

**SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD (NWMB)**

Regular Meeting No. RM 002-2020

FOR

Information:

Decision:

Issue: *No Reset of TAH for Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Sub-population, 2020*

Background:

Through a Board motion (attached), the HTO of Sanikiluaq has reported to the QWB that the Southern Hudson Bay polar bear sub-population has been increasing in recent years.

In March 2020 in Montreal during the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear User-to-User (U2U) meeting, all representatives of Sanikiluaq, Nunavik Inuit and James Bay Cree unanimously reported both historic and recent increases in both polar bear populations and public safety problems, based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) and Cree knowledge.

No Inuit or Cree representatives at the U2U meeting agreed with the conclusions of technical reports on 2011/12 and 2016 survey results and harvest risk assessment. As well, no agreement was obtained at the U2U meeting to change the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for Southern Hudson Bay polar bears.

Also, during the U2U meeting, Dr. