

**Consultation with Grise Fiord Hunting and Trapping Organization on the Kane  
Basin Total Allowable Harvest Recommendations**

February 2, 2018



Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut Iqaluit, Nunavut

## Executive Summary

Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (DOE) representatives conducted consultation with the Grise Fiord Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) on February 2, 2018 as a second round of consultation. There was a preliminary consultation on January 9, 2017 to provide co-management partners with an overview of the most recent scientific study results on the Kane Basin (KB) polar bear sub-population, as well as collect feedback on the results presented and collect additional traditional knowledge (TK). The second round of consultation was to consult on the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) recommendations from the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission on Polar Bears (JC) following review of the Harvest Risk Assessment Report completed by the Scientific Working Group (SWG).

The feedback and TK collected during preliminary consultations were considered by the JC when forming Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) recommendations for the Kane Basin subpopulation. DOE will submit TAH recommendations to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for decision.

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

## Preface

This report represents the Department of Environment's best efforts to accurately capture all of the information that was shared during a consultation meeting with the Hunters and Trappers Organization of Grise Fiord.

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 HTO in response to the JC's TAH recommendations for the KB polar bear subpopulation. A preliminary consultation was conducted with Grise Fiord to collect feedback and TK prior to forming TAH recommendations for the KB subpopulation. Grise Fiord was then consulted again on February 2, 2018.

After the preliminary consultation, the TAH recommendations were discussed by the JC at a meeting in October 2017. The second round of consultation was carried out to discuss the recommendations the DOE submitted to the NWMB for decision.

Representatives from the DOE, NWMB, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) attended the consultation.

## 2.0 Purpose of Consultations

The preliminary consultation was to discuss the newest information regarding the KB polar bear subpopulation as reported in the scientific study report produced by the Scientific Working Group (SWG). The SWG was created by the JC to collect new scientific data and update the status of the shared subpopulations between Canada/Nunavut and Greenland. After the preliminary consultation and the completion of a Harvest Risk Assessment study by the SWG, the JC met in October 2017 to make TAH recommendations. The purpose of the secondary consultations was to follow up with Grise Fiord on the TAH recommendations from the JC and the recommendations, for the KB subpopulation, being submitted to the NWMB by the DOE for decision.

### 2.1 Format of Meetings

The meeting was held in the evening and ran from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM. The meeting was facilitated and led by the Senior Wildlife Advisor, Caryn Smith, and the Senior Manager of Wildlife Operations, Jason Aliqatuqtuq. The consultation started with a presentation on the status of the KB subpopulation and the TAH recommendations being put forward by the DOE (Appendix 1). The participants were invited to ask questions, raise concerns, or provide alternative recommendations throughout the meetings. After the presentation, questions/discussion continued until no further questions were raised.

## 3.0 Summary of the Grise Fiord HTO Consultation

**Date:** January 2, 2018

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Senior Manager of Operations: Jason Aliqatuqtuq
- GN-DOE, Senior Wildlife Advisor: Caryn Smith

- GN-DOE, North Baffin Manager: Scott Johnson
- NTI, Biologist Cheryl Wray
- NWMB, Biologist: Denis Ndeloh
- NWMB, Biologist: Kyle Ritchie
- QWB, Board Member: Adamie Nuna
- Iviq HTO Board members
  - Jeffrey Qaunaq
  - Jarloo Kiguktak
  - Liza Ningiuk
  - Marty Kuluguqtuq
  - Ingerlise Christensen
  - Amon Akeeagok

### **Comments and questions:**

The HTO expressed that they do not want to lose any of the five tags they currently have as an allocation for the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation. The HTO understands that the community rarely fills their tags annually and in some years they do not use any tags. The community is conscious that in future years they may have improved access to the KB subpopulation, allowing them to better utilize their tags. It was expressed by the HTO that they feel it would be extremely difficult to get tags back in the future if they were to be given up now. The HTO agreed that even if they retained their current allocation of five tags as part of the recommended 4.5% harvest suggested by Greenland, that the actual harvest would be closer to the 2.8% recommended by the JC.

## **4.0 Summary**

The HTO agreed to support the DOE TAH recommendation of no change to the current TAH of five bears for the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation. The HTO agreed that although they are supporting the suggestion of a 4.5% harvest, as proposed by Greenland, the actual harvest would likely be closer to the suggested 2.8% harvest, as recommended by the JC. The HTO agreed to write a letter or email in support of the recommendations and submit to the NWMB.

## Appendix 1



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Building *Nunavut* Together  
*Nunavut* liuqatigiingniq  
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

### POLAR BEAR HARVEST MANAGEMENT IN KANE BASIN

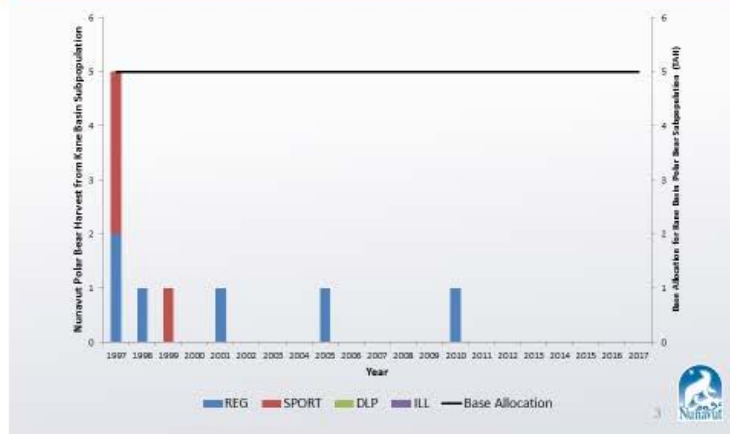


#### Survey History

- In 1998, the Kane Basin population was estimated to be 224 bears
- New population estimate 357 bears
- Harvest for Kane Basin over the last 20 years (1997-2017):
  - **Overall Harvest = 10 (avg. of 0.5 bears/year)**
  - Regular Harvest = **6** (avg. of 0.3 bears/year)
  - Sport Hunting = **4** (avg. of 0.2 bears/year)
  - Defense of Life and Property Kills = **0** bears



## Harvest Management History Kane Basin



## Harvest Recommendations from The Joint Commission

- The Canada-Greenland Joint Commission on Polar Bears (JC) met in October 2017
- Results were presented from the Kane Basin Population study and the Harvest Risk Assessment study, both completed by the Scientific Working Group
- The Scientific Working Group harvest risk analysis recommends a possible total removal of up to 10 (2.8%) bears from the Kane Basin subpopulation which resulted from the high uncertainty in vital rates and overall small sample sizes during the population study.





### Harvest Recommendations from The Joint Commission

- Due to demand and based on the fact that population estimate is higher, Greenland recommended a harvest of 15 bears (4.5%)
- Greenland requested an allocation of 10 bears for Greenland and 5 for Nunavut as the community of Grise Fiord very seldom harvests any bears from this population.
- Even if a harvest of 4.5% is approved, it is unlikely that the actual joint removal annually will exceed the Scientific Working Group recommendation of 10 (2.8%)



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