



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: There needs to be a limit for the sport hunt of grizzly bears set through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board since there is no Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and currently no mechanism to assign tags for sport hunting purposes.

Background:

- Historical sport hunting limits for both the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions had been set at 10 tags per region by the government of Northwest Territories.
- Sport hunting is an activity that provides economic benefits to communities; the Department of Environment supports the continuation of sport hunting and use of commercial tags.

Current Status:

- There is currently no TAH set for Grizzly Bear harvest in Nunavut and no plans to establish one.
- The Inuit harvest of grizzly bears is currently unlimited and included as part of the Wildlife Act and regulations.
- The Government of Nunavut has recently determined that the current wildlife regulations do not properly allow sport hunting tags to be issued in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions.
- A decision from the NWMB on sport hunting limits would be required to facilitate sport hunting tags to be issued as described in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA; e.g. 5.2.33(C) and 5.2.35).
- The Wildlife regulations do not include grizzly bear in the schedule of annual or daily harvest limits for residents, non-residents, and non-resident foreigners
- The current estimated territorial annual harvest average of 22 bears/year does not present an immediate conservation concern for grizzly bear (Appendix 1; Draft Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan)

- The DOE has developed a draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan which includes scientific research and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit collection and extensive community consultation from both the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions (Appendix 1).
- The Department of Environment consulted with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) to determine an acceptable number of sport hunt tags for grizzly bears as there is no TAH and currently no mechanism to assign tags to non-Inuit sport hunters (Appendix 2; Sport Hunting Consultation Summary).

Kivalliq community recommendations

Community	Date of Consultation	In Favor of Sport Hunting	Recommended Number of Sport Hunt Tags
Arviat	May 4, 2017	Yes	8 sport hunts per Kivalliq community
Baker Lake	May 4, 2017	Does not support sport hunting near Baker Lake	0
Chesterfield Inlet	June 27, 2017	Yes	5 sport hunts for Chesterfield Inlet
Coral Harbour	May 8, 2017	Yes	20 sport hunts for the region (4 for Coral Harbour)
Naujaat	May 3, 2017	Does not support sport hunting near Naujaat	0
Rankin Inlet	No HTO meetings for several months	N/A	N/A
Whale Cove	May 17, 2017	Yes	10 sport hunts for the region

Kitikmeot community recommendations

Community/HTO	Date of Consultation	In Favor of Sport Hunting	Recommended Number of Sport Hunt Tags
Cambridge Bay	May 11, 2017	Yes	10 sport hunts for Victoria Island; 15 for Kitikmeot region
Burnside HTO	June 14, 2017	Yes	No number

			recommended
Omingmaktok HTO	Not available for consultation	N/A	N/A
Gjoa Haven	July 20, 2017	Yes	10 sport hunts for region
Kugaaruk	May 17, 2017	Does not support sport hunts	0
Kugluktuk	June 21, 2017	Yes	10 tags recommended for both sport hunts and resident harvest combined
Taloyoak	May 4, 2017	Does not support sport hunts	0

- Most HTOs commented that they would like the ability to revisit the quota should concerns arise.
- The HTO recommendations for the amount of sport hunts does not differ significantly from the historical sport hunting limits of 10 per region, set by the Government of Northwest Territories.
- The DOE has ongoing research to better understand the current abundance and population trends for grizzly bear in Nunavut.
- The allocation of sport hunting tags would allow for better harvest information to complement research efforts.
- The Department is not planning to establish a TAH for grizzly bear but in order for HTOs to assign sport hunt tags to non-Inuit hunters, there must be a limit set through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Recommendations:

- The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board considers using historical sport hunting numbers to set grizzly bear sport hunting limits to 10 tags per region until such time that there is more comprehensive information on the grizzly bear population within the regions.
- Sport Hunting tag allocation within each region would be the responsibility of the Regional Wildlife Organizations.
- Administration of the tags to outfitters would occur, based on HTO approval, by the Conservation Officers in the local Wildlife Office.

Appendix 1: Draft Nunavut Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan (attached as separate document)

Appendix 2: Grizzly Bear Sport Hunt Consultation Summary (attached as separate document)

CONSULTATION SUMMARY FOR GRIZZLY BEAR SPORT HUNTING LIMITATIONS

3 May, 2017: Arviq HTO, Naujaat
4 May, 2017: Arviat HTO, Arviat
4 May, 2017: Baker Lake HTO, Baker Lake
4 May, 2017: Spence Bay HTO, Taloyoak
8 May, 2017: Aiviit HTO, Coral Harbour
11 May, 2017: Ekaluktutialik HTO, Cambridge Bay
17 May, 2017: Kurtairojuark HTO, Kugaaruk
17 May, 2017: Issatik HTO, Whale Cove
14 June, 2017: Burnside HTO, Cambridge Bay
21 June, 2017: Kugluktuk HTO, Kugluktuk
27 June, 2017: Aqigiq HTO, Chesterfield Inlet
20 July, 2017: Gjoa Haven HTO, Gjoa Haven



Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut

Iqaluit, NU

Prepared: 14 August, 2017

Executive Summary

There is currently no Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) established for grizzly bears in Nunavut and the current Wildlife regulations do not have a sport hunting limit set for residents, non-residents, and non-resident foreigners. As a result, there is no appropriate mechanism to assign sport hunting tags without a decision on sport hunting limitations from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB).

