

**CONSULTATION SUMMARY NOTES FOR THE 2016 WESTERN HUDSON BAY
POLAR BEAR AERIAL SURVEY COMPILED DURING MEETINGS CONDUCTED
BETWEEN 4-7 JULY 2017**

1. Rankin Inlet

Date: 4 July 2017

Time: 19:00 – 21:00

Present: R. Harmer, GN, Regional Manager Kivalliq
J. Coutou, GN, Conservation Officer, Rankin Inlet
M. Dyck, GN, Polar Bear Biologist II
Nigel Kubluitok, Secretary, Rankin Inlet HTO
Clayton Tartak, Secretary (temporary), Rankin Inlet HTO
Raymond Mercer, NTI
Robert Karetak, NTI
Qovik Netser, KWB Representative
- **No HTO Board members present** -

a) M. Dyck welcomed everyone to the meeting, and also explained that the timing is likely not the best because many board members will be out on the land and a meeting during October would have been much better. However, the Minister thought this was a high priority to report back the results from the 2016 survey, and so we are here to do just that. M. Dyck presented the current status of the western Hudson Bay (WH) polar bear population, i.e., what is currently known from a scientific perspective. The presentation (attached in English and Inuktitut) included a background of the scientific findings up to 2015, why a new study is needed, what the basis was for the new aerial survey, how it was designed, what information was used to design it, how it was conducted, and what the results were of this study. The presentation also included the position of the GN on the current status of WH polar bears, i.e., that the population appears to be stable and the GN currently does not support an increase in the TAH.

b) Questions that arose from the presentation:

i) Q: R. Mercer: Do you think there is a concern with this population currently?

A: M. Dyck: The population appears to be stable based on the new aerial survey results where we could not detect a significant difference between the last survey from 2011 and the current one from 2016. However, as in the previous aerial survey and

other previous ECCC studies, the reproductive performance of the population is poor compared to other Hudson Bay complex polar bear populations (see Table in ppt presentation). There are few coys surviving into the yearling stage. ECCC also documented that body condition, survival and reproduction has been decreasing for many years in this population. Abundance-wise the population appears to be stable, but something concerning is going on regarding the reproduction. Ongoing monitoring of this population is needed as well as sea-ice monitoring for the future.

- ii) Q: Nigel: I heard there is some tagging going on?
A: R. Harmer/M.Dyck: There is a PITT tagging program going on for polar bear hides to monitor export and identity of the population where bears were harvested – that is a collaborative program between ECCC and the GN. In addition, ECCC and the University of Alberta is putting out satellite ear tags in Manitoba to monitor and examine male polar bear movements and how they are distributed during freeze up.
- iii) Q: Nigel: When will the next survey be?
A: M. Dyck: Ideally we want to survey every 3-5 years. If intervals are too large between aerial surveys then all the investment in previous surveys was for nothing so we need to maintain a rigorous monitoring schedule. I will make sure that we can have the next survey in 2020 for WH.
- iv) Q: R. Mercer: If we wanted to conduct a coastal survey in Nunavut like Manitoba does, how much would it cost?
A: M. Dyck: I think that with about 10-15K we could cover most of the coastal area, and it would be a great effort to collect this information over the next few years, in addition to traditional knowledge, to examine fall distribution of bears in Nunavut. We could get money from the GN, and likely NWMB, and maybe the RWO to apply together to secure funding.

Meeting adjourned around 21:30
Notes by M. Dyck

2. Whale Cove

Date: 5 July 2017

Time: 19:00 – 21:00

Present: Rob Harmer, GN, Regional Manager Kivalliq
Markus Dyck, GN, Polar Bear Biologist II
Eva Voisey, Whale Cove HTO
Shirley Kabloona, Whale Cove HTO
Martha Arualak, Whale Cove HTO
Chris Jones, Whale Cove HTO
Robert Enuapik, Whale Cove, HTO
Raymond Mercer, NTI
Cheryl Wray, NTI
Nick Arnalukjuaq- KWB Representative

