Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven HTOs showed support for the management plan and HTOs were interested in minimizing defence kills and using the resource for sport hunting. Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay HTOs requested an increase in the sport hunt quota. Arviat and Baker Lake HTOs were also interested in the potential of starting sport hunts. The Kitikmeot region HTOs agreed to work with DOE to reduce people/bear conflicts to limit defense kills.

Several members from different HTOs stated that over the past few years that hunters in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions reported seeing more grizzly bears. The number of bears encountered around communities and on the land has been increasing and Inuit families no longer feel safe in camps on land in summer. This presents a public safety issue which requires appropriate management actions by co-management partners. Some HTO members in the Kivalliq region, especially in Baker Lake, expressed their concern regarding the loss of meat caches due to grizzly bears. They are concerned that because of the loss of so much cached meat, it is beginning to change hunting practices and affect their culture. Less people are going to hunt and then cache because of the fear of loss to grizzly bears. Community members feel this could affect future practices and then the loss of these skills.

HTOs and communities in both regions understand the need for some conservation measures, such as protection of family groups and bears in dens, and having a management system in place, to defend the harvest at national and with other jurisdictions.

In the draft management plan we identify that the review of objectives in this management plan will occur with co-management partners after 7 years. However, during consultations a majority of HTOs said that first review should be after 3 years and then all co-management partners can agree review after every 5 or 7 years.

3.1 Cambridge Bay Consultation Summary

Community consultations were organized with Ekaluktutiak HTO in February 2014 to identify the management goals and priorities of the communities for the management plan. A second

HTO and public meeting was organized in October 2015 and the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice on the plan.

Date: February 26, 2014 and October 28, 2015

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

GN-DoE, Regional Wildlife Manager: Mathieu Dumond

Ekaluktutiak HTO Board

Comments and questions:

Community members and HTO members expressed that the number of bears encountered around the community and on Victoria Island has been increasing and Inuit families no longer feel safe in summer camping areas. They indicated that there would be support for a management plan as it would convey to other provinces that we are managing our harvest to be sustainable and we are working to reduce human-bear conflict. It was suggested to start a grizzly bear hair snagging research study on Victoria Island because of increasing human-bear conflict around Cambridge Bay in recent years, as well as reports of hybrid bears (with polar bears). The Board requested DOE help to prepare a proposal to get funding from the NWMB.

There is currently no sport hunting in Cambridge Bay but the HTO wants to initiate a sustainable sport hunting program. The community and HTO Board expressed interest in working more on camp cleaning and garbage management, especially in summer camping areas, to reduce the number of defense kills. They also emphasized the need to increase the collection of traditional knowledge.

Members asked for more detail pertaining to the Wildlife Damage and Compensation Program (WDCP), specifically regarding eligibility for the program and whether tent damage is covered under this program.

Recommendation:

The Ekaluktutiak HTO board supported the draft grizzly bear co-management plan and the board supported the local hunting practices (letter in Appendix A):

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, and provide harvest samples and harvest information for harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.2 Gjoa Haven Consultation Summary

Community consultations were organized with the Gjoa Haven HTO in February 2014 to identify the management goals and priorities of the community for the management plan. A second HTO and public meeting was organized in early November 2015 where the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice about the plan.

Meeting Dates: February 27, 2014 and November 01, 2015

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

GN-DoE, Regional Wildlife Manager: Mathieu Dumond (2014 meeting only)

HTO Board

Comments and questions:

HTO member's expressed that the community harvested few grizzly bears but there has recently been an increase in sightings. They feel that grizzly bears are more dangerous and unpredictable than polar bears. They observed it is mostly mothers and cubs doing damage to cabins. Members asked whether there is funding to get training from experienced hunters on how to deal with grizzly bears. One member expressed concern about the impact of grizzly bears and other predators on caribou calving. At the same he mentioned that he has experience from the 1970s bounty program and feels that bounty programs are not successful. Members asked for clarification regarding the necessity of tags for a subsistence harvest. The Board supports the management plan and understands the importance of developing and putting in place a management system to show other jurisdictions that there is adequate management in place. The Board understands that protecting the reproductive potential of the population (protection of family groups) is required to ensure the viability of the grizzly bear population. The HTO also emphasized the need to improve the GN Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program.

Recommendation:

The HTO board, during the November 01, 2015 meeting, passed a motion (Appendix A) supporting the grizzly bear co-management plan and local hunting practices that include the following:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The Gjoa Haven HTO agrees to work with the GN to reduce people/bear conflicts to limit defense kills.
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.3 Kugaaruk Consultation Summary

A consultation was organized with the Kurairojuark HTO and community members in November 2015 where the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice about the plan.