Historically, the Government of Northwest Territories had set sport hunting limits to 10 tags per region for both the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot. When the territory of Nunavut was formed, this harvesting limitation was no longer part of the new regulations. Sport hunting is an activity that provides economic benefits to communities and the Department of Environment (DOE) supports the continuation of sport hunting but there needs to be a proper mechanism for the issuance of sport hunting tags. Based on current research done in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) collected during the drafting of the draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan, the current average grizzly bear harvest does not present an immediate conservation concern. The Inuit harvest of grizzly bears is unlimited and would remain unchanged but the harvest through sport hunting needs to have a set limitation.

DOE Conservation Officers consulted with as many Hunters and Trappers Organizations as possible during their regular meetings in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions of Nunavut between May and July of 2017. The primary purpose of these consultations was to determine sport hunting limitation recommendations from each community to assist the DOE in providing appropriate recommendations to the NWMB for decision.

The recommendations from each of the consulted community HTOs were sent by the attending conservation officers to the two regional wildlife managers who then reported the information back to the Coordinator of Operations and Regulations. The recommendations were compiled and used to form the DOE recommendations for grizzly bear sport hunting limitations.

The recommendations that were offered by the consulted communities did not differ greatly from the historical sport hunting limitations that had been set by the Government of Northwest Territories. Due to ongoing research on grizzly bear abundance and population trends, the historical sport hunting limitations are likely appropriate until such time that there is more comprehensive information, scientific and IQ, within both regions.

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 of the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq 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: 1) provide the details of why and how DOE consulted with various Hunting and Trapping Organizations (HTOs) in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions to discuss grizzly bear sport hunting limitations and community recommendations and 2) collate and summarize recommendations provided by the HTOs. The following community HTOs were consulted between May and July 2017:

- 3 May, 2017: Arviq HTO, Naujaat
- 4 May, 2017: Arviat HTO, Arviat
- 4 May, 2017: Baker Lake HTO, Baker Lake
- 4 May, 2017: Spence Bay HTO, Taloyoak
- 8 May, 2017: Aiviit HTO, Coral Harbour
- 11 May, 2017: Ekaluktutialik HTO, Cambridge Bay
- 17 May, 2017: Kurtairojuark HTO, Kugaaruk
- 17 May, 2017: Issatik HTO, Whale Cove
- 14 June, 2017: Burnside HTO, Cambridge Bay
- 21 June, 2017: Kugluktuk HTO, Kugluktuk
- 27 June, 2017: Aqigiq HTO, Chesterfield Inlet
- 20 July, 2017: Gjoa Haven HTO, Gjoa Haven

After these consultations, the DOE will provide a submission to the NWMB for decision that includes a recommendation on sport hunting limitations for both regions.

2.0 Purpose of Consultations

The purpose of these consultations was to discuss grizzly bear sport hunting limitations for each of the regions of Nunavut that currently hunt grizzly bear. Each community consulted was asked whether or not they support grizzly bear sport hunting and to provide a recommendation for their region that reflects how their community values grizzly bear sport hunting. After the consultations, the DOE will submit grizzly bear sport hunt limitation recommendations for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions to the NWMB for decision. This decision will allow for the continuation of grizzly bear sport hunting through the proper issuance of sport hunting tags.

2.1 Format of Meetings

Conservation officers (COs), in each of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities, were instructed to attend their local HTO regular meeting to discuss sport hunting limitations. The meetings were held in the evenings and the CO-led consultation was part of the

regular agenda. The CO asked each HTO how many tags they would like to see being made available for sport hunts since there was no TAH for the species.

The following questions were asked at each consultation:

- What does the HTO consider to be a reasonable number of bears to be made available for sport hunting for their community and or for the region?
- Does the HTO have any concerns surrounding the hunting of grizzly bears?

3.0 Summary by Community

3.1 Arviat Consultation Summary

Date: 4 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Joe Savikataaq Jr.
- Arviat HTO: Thomas Alikaswa
- Arviat HTO: Dicky Hapanaq
- Arviat HTO: Gordy Kidlapik
- Arviat HTO: Sam Garry Muckpa

Comments and questions:

In response to questions asked by Officer Savikataaq regarding the sport hunting of grizzly bears, all HTO members present were in support of having grizzly bear sport hunts. There was unanimous support for 8 grizzly bear sport hunt tags available for Arviat, as well as 8 per community for the rest of the Kivalliq Region. There were no concerns in relation to grizzly bear sport hunting; they feel that too many caribou meat caches and cabins are broken into on a regular basis

3.2 Baker Lake Consultation Summary

Date: 4 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Russell Toolooktook
- Baker LakeHTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Baker Lake HTO does not support sport hunts for residents (non-beneficiary) or non-residents. They do not want to see a TAH implemented on Inuit.