- a) M. Dyck welcomed everyone to the meeting, and also explained that the timing is likely not the best because many board members will be out on the land and a meeting during October would have been much better. However, the Minister thought this was a high priority to report back the results from the 2016 survey, and so we are here to do just that. M. Dyck presented the current status of the western Hudson Bay (WH) polar bear population, i.e., what is currently known from a scientific perspective. The presentation (attached in English and Inuktitut) included a background of the scientific findings up to 2015, why a new study is needed, what the basis was for the new aerial survey, how it was designed, what information was used to design it, how it was conducted, and what the results were of this study. The presentation also included the position of the GN on the current status of WH polar bears, i.e., that the population appears to be stable.
- b) Questions that arose from the presentation:
- i) Q: Eva Voisey: How can you tell if it is a male or female from the air?
A: M. Dyck: We tested this in the Baffin Bay but it is difficult. The males are easy to spot as they have distinctive features like larger necks and scars on their faces. We are flying 300-400 feet up and we take the GPS location, then we go to about 100 feet, take a picture and can tell the differences. But there are times, when we don't know the sex of the bear and we do state that.
 - ii) Q: Rob Harmer: how far inland is that photo taken (slide 18)?
A: M. Dyck: I can't remember specifically but around 30-40 kilometers inland.

- iii) Q: Nick Arnaklujuaq– I don't see any partners that include HTO's? Why don't we include that on our slides?
A: M. Dyck: This slide only includes organizations that provided financial assistance and fuel. We did include the HTO's during consultations and I can add a slide that shows the HTO's that were involved. I have to apply for funding from a lot of different organizations and that is what I am trying to convey here.
A: R. Harmer: I just want to add that we are in no way trying to be disrespectful and not listing the different individuals or HTO's. We do not in any way under value the contributions of individuals or HTO's and we realize the importance and that is conveyed to upper management.
- iv) Q: Chris Jones: Did you mention that there was a concentration of family groups in Manitoba? In Coral Harbour the females with cubs would always stay away from the big males.
- v) Q: Are the transects 7 km apart? Maybe the transects are too far apart to get an accurate count?
A: M. Dyck: We designed the study so that the transects were closer in areas where we knew the densities were higher. It wouldn't make any difference if we spaced the transects closer, as there just are not more bears. Having transects closer in some areas would not mean that we find more bears – the effort was already maximised considering density of bears and costs involved. We need to work closer together with communities and HTO's to determine when the best time of the year to survey.
Chris Jones: Our problems are in October to December when we see a lot more bears, and what we think is happening that a greater proportion of bears from Manitoba are moving into Nunavut.
Markus: See that is very interesting as this is the first time I have heard that there are proportionally more bears moving up and not just an increase in the population overall.
- vi) Markus: Q: Have you seen a change in the sea ice freeze-up patterns here? Maybe ice freezers here sooner than in Churchill and that is why bears move into Nunavut faster in higher

numbers. We need to collect that information. When did you see a change in bear numbers occurring in your community?
Eva/Chris: In the 60s and 70s there were very few bears around and people were on the land in spring or summer and did not see bears. In the 80s that started to change and more bears were seen. Usually the number of bears in Whale Cove seems to be higher in October before freeze-up.

Markus explains also that between the 1800s and early 1900s about 55K polar bears were harvested by explorers and whalers, and not many bears were suspected to be left across the arctic, that is why the international agreement was put in place – to contribute towards conservation. But also the tourism industry in Churchill began and by the mid 1990s it was in up-swing – there are bears habituated to tourism, the Lagoon dog yard, and other activities, and maybe all these combinations lead to have more bears showing up in Nunavut during early fall. We need to collect the IQ that is out there, and try to get genetic samples of all bears that are frequenting the communities, and then compare that to the ECCC data base which will allow us to find out the history of each bear in communities where it is known. Then we can hopefully explain better why there are more bears in Nunavut, and how we can manage that situation. I have brought this issue up with Manitoba several times, and I think they are seeing this more now as a concern and are willing to collaborate on that topic.

vii) Chris Jones: Maybe we can use the biopsy darts as part of our deterrent and help collect the information.

Markus: we should discuss this and if the HTO is willing to do this, then I think that would be great.

viii) Eva Voisey: I think the climate change has a lot to do with impacting the bear populations. Also when we have the bear problems; they are used to people from being habituated in Churchill.

Markus: I did research this in Churchill and I think that the tourism has allowed habituation and conditioning and now Nunavut is paying for it.

Chris Jones: Deterring bears has changed dramatically in that they are not scared anymore.

Chris Jones: there is a trail that the bears use to move around Whale Cove.

Rob Harmer: Have the conditions of the bears changed?

Chris: we had an older male last year. We have a lot of bears in town. Female with 2 cubs under the houses.

ix) Eva Voisey: I don't understand this quota thing? Why does it come from America?

Markus/Rob: I think you are talking about CITES and the trade of the hides.