Date: November 04, 2015

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

HTO Board and community members

Comments and questions:

The HTO member's expressed that the community harvested a grizzly bear in 2012 but there has since been an increase in sightings. Hunters are also harvesting more wolverines in the area as both grizzly bear and wolverine have been extending their range. The Board supports the management plan and understands the importance of developing and putting in place a management system to show other jurisdictions that there is adequate management in place. The chair said that he feels proud that there are no legal restrictions for protection of family groups and bears in dens, but Inuit would support the restrictions to preserve the resource. One member reported that in early days Inuit were harvesting polar bears in dens. The Board understands that to protect the reproductive potential of the population, protection of family groups is required. The HTO also emphasized the need to improve the GN Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program.

Recommendation:

The Kurairojuark HTO board, in the November 04, 2015 meeting, passed motion#11-004-001 (Appendix A) supporting the development of a grizzly bear co-management plan and local hunting practices that include the following:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The HTO agrees to work with GN to reduce people/bear conflicts to limit defense kills.
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.4 Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet HTO Consultation Summary

Purpose of the Consultations:

A consultation meeting was organized in Yellowknife in October 2015. The draft management plan was presented in order to get their input and discuss the issues the two attending HTOs have regarding grizzly bear management.

Date: October 16, 2015

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

GN-DoE, Regional Wildlife Manager: Mathieu Dumond

HTO Bay Chimo, Chairperson: Peter Kapolak, Sam Kapolak

HTO Bathurst, Chairperson: Martina Kapolak

KIA: Luigi Torreti

KIA: Environmental Officer

Comments and questions:

All three Board members said there are now more grizzly bear sightings in the area. They also indicated there are more grizzly bears in the Bathurst Inlet area, which may impact the caribou on the calving grounds.

Recommendation:

The attending members were in support of the management plan. All three members said they support the protection of family groups and bears in dens to maintain the reproductive potential of the population. Board members asked for an increase in sport hunt tags. Only three members were present from two HTOs so there was no quorum for the motion.

3.5 Kugluktuk Consultation Summary

A consultation was organized with the Kugluktuk HTO in February 2014 to identify the management goals and priorities of the community regarding the management plan. A second HTO and public meeting was organized on October 2015 where the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice on the draft plan.

Meeting Dates: February 20, 2014 and October 21, 2015

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

GN-DoE, Regional Wildlife Manager: Mathieu Dumond

Conservation Officer: Monica Angohiatok

HTO Board

Comments and questions:

The HTO and community members expressed that there are now more grizzly bears around the town and on the land during June/July. Safety in the camps was discussed. One member shared his experience of observing a muskox freshly killed by a grizzly bear. The community and HTO Board are interested to work more on camp cleaning and garbage management, especially in summer camping areas, to reduce the number of defense kills. They want to start a traditional knowledge study about grizzly bears. Members also expressed their concern regarding an increase in the number of wolf and grizzly bears and their impact on caribou. At the same they expressed the importance of predators taking the diseased animals and maintaining herd health. We need a balance but there are fewer hunters harvesting predators.

Recommendation:

The Kugluktuk HTO board passed the motion 031/2015 (Appendix A), accepting the draft grizzly bear co-management plan. They also recommended an increase in grizzly bear tags from three to five per year. To better manage the grizzly bear population, habitat and harvest, the HTO board will follow the following harvest practices:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest,
- provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The Kugluktuk HTO agrees to work with the GN to reduce human-bear conflicts to limit defense kills.
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.6 Taloyoak Consultation Summary

Community consultations were organized with Taloyoak HTO in October 2015 and the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice about the plan.

Date: October 30, 2015

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

Conservation Officer: David Anavilok

HTO Board

Comments and questions:

There is no reported grizzly bear harvest in Taloyoak, but board members indicated that hunters are harvesting wolverines every year and assume grizzly bears will soon be in their area due to increasing numbers and an extension in range. The board supports the management plan and understands the importance of developing and implementing management to show other jurisdictions that there is adequate management in place. The board understands that to protect the reproductive potential of the population, protection of family groups is required.

Recommendation:

The HTO Board, during the October 30, 2015 meeting, passed motion #15-10-04 (Appendix A) supporting the grizzly bear co-management plan and local hunting practices that include the following:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (females with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The HTO agrees to work with GN to reduce people/bear conflicts to limit defense kills.
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.7 Arviat Consultation Summary

A community consultation was organized with the Arviat HTO in October 2011 to identify the management goals and priorities of the community for the management plan. A second HTO and public meeting was organized in January 2016 where the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice about the draft plan.