3.3 Burnside HTO Consultation Summary

Date: 14 June, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Candice Sudlovenick
- Burnside HTO members

Comments and questions:

The Burnside HTO was in favour of grizzly bear sport hunting but did not provide a recommendation of how many should be set as a limitation.

3.4 Cambridge Bay Consultation Summary

Date: 11 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Shane Sather
- Ekaluktutialik HTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Ekaluktutialik HTO was in support of grizzly bear sport hunting and recommended 15 sport hunts for the Kitikmeot region.

3.5 Chesterfield Inlet Consultation Summary

Date: 27 June, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peter Kattegatsiak Sr.
- Aqigiq HTO Members

Comments and questions:

There was unanimous favour for grizzly bears being made available for sport hunting. They recommended 5 tags for Chesterfield Inlet for sport hunts, but did not provide input as to what a regional number should be.

3.6 Coral Harbour Consultation Summary

Date: 8 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peter Kattegatsiak Sr.
- Aiviit HTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Aiviit HTO stated that they wouldn't mind seeing up to 20 sport hunt tags made available for the Kivalliq Region. They would like to see 4 of those 20 tags allocated to Coral Harbour to open up more outfitting opportunities in Coral Harbour, in order to be able to offer muskox/grizzly bear sport hunt packages.

3.7 Gjoa Haven Consultation Summary

Date: 27 June, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peter Aqqaq
- Gjoa Haven HTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Gjoa Haven HTO board passed a motion supporting 10 grizzly bear sport hunt tags being made available for the Gjoa Haven area. They had no comment on what limit should be made on the regional level.

3.8 Kugaaruk Consultation Summary

Date: 17 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Chad Bruneski
- Kurtairojuark HTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Kurtairojuark HTO does not support sport hunts in the Kugaaruk area, as not many grizzly bears are seen. They did not provide input as to how many should be made available on the regional level.

3.9 Kugluktuk Consultation Summary

Date: 21 June, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Allen Niptanatiak
- Kugluktuk HTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Kugluktuk HTO was in favor of increasing the tags usually made available for Kugluktuk from 5 tags to 10 tags for Kugluktuk. The 10 recommended tags would be for both sport hunts and resident (non-beneficiary harvest).

3.10 Naujaat Consultation Summary

Date: 3 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peterloosie Papatsie.
- Arviq HTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Arviq HTO feels that there should be no grizzly bear sport hunts in the Naujaat area. This is due to the low number of grizzly bears in the area. They did state that the subject could be revisited if the grizzly bear numbers were to rise. They did not comment on sport hunting at a regional/territorial level, just specifically to the Naujaat area.

3.11 Omingmaktok HTO Consultation Summary

Date: N/A

Representatives: N/A

Comments and questions:

The Omingmaktok HTO did not have any input to provide in regards to grizzly bear sport hunts.

3.12 Rankin Inlet Consultation Summary

Date: N/A

Representatives: N/A

Comments and questions:

There were no HTO board members present in Rankin Inlet available for a meeting when requested. HTO has not had meetings for an extended period of time.

3.13 Taloyoak Consultation Summary

Date: 4 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: David Anavilok
- Spence Bay HTO Member: Sam Tulurialik
- Spence Bay HTO Member: George Aklah
- Spence Bay HTO Member: Bruce Takolik

Comments and questions:

No grizzly bears seen around Taloyoak, did not have input on how many sport hunts should be available. They do not support sport hunts in the Taloyoak area, and did not want to comment on the regional levels.

3.14 Whale Cove Consultation Summary

Date: 17 May, 2017

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Regional Manager: Rob Harmer
- Issatik HTO Members

Comments and questions:

The Issatik HTO was in support of 10 tags being made available for sport hunting in the Kivalliq Region. They want to make sure that the quota may be revisited should concerns arise.

4.0 Summary

All but two HTOs within the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions were available for consultation between May and July of 2017. The communities that were consulted

expressed whether or not they were in favour of grizzly bear sport hunting around their community and most provided a recommendation for the number of sport hunting tags that should be set for their community and/or their region. The overall recommendations did not differ significantly from the historical sport hunting limitations that had been set by the government of Northwest Territories before the creation of Nunavut. Most HTOs expressed that they would like the ability to revisit any set limitation in the future should concerns arise. Higher limitation recommendations were given by communities in the parts of the regions with higher grizzly bear densities and regions with fewer bears tended to offer lower limitation recommendations or a recommendation or no sport hunting at all for their community.