Eva: it's not only humans that kill the bears. It's also contamination from plastics etc.

x) Chris Jones: When is the next time you'll be in the communities?

Markus: My plan is to conduct the next survey in 2020. But that is also dependent on where the community concerns are. We are traveling to all the WHB communities to provide updates. We need to keep up a regular interval with the surveys as it makes the data set stronger. We can detect a change if we maintain a rigorous survey interval.

xi) Chris Jones: do you guys regularly count the bears in Arviat?

Rob: we have a couple of employment positions that are bear monitors and keep track of wildlife sightings.

Markus: We can work with the communities as we have darts that will take a sample but also colour it so you can keep track of what bears are moving through.

Meeting adjourned at 21:30

Notes by Cheryl Wray

3. Arviat HTO

Date: 6 July 2017

Time: 19:00 – 21:00

Present: Rob Harmer, GN, Regional Manager Kivalliq
Markus Dyck, GN, Polar Bear Biologist II
Joe Savikataaq Jr., GN Conservation Officer
Thomas Alikaswa, Arviat Vice-Chairman HTO
Ludovic Isumatarjuak, Arviat HTO
Gordy Kidlupik, Arviat HTO
Angelina Suluk, Arviat HTO
Sam Garry Muckpa, Arviat HTO
Jamie Kablutsiak, Arviat HTO
Bert Dean, NTI
Robert Karetak, NTI
Raymond Mercer, NTI
Cheryl Wray, NTI
Nick Arnalukjuaq- KWB Secretary/Treasurer
Stanley Adjuk – KWB Chairperson
Mary Isumatarjuak, HTO Office
Bobby Suluk, Interpreter

- a) M. Dyck welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the current status of the western Hudson Bay (WH) polar bear population, i.e., what is currently known from a scientific perspective. The presentation (attached in English and Inuktitut) included a background of the scientific findings up to 2015, why a new study is needed, what the basis was for the new aerial survey, how it was designed, what information was used to design it, how it was conducted, and what the results were of this study. The presentation also included the position of the GN on the current status of WH polar bears, i.e., that the population appears to be stable and the GN would not recommend an increase in TAH.
- b) Questions that arose from the presentation:
- i) Q: Markus: One of the questions I asked the other HTOs was when do you see these bears coming into the communities? Also is there a difference in when the bears would show up historically vs present day? I believe that if we work together and partner western science and IQ that we can get a better idea of when the bears pose problems to the communities to keep people safe.
 - ii) Q: Gordy – Can we share this information with the public with people in our communities?

A: Markus: Yes this information is public to Nunavut right now, but when I get back to Igloolik next week I will share the information with Manitoba, Parks Canada. It has also been shared with NWMB.

- iii) Q: Sam: For aerial surveys would it be possible during the migration to conduct surveys during that time of the year? We hear that sometimes 20-30 bears are moving by the community.
- A: Markus: What I think we could do during the fall time is to conduct a coastal survey. Manitoba conducts a survey during the fall down to the Ontario border. What I think we should do in Nunavut is that we survey north of the border and see how many bears up during this time frame. I think we should think about this. In order to time this right, we can discuss with all the HTOs as to when a good time would be. The other option is that we can genetically biosample bears, I think we could do this throughout the community. Joe is already helping with this. But we can compare the genetics of the bears moving by the community to what ECCC has and learn the history of these bears then we will be able to determine if bears had past encounters with humans, the dump in Churchill and whether this contributes to bears near communities. If there are bears that have been captured before we can compare the genetics to what ECCC has and learn the history of this bear such as if it was captured in Manitoba. Myself and some other HTOs think is that some of these bears that have been conditioned in Churchill could possibly be bears that are coming into our communities here in Nunavut. We don't know this, but the genetics could tell us a story. I also have darts that can mark a bear with colour as well as take a biopsy. This could actually help us monitor if it is a bear that is returning or different bears moving through. We have some options and we should discuss this further.
- iv) Q: Gordy: We need to keep in mind that the bears we see here will be in another community in a couple of weeks. Maybe October is a good month to conduct the surveys. They will be here and then in Whale Cove in a couple of weeks.