Meeting Dates: October 03, 2011 and January 25/27, 2016

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Manager: Dave Vetra/Rob Harmer

Conservation Officer: Joe Savikataaq/Joe Saviktaaq Jr

HTO Board

Comments and questions:

The HTO members' main concern was that in recent years they have seen more grizzly bears, and the possibility that their range has expanded. Public safety in summer and cabin damage were the main concerns expressed. The HTO provided some suggestions on how to reduce human-bear conflicts or reduce damage to property. The HTO also emphasized the need to

improve the GN Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program. The HTO seemed interested in potential economic benefits from a healthy grizzly bear population and may be considering sport hunting to balance grizzly bear numbers in future. The members present enquired about more detail on the harvest of lone cubs and the harvest of black bears. At the end of the board meeting, board decided to arrange a potluck supper in the evening of January 26, 2016 in HTO office with Carnivore Biologist. All board members brought country food and desserts. Leah Muckpah, KWB regional coordinator also participated in supper.

Recommendation:

The HTO, in October 03, 2011, supported protection of family groups and bear in dens. On the question of the proposed KWB buffer zone suggestion the HTO wanted more time to discuss with the community.

The HTO Board, during the January 25, 2016 meeting, passed motion #16/01/155 (Appendix A), supported the grizzly bear co-management plan and local hunting practices that include the following:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.8 Baker Lake Consultation Summary

A community consultation was organized with Baker Lake HTO in February 2012 to identify the management goals and priorities of the communities for the management plan. A later HTO and public meeting was organized in January 2016 where the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' concerns and input about the draft plan.

Meeting Dates: February 04, 2012 and January 21/22, 2016

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Manager: Dave Vetra/Rob Harmer

Conservation Officer: Russell Toolooktook

HTO Board

Comments and questions:

The HTO members' main focus was regarding caribou meat caches. Some members expressed that the situation in Baker Lake is different from other communities; they are dependent only on caribou meat (no seal or walrus available) so to protect and save their meat caches is very important for them. The HTO provided some suggestions how to reduce human-bear conflicts or reduce damage to property and they emphasized the need to improve the GN Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program. The HTO seemed interested in potential economic benefits from a healthy grizzly bear population and may be considering sport hunting to balance grizzly bear numbers in future. One board member was in support of harvest restrictions, and a full ban on the hunting of family groups. He suggested that people may say that a family group was shot in defense of life.

The HTO members commented that their grandparents did not have issues with grizzly bears and that this is only a recent issue. The number of bears encountered around communities and on the land more recently, has been increasing and Inuit families no longer feel safe in camps on land in summer. They are concerned that, because of the loss of so much cached meat, it is beginning to change hunting practices and affect their culture. Fewer community members are going to hunt and then cache because of the fear of loss to grizzly bears. This could affect future practices and lead to the loss of these skills.

Recommendation:

The HTO, in the February 04, 2012 meeting, supported KWB motion #KWB-AGM-2011 -06-02-J (letter attached Appendix A).

The HTO board, in motion #2016-01-22-01 (Appendix A), supported the development of the grizzly bear co-management plan and local hunting practices that include the following:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (females with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.9 Chesterfield Inlet Consultation Summary

A community consultation was organized with the Aqiqiq HTO in February 2012 to identify the management goals and priorities of the communities for the management plan. A second HTO and public meeting was organized in early February 2016 where the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice about the plan.

Meeting Dates: February 14, 2012 and February 02, 2016

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist : Malik Awan

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Manager: Dave Vetra

Conservation Officer: Peter Katagatsiak

HTO Board

Comments and questions:

The Aqiqiq HTO members expressed that there are not too many grizzly bears in their area, but the board supports the management plan and understand the importance of developing and implementing the management system. The board understands that to protect the reproductive potential of the population, protection of family groups is required. The HTO also emphasized the need to improve the GN Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program.

Recommendation:

The Aqiqiq HTO, in the February 14, 2012 meeting, supported KWB motion #KWB-AGM-2011 - 06-02-J (letter attached Appendix A).

The Aqiqiq HTO board, in motion #048/16 (Appendix A), supported the grizzly bear co-management plan and local hunting practices that include the following:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

3.10 Rankin Inlet Consultation Summary

A community consultation was organized with the Kangiqliniq HTO in March 2011 to identify the management goals and priorities of the community for the management plan. A second consultation was organized in February 2012, during the HTO regular meeting, to discuss the KWB June 2011 letter and supported KWB motion. In early February 2016 the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice about the plan.

