

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X



Issue: Walrus Sport Hunt Application for 2019

Overview: On August 23rd 2018, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) issued a call for walrus sport hunt applications inviting all Hunters and Trappers Organizations and other interested individuals or organizations to submit applications to the NWMB for approval of walrus sport hunts. The deadline for submission of applications was November 2nd 2018.

Hunt Plans require the NWMB's approval before licences are issued, as per Nunavut Agreement Sections 5.2.34(d)(i) and 5.6.48. In May 1999, the Board approved an interim policy for evaluating requests for sport hunts (Appendix 1). The Board further requested that those conducting hunts report their struck, lost, and landed animals at the time of application the following year.

Hunt applications were received for the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05), Foxe Basin (AW-04), West Jones Sound (AW-02) and Baffin Bay (AW-01) walrus stocks. The following table summarizes the walrus sport hunts requested for the 2019 season:

Applicant	Walrus Stock	Hunts Requested
Aaron Emiktowt	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	4
Danny Pee	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	5
Darcy Nakoolak	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	8
Dino Bruce	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	10
Luke Eetuk	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	8
Hall Beach HTA	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	15
Igloolik HTO	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	15
Iviq HTO	Baffin Bay and West Jones Sound (AW-01 and AW-02)	8

Foxe Basin (AW-04)

The communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik both harvest from the Foxe Basin walrus stock. Fisheries and Oceans Canada estimates a stock abundance of 12,500 walrus for the Foxe

Basin walrus stock with a Potential Biological Removal¹ between 211 and 422 walrus based on the most recent analysis of aerial survey data. The average reported harvests for Hall Beach based on available data over the past five years for both sport and subsistence hunting indicated that average reported harvests in this area are 7 and 79 walrus per year, respectively, resulting in an estimated average annual removal of 112 if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied. Based on available data, the average reported harvests for Igloodik over the past five years for sport and subsistence are 0 and 69 walrus per year, respectively, resulting in an estimated average annual removal of 90 if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's analysis has indicated that the reported harvests do not appear to be having an impact on the population as it appears to have remained stable over the last 60 years.

Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)

The community of Coral Harbour harvests from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait walrus stock. There is currently no scientific estimate of the size of the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait walrus stock; however, Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60 walrus. The average reported harvests near Coral Harbour, based on available data over the past five years, for sport and subsistence hunting indicated that average reported harvests in this area are 8 and 22 walrus per year, respectively, resulting in an estimated average annual removal of 39 if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization has provided letters of support for the walrus sport hunts requested by Aaron Emiktoiw, Danny Pee, Darcy Nakoolak, Dino Bruce, and Lucassie Eetuk.

Baffin Bay and West Jones Sound (AW-01 and AW-02)

The community of Grise Fiord harvests from both the Baffin Bay and West Jones Sound walrus stocks. The most recent analysis of aerial survey data by Fisheries and Oceans Canada estimates a stock abundance of between 1249 and 1251 walrus for the Baffin Bay stock and between 470-503 walrus for the West Jones Sound stock. The Potential Biological Removal is estimated between 10-11 walrus per year for the Baffin Bay stock and between 8-17 walrus per year for the West Jones Sound Stock. The average reported harvests near Grise Fiord based on available data over the past five years for sport and subsistence hunting indicated that average reported harvests in this area are 0 and 4 walrus per year, respectively, resulting in an estimated average annual removal of 5 walrus per year if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied.

All seven applications are summarized in Appendix 2.

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¹ Potential Biological Removal includes removals from the stock from all sources of human induced mortality, including struck and lost animals. Depending on the health and status of a stock managers may choose to use a recovery factor of ranging between 0 and 1.0 to calculate Potential Biological Removal, which results in a range of recommended removals.