- v) Q: Markus – have you seen a change in the sea ice in the last 15-20 years in freeze up? By knowing all these different pieces of the puzzle, we can figure out how the bears are moving and whether they are coming from the Churchill area. Churchill now has a weir and perhaps that can play a factor in how the ice freezes now in that area and that could be a contributing factor.
- vi) Q: Thomas: There is a difference between thin bears and large bears that spend more time on the ice and that thin bears have been walking for miles. It's not because they can't hunt, it's because they have been walking for a long time. The second point is that I don't believe that there is a decrease in the numbers but rather there are bears further out in the ocean.
A: Markus – thanks for your comments and observations.
- vii) Q: Ludoric: The elders used to say that the populations were quite low in the past and have witnessed that there weren't many bears in the past as I am a hunter. I also support what my colleague Thomas is saying in that the bear population is not declining but rather is a lack of food and they are walking farther. It's not possible to stay in tents in the summers anymore as there are so many bears.
- viii) Q: Markus – we heard in Whale Cove that in the 60's there were fewer bears and then in the 80's the numbers started to increase. Is this what you have seen as well?
A: Ludoric: Yes I agree with what Whale Cove has said that we are now seeing more.
Q: Robert – is that around the time that Churchill closed their dump?
A: Markus: the military was killing a lot of animals when they were in Churchill and the bears have had time to rebound and maybe that's why we are seeing more as there is now a quota system. Bert: the mid to late 80s hunters from Rankin would come down to Arviat and Churchill to harvest bears as there weren't many in the Rankin area. Even in the early 90s, Rankin wouldn't even fill their quota.
Ludoric – I remember this time well.
Rob Harmer/Markus – between 1890's and 1930's there were about 55K bears killed in Canada by whalers and explorers

were killing many bears. This is the time when Governments became concerned that the number of bears were declining. Ludoric – I can remember this lady from Rankin was speaking about the number of bears harvested and they were declining.

- ix) Q: Jamie – When should we as people from communities expect to get our TAH's back? Can you take this back to the GN that we want to see our quota increase to where it was previously?
A: Markus: The population estimate that we have now is stable. The Government's position now is that there is no increase in TAH as the population is stable. I can take that request back to my Director and see if there is a way to even out the credits and overharvests to get back to the original TAH.
Bert – The NWMB is going to be doing a public hearing in the fall on the Polar Bear Mgmt Plan and your HTO will send someone to this meeting. This meeting will allow a discussion as to how the populations can be managed. I think it is worthwhile to start thinking about a workshop to discuss the Mgmt Plan as we are hearing from a lot of communities that public safety is a huge issue.
- x) Q: Gordy: During the 50/60s to the 90s, Tommy had noticed that the bear numbers were increasing and people were starting to get scared and wanted him to harvest it.
- xi) Q: Thomas: When you conduct your surveys, how far inland do you go and how do you decide that? We have seen bears about 120 miles inland at a caribou outfitting camp.
A: Markus: That would have been good information to have so we could survey in those areas. When we discussed this initially during the consultation for the design this did not come up.
- xii) Q: Thomas – we travel inland on quad and have seen bears and those bears aren't counted?
A: Markus – we have surveyed from between 80-120 km's inland. If there are any locations that you have during the summer months where you have seen bears that far inland. Can you please report those areas to the CO so we can search

that area for the next survey. That's important information to know as it would help us.

- xiii) Q: Ludoric: I have heard guide/people talking about seeing bears in a sports camp at a caribou camp 120 miles inland.
A: Markus – We hope to have a lot of this information for our next survey so that we can search better if we need to go inland.
- xiv) Q: Sam Garry – in 2007 my grandfather mentioned that almost every night there was a polar bear encounter at a sports camp near Dianne River.
Ludoric – I have also witnessed that as I have helped the sports hunters for bears. I have also heard from my ancestors that some bears could be spending their entire life cycles in the ocean. They have even stated that the bear's eyes are red because they are so large.
- xv) Q: Raymond: In Whale Cove they said they are seeing a lot of seals. I am wondering if this is the same in Arviat?
A: Sam Garry – boating near Century Island we noticed a lot of seals. A lot more seals than we have seen.
Ludoric – there does seem to be a lot more seals.
- xvi) Q: Rob – Can there be some sort of agreement that maybe bears are more comfortable around humans now. Do you guys feel that they might be too comfortable with us now due to them becoming conditioned and used to our deterrence efforts? Could that be a possibility as to why we are having more occurrences because they're becoming more bold and have lost their fear of humans?
A: Ludoric: Nodding head. Gordy: I believe that it is more about finding food. I think the bears know that they can access food near the communities. Andy Derocher showed me a graph as to when the bears started declining and it was around when we say more around the community and it occurred to me that they were looking for food near our communities.
Rob: What we think is that bears are coming up from Manitoba and they aren't scared of people anymore due to Manitoba's deterrence program; so when they get to Arviat or Whale Cove

they aren't affected by rubber bullets, or bangers, etc. and aren't deterred anymore. Manitoba had a serious problem bear last year and notified us that this bear would be a problem for us, but fortunately that bear moved onto the ice before it got here.

xvii) Q: Ludoric: I have heard that because the garbage is now managed at Churchill that they are going after our dumps because the food is available there.