Meeting Dates: March 02, 2011 and February 03, 2016

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist: Malik Awan

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Manager: Dave Vetra

NTI: Director of Wildlife: Gabriel Nirlungayuk (2011 meeting)

NTI: Bert Dean (2011 meeting)

NTI: Robert Karetak

HTO Board

Comments and questions:

At the March 2011 meeting, representatives of NTI (Gabriel and Bert) also participated and further highlighted the importance of the Environment and Climate Change Canada NDF process for CITIES and its impacts on potential economic benefits. The members present agreed that there is a need for a management plan. The members discussed that their community does not harvest grizzly bear as a practice and they are not in support of this high harvest, but grizzly is a dangerous species, destroying property and meat caches. To reduce human- bear conflict, members suggested a buffer zone around the community (30-50 miles radius). Every grizzly bear in this buffer zone should be shot, and all bears outside the buffer zone should be protected. The HTO suggested that the Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program should be executed by HTOs. The cost to own and maintain cabins is increasing and the compensation amount should increase according to that cost. The Kangiqliniq HTO is in support of more research on grizzly bears but against capturing/handling of bears. Member's expressed that there is not an overabundance of grizzly bears in their area, but the Board supports the management plan and understands the importance of developing and implementing a management system. The board members understand that to protect the reproductive potential of the population, protection of family groups is required. The HTO members also emphasized the need to improve the GN Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program.

Recommendation:

The HTO, in the February, 2012 meeting, supported the KWB motion #KWB-AGM-2011 -06-02-J regarding the protection of family groups and bears in dens.

During the February 03, 2016 meeting, the HTO board agreed and indicated they understand the need of a management system. Their main concern was public safety and they want to harvest every grizzly bear close to town, but at the same they are in support of developing and implementing a management system to maintain the opportunity to trade and sell hides. The board did not support the protection of family groups and bears in dens and requested additional time to discuss the issue with their community.

3.11 Repulse Bay Consultation Summary

A community consultation was arranged with the HTO for February 4th and 5th. The HTO Chair was willing to conduct this meeting on February 4th, but board members were not available for the meeting and it was cancelled. The second draft of the co-management plan was submitted

to the HTO for their comments and review on March 31, 2016. The board approved the co-management plan (email attached appendix A).

3.12 Whale Cove Consultation Summary

A community consultation was organized with the Issatik HTO in October 2011 to identify the management goals and priorities of the community for the management plan. A second HTO and public meeting was organized in January 2016 where the draft management plan was presented. The aim of this meeting was to gather the community members' input and advice about the plan.

Meeting Dates: October 05, 2011 and January 29/30, 2016

Representatives:

GN-DoE, Carnivore Biologist : Malik Awan

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Manager (trainee): Jonathan Pameolik

HTO Board/Public meeting

Comments and questions:

The Issatik HTO member's expressed that there are now more grizzly bears in the area and the grizzly bear range is extending in the east. Board members said that due to forest fires and development in the south, grizzly bears seem to be moving further north. The HTO chair mentioned that low harvest rates before 2008 were due to less reporting because people thought there was a harvest quota; bears were harvested but not reported. Public safety and human-bear conflict was their main concern expressed during the consultation. The board reported that grizzly bears are more dangerous than polar bears but the board supports the management plan and understand the importance of developing and implementing a management system. The HTO also emphasized the need to improve the GN Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program.

Recommendation:

The Issatik HTO, in the October 05, 2011 meeting, supported the KWB motion #KWB-AGM-2011-06-02-J (letter attached Appendix A).

The Issatik HTO board, in motion #142-17-16 (Appendix A) on March 04, 2016, supported the grizzly bear co-management plan and local hunting practices that include the following:

- Report all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

4.0 Summary

The primary concerns, as expressed by HTO members during the consultations, focused on the increasing number of bears observed and the increasing range bears are occupying. This was followed by concerns for public safety and property damage and the need to ensure programs are in place to address these concerns. HTOs want appropriate compensation for property damage, are interested in improving garbage and campsite clean-up on the land, and are willing to work toward improved cooperation on reducing human-bear conflict. There was expressed understanding of and support for a management system to ensure that the harvest was sustainable and defensible, and to ensure that any economic benefits were maintained. Support was provided in the forms of official motions by HTO boards in support of specific management actions including:

- Reporting of all human related bear deaths/harvest, provide appropriate harvest samples and harvest information for the harvest monitoring;
- Family groups (sows with cubs) shall be protected and not be harvested unless the cubs have reached the same size as the mother;
- Grizzly Bears in dens shall be protected and shall not be harassed or disturbed;
- The above restrictions do not apply to circumstances where human safety or destruction of property occurs.

Appendix 1- Support letters/Motions



Appendix A support
letters_1.pdf