Appendix 1 - Walrus Sport Hunt Interim Policy

In deciding the number of sport hunts to approve for a particular community, it is recommended that the NWMB's policy be to ensure, to the extent reasonably possible, that sport hunting in the community develops in such a manner that the following 4 conditions are met:

- (i) no conservation concern arises;
- (ii) hunter and public safety are maintained;
- (iii) humane harvesting takes place and the whole animal is used; and
- (iv) the developing industry is healthy and will continue to deliver a quality product, thus serving and promoting the long-term economic, social and cultural interests of Inuit harvesters (See *Nunavut Agreement* Sub-section 5.1.3(b)(iii))

Accordingly, until the Walrus Working Group offers a more detailed analysis and recommendations, it is recommended that the NWMB apply the following 3 criteria in deciding upon the number of sport hunts for a community:

1. In a community that is not subject to a quota (beyond the individual limit of 4), attempt to ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous 5 years (condition i);
2. Ensure that a hunt plan is in place that meets the safety, humane, and other requirements necessary under the *Nunavut Agreement*, the *Fisheries Act* and the Regulations (conditions ii and iii); and
3. Ensure that the community or enterprise starts with a relatively small and closely monitored number of hunts (the "pilot" stage), prior to permitting an expanded sport hunting effort (condition iv).

In addition, the NWMB may wish to consider what percentage of the overall quota or average harvest for the last 5 years should be allocated to sport hunts

Appendix 2 – Summary of Applications

1. Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours, Coral Harbour

Number of hunts requested: 4

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock (AW-05). Scientific data on this stock are lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community harvest limit of 60 walrus. An average of 8 animals have been harvested in sport hunts and 22 animals in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 30 animals harvested annually over the last five years². Given the request for 35 sport hunts total for 2019 and an average of 22 animals in subsistence hunts this falls below the community harvest limit of 60 walrus.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Aaron Emiktowt, Eric Emiktowt, and Malitu Akesuk have all obtained guide training. The hunts will be conducted around Salliq Island, Walrus Island, and Coats Island between July and September 2019. Aaron Emiktowt (Siku Tours) holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will be equipped with harpoons, lances, buoys, rope, harpoon lines, and safety equipment including CB radios, sport devices, and satellite phones.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot then harpooned. The hunter will only have one chance to strike and land a walrus. The hunter can take the skin, cape, tusks, and baculum. The rest of the animal will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 6

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 5

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 4

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

² Based on five years of data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for both sport and subsistence harvests.

2. Danny Pee, Polar Bear Adventures, Coral Harbour

Number of hunts requested: 5

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock (AW-05). Scientific data on this stock are lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community harvest limit of 60 walrus. An average of 8 animals have been harvested in sport hunts and 22 animals in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 30 animals harvested annually over the last five years³. Given the request for 35 sport hunts total for 2019 and an average of 22 animals in subsistence hunts this falls below the community harvest limit of 60 walrus.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Danny Pee is an outfitter and will guide with helpers who are all hunters. The hunt will be conducted around Walrus Island between July and August, 2019. Danny Pee (Polar Bear Adventures) will hold the outfitter's licence and insurance. Each boat will be equipped with guns, harpoons, unaq, avataqs, hooks, survival suits, flare guns, satellite phones, spot devices and first aid supplies.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot on land only, and Danny will be on the land when the walrus is shot. The hunter can take the skull and tusks. The rest of the animal will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 5

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 1

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 1

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

³ Based on five years of data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for both sport and subsistence harvests.

3. Darcy Nakoolak, Southampton Island Adventures, Coral Harbour

Number of hunts requested: 8

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock (AW-05). Scientific data on this stock are lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community harvest limit of 60 walrus. An average of 8 animals have been harvested in sport hunts and 22 animals in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 30 animals harvested annually over the last five years⁴. Given the request for 35 sport hunts total for 2019 and an average of 22 animals in subsistence hunts this falls below the community harvest limit of 60 walrus.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Darcy Nakoolak, Spencer Saviakjuk, Ricky Nakoolak, and Moses Nakoolak have all obtained level 1-2 guide training. The hunts will be conducted around Walrus Island and Coats Island between July and early September 2019. Darcy Nakoolak (Southampton Island Adventures) holds the outfitter's license and insurance. Each boat will be equipped with harpoons, anguvigaq, niksik, sakku, igimak, guns, survival suits, and satellite phones. Hunts will only be conducted in fair weather.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be harpooned then shot if the walrus is in the water. The hunter will only have one chance to strike and land a walrus. The hunter can take the skin, skull, and baculum. The rest of the animal will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 4

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 3

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 2

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

⁴ Based on five years of data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for both sport and subsistence harvests.