Robert Karetak: There was a workshop conducted on wildlife deterrents in Churchill and we want to have another workshop like that. If there was funding they thought they might hold a workshop in Arviat or Rankin. There was a final report issued on the workshop and I can forward that to you.

Nick: closing remarks. Nick thanked the GN for the presentation about the results, but he does not agree with the survey results and we need to conduct new surveys in the future. When it comes to animals, it's like every single result was never positive and constantly lowered and that impacts Inuit. To the Inuit this is not justified. If we did not have defense kills, our quotas would be fine. In the long run, I would like to see effective communication and build on our relationship between RWO/HTO and the GN. With powers and authorities we need to be able to manage our wildlife populations with the government. We need to continue and maintain the surveys as we want accurate numbers as we know that populations will stabilize. So we want the IQ and western science to work together.

Meeting adjourned at 22:00

Notes by Cheryl Wray

4. Chesterfield Inlet

Date: 7 July 2017

Time: 17:00 – 19:00

Present: Rob Harmer, GN, Regional Manager Kivalliq
Markus Dyck, GN, Polar Bear Biologist II
Harry Aggark, Chesterfield Inlet HTO
Leonie Mimialik, Chesterfield Inlet HTO
Patrick Putulik, Chesterfield Inlet HTO
Jerome Misheralak, Chesterfield Inlet HTO
Simon Aggark, Summer Student, Chesterfield Inlet GN
Bert Dean, NTI
Raymond Mercer, NTI
Cheryl Wray, NTI
Robert Karetak, NTI
Nick Arnalukjuaq- KWB Representative
Jennifer Sammurtok – Interpreter
Peter Kattegatsiak Sr. – COII, GN-DOE
NO BAKER LAKE HTO BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (travel arrangements were made for 2 members which did not show up for the meeting)

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- b) Questions that arose from the presentation:
- i) Q: Markus – I am posing the same question to you as I have with other communities. In Whale Cove, they told us that in the fall time they would have a lot of bears in their community. What time of the year do the bears show up in your community?
A: No comments.
 - ii) Q: Markus - The COY's are not surviving into the first year and maybe hunters can help us understand why that is. Maybe the

males are killing the cubs or the mothers are not in good condition and killing off the weaker COY, or there are other reasons that local knowledge could help us understand.

A: No comments.

iii) Q: Jennifer Sammurtok: July 1st long weekend we saw a mother with 2 cubs on the Inlet. Also the elders have stated that bears are being fed in Churchill so they are not afraid anymore.

A: Rob/Markus: We have heard this is in every community where all of a sudden all the bears show up at once and where that didn't happen 15-20 years. We would like to gather more information from the communities as to why all of a sudden these bears show up at once.

Leona: in the spring time when the ice breaks we see them near the community.

Rob: During the spring time are they problematic or are they just moving through? Leonie: it is scary for us as the kids are out of school and we have to tell them to go home. Also the bears are walking down the roads.

Leona: Because the community is on a point, the bears are coming from all directions.

Markus: Is there a time frame when the bears weren't problematic?

Leonie: Previously we were able to go camp.

Harry: In the mid 60's we would be able to camp on the islands without seeing bears.

Rob: do you find that there is a difference in the bears now – are they less fearful then they used to be?

Leonie: they are not scared anymore and approach the communities. Previously if a dog was barking, the bear would get scared and run, but that doesn't happen anymore. We have a camp not far from here and we can't even go there to eat anymore because of the bears. The bear was hiding and watching them so we had to leave and go back to town.

iv) Q: Harry Aggark: I know the reason why we have low populations in August is because they are south in Manitoba. We see them in the fall time when the ice starts to freeze. Also we have both the WHB and FB populations here so that is why we see more bears.

- v) Q: Harry: so you stated that Ontario has done their studies but you don't know what those numbers are yet?
A: Markus: Yes I haven't seen that data yet.
- vi) Q: Harry: It might be best to do WHB and FB surveys at the same time, as they move around at the same time.
A: Markus: Yes it makes sense. The issue is I have been the only biologist for the GN right now, and there at times competing resources and priorities.
- vii) Q: Jerome Misheralak: It might be more effective if you have a team working from the south and another working from the north conducting the surveys.
A: Markus: explained how the work was done in WH and why.
- viii) Q: Harry Aggark: Are you collaring bears still?
A: Markus: We haven't collared in 6 years.
Rob: people have expressed that they don't want bears collared anymore.
Markus: There is ECCC and Universities that are still collaring and tagging bears.
Harry: We know that there was a bear collared near Manitoba and then saw a bear at Ungava Bay that had a collar.
Harry: I don't support collaring as it causes a lot of damage to the bears neck.
Rob: We have pulled back on collaring on bears because of that reason.
Harry: We are not really concerned about where they move but rather if there numbers are increasing or decreasing.
- ix) Q: Rob: Do you guys tell Peter whenever you see a bear even if it isn't problematic.
A: Jennifer: yes, he is always notified.
- x) Q: Leonie: Why did you not survey between Rankin and Chester?
A: Markus: It's considered a different population (Foxe Basin).
- xi) Q: Jennifer: Why are you not surveying bears north of the boundary line?

A: Rob – we know that bears move beyond each management zone. Different population/management zones are created through tracking and previous surveys that the bears occupy.

A: Leonie: I understand what you are saying but I know that bears are moving between zones.

Markus: I totally believe that bears are moving between areas.

Leonie/Jennifer: We don't understand why Foxe Basin/WHB aren't surveyed together?

Rob: With these surveys it's about time and money. Markus is the only biologist currently and we don't have time and money to do every management zone or population on a consistent schedule. Markus has to request funds from other interested partners which takes time. We also want to survey areas every so many years which makes sense. We don't want to survey an area every 15 years or every year; by doing that it wouldn't be productive to gather consistent data.

xii) Q: Jerome Misheralak: Do you survey the area into Baker Lake for bears, I know a bear was there last year? We know when we go to that area to hunt caribou that we see bears.

A: Rob: We know that Baker Lake isn't a natural habitat for bears so we don't include that area for bear surveys. Baker Lake has had two occurrences where polar bears were sighted and killed as a result of defence kills. One of these was last summer just east of Baker Lake in Cross Bay.

Markus: That might be important information for us to know if there are more bears going inland so that we can include this area on our next Foxe Basin survey.

Rob: Do you regularly report your sightings to the CO so that's he can let Markus know.

A: Peter Kattegatsiak: To elaborate for Leonie, the Foxe Basin includes different communities like Coral Harbour, Repulse Bay, Kimmirut, etc. They are different subpopulations. And Markus cannot survey everywhere at once.

xiii) Q: Harry – would it possible to conduct surveys once in August and then again in September or October?

A: Markus: We have talked to other communities about this as well. I think what we could do is look at a coastal survey and get information from the communities as to when a good time to do survey. We could potentially do a survey in

September/October. Manitoba does coastal surveys in the spring and fall and I think that this would be a good idea for Nunavut. Coastal surveys would be good to tell us what bears are near the communities but we may miss females in dens or already on the ice.

xiv) Q: Jerome Misheralak: I think it's a good idea to do surveys in WHB and then FB at the same time.

A: Markus: We need a lot of money and manpower to do that. We don't want to confuse the populations. But if we just wanted to look at how many bears are near the communities, then that might be possible.

Bert Dean: NWMB is going to have a public hearing on the Management Plan in the fall, I think it's very important that these issues be brought up at those hearings. Even working in Parks Canada as they manage Wager Bay and could help with surveys.

xv) Q: Harry Aggark: My question is about the survival of the COYs.

A: It's something that we have observed on our surveys. We are noticing that cubs aren't surviving and maybe males are eating cubs.

Bert Dean: They are still handling bears in Wapusk and has anyone asked whether they are still drugging cubs?

A: Markus: I would have to look further into that, but the ECCC capture programme has been relatively small in recent years in Manitoba.

xvi) Q: Leonie – when is that Polar Bear Mgmt Plan meeting?

A: Bert – they haven't decided yet but as soon as NWMB does know, they will let the HTOs know.

xvii) Q: Leonie: When the public hearing happens is there the possibility to have an elder, youth and middle age?

A: Bert: The reason why the public hearings were delayed is that NWMB would only fund 6 representatives in each region. Baffin has 13 seats and they were upset that all communities weren't invited so Baffin boycotted and Kivalliq supported them.

End of meeting: 19:20

Notes taken by C. Wray