4. Dino Bruce, Sudliq Developments Limited, Coral Harbour

Number of hunts requested: 10

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock (AW-05). Scientific data on this stock are lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community harvest limit of 60 walrus. An average of 8 animals have been harvested in sport hunts and 22 animals in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 30 animals harvested annually over the last five years⁵. Given the request for 35 sport hunts total for 2019 and an average of 22 animals in subsistence hunts this falls below the community harvest limit of 60 walrus.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Dino Bruce will have Inuit guides with big game guiding licences and small boat operator certifications. The hunts will be conducted around Southampton Island and near Coral Harbour between August 1st and September 15th. Dino Bruce (Sudliq Developments Limited) holds the outfitter's licence and has obtained insurance with Hub International Insurance Company. Each boat will be equipped with harpoons, avataq, rope, satellite phones, spot devices, CSA approved personal flotation devices, CB radios, flares, flashlights, extra rope, extra anchors, and secondary outboard motors.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot first then harpooned if it is on the land and harpooned first then shot if it is in the water. The hunter will only have one tag used per strike. The hunter can take the entire skin, skull, and tusks. The rest of the animal will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes.

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: Did not apply.

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 0

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 0

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

⁵ Based on five years of data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for both sport and subsistence harvests.

5. Lucassie (Luke) Eetuk, E&E Outfitting, Coral Harbour

Number of hunts requested: 8

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Coral Harbour harvest walrus from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock (AW-05). Scientific data on this stock are lacking. The Aiviit (Coral Harbour) Hunters and Trappers Organization has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Coral Harbour has a community harvest limit of 60 walrus. An average of 8 animals have been harvested in sport hunts and 22 animals in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 30 animals harvested annually over the last five years⁶. Given the request for 35 sport hunts total for 2019 and an average of 22 animals in subsistence hunts this falls below the community harvest limit of 60 walrus.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Luke Eetuk, Ross Eetuk, and Mark Pootoolik all possess level two guide training and will guide the hunts. The hunts will be conducted around Southampton Island, Walrus Island, and Coats Island between mid-July to mid-September 2019. E & E outfitting will hold the outfitter's licence and insurance. Each boat will be equipped with rifles, harpoons, buoys, ropes, Coleman stoves, tents, survival suits, CB radios, satellite phones, flares, and anchors.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot then harpooned if it is in the water. The hunter will only have one chance to strike and land a walrus. The hunter can take the entire skin, cape, skull, and tusks. The rest of the animal will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Yes.

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 6

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 0

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 0

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

⁶ Based on five years of data from 2013/14 to 2017/18 for both sport and subsistence harvests.

6. Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Association, Hall Beach

Number of hunts requested: 15

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Hall Beach harvest walrus from the Foxe Basin stock (AW-04). The Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Association has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Hall Beach does not have a community harvest limit. An average of 7 animals⁷ have been harvested in sport hunts and 79 animals⁸ in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 86 animals harvested annually over the last five years. The most recent analysis by Fisheries and Oceans indicates that a Potential Biological Removal between 211 and 422 walruses is sustainable for Foxe Basin, with an estimated average removal of 202 if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Experienced hunters and qualified guides including Amittuq Services, Andy Quanaq, and Inoki Irgittuq will guide hunts. The hunts will be conducted in Foxe Basin between July and September 2019. Amittuq Services, Andy Quanaq, and Inoki Irgittuq are qualified guides who have necessary business licences and insurance. Each boat will be accompanied by a safety boat and all boats will be equipped with survival suits, first aid, fire extinguishers, satellite phones, CB radios, safety guns, rifles, harpoons, buoys, tools, GPS, spot devices, standard safety equipment, and bailers.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot first then harpooned if it is in water. Walrus will be shot for an instant kill if it is on the ice. The hunter will have two chances to land a walrus. The hunter may take the skull, tusks, and cape. The rest of the animal will be consumed by guides, distributed to the community, or used for a community feast.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Not applicable.

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: 15

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 9

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 9

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 1

⁷ Based on 5 years of reported data from 2013/14 to 2017/18.

⁸ Based on 3 years of reported data from 2014/15 to 2016/17.

7. Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization, Igloodik

Number of hunts requested: 15

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Igloodik harvest walrus from the Foxe Basin stock (AW-04). The Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Igloodik does not have a community harvest limit. An average of 0 animals⁹ have been harvested in sport hunts and 69 animals¹⁰ in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 86 animals harvested annually over the last five years. The most recent analysis by Fisheries and Oceans indicates that a Potential Biological Removal between 211 and 422 walruses is sustainable for Foxe Basin, with an estimated average removal of 202 if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Levy Uttak and experienced hunters from the community will guide hunts. The hunts will be conducted near Igloodik Point in July and August 2019. Levy Uttak is a qualified outfitter and will hold insurance. Each boat will have survival suits, harpoons, rope, buoys, avataq, extra rifles, CB radios, spot devices, GPS, and first aid kits. The Igloodik Hunters and Trapper Organization has specified that proper gun safety will be practiced.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be harpooned first then shot if it is in water. Walrus will be shot for an instant kill if it is on the ice. The hunter may take the tusks. The rest of the animal will be distributed to the community.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Not applicable.

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: Did not apply.

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 0

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 0

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

⁹ Based on 5 years of reported data from 2013/14 to 2017/18.

¹⁰ Based on 2 years of reported data from 2014/15 to 2016/17.

8. Iviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (Qutsitumiut Outfitting), Grise Fiord

Number of hunts requested: 8

Does Hunt Plan Address Conservation Concerns: Residents of Grise Fiord harvest walrus from the Baffin Bay (AW-01) and West Jones Sound (AW-02) stocks. The Iviq (Grise Fiord) Hunters and Trappers Organization has not identified any conservation concerns.

Consideration of Community's Harvest Levels: Grise Fiord does not have a community harvest limit. An average of 0 animals¹¹ have been harvested in sport hunts and 4 animals¹² in subsistence hunts, with a total average of 4 animals harvested annually over the last five years. The most recent analysis by Fisheries and Oceans indicates that a Potential Biological Removal between 10 and 11 walruses is sustainable for Baffin Bay and between 8 and 17 for West Jones Sound, with an estimated average removal of 5 for the community if a struck and lost rate of 30% is applied.

Does Hunt Plan Address Safety Concerns: Local experienced hunters from the community will guide. The hunts will be conducted in the Jones Sound area between July 1st and September 30th 2019. All hunters will be over 16 years old, will have their own boat or snowmobile, and will be insurable. Hunters who will hold the outfitter's licence and insurance is still to be determined. Each boat will be accompanied by a safety boat and will have hunting equipment, GPS, radio, life jackets, and an extra motor.

Does Hunt Plan Address Humane Harvesting and Wastage Concerns: Walrus will be shot as necessary to kill the animal. The hunter may take the tusks, baculum, and meat. The rest of the animal will usually be shared within the community.

Letter of Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization: Not applicable.

Number of Hunts Awarded Last Year: Did not apply.

Number of Hunts Conducted Last Year: 0

Number of Landed Animals Last Year: 0

Number of Struck and Lost Animals Last Year: 0

¹¹ Based on 5 years of reported data from 2013/14 to 2017/18.

¹² Based on 4 years of reported data from 2013/14 to 2016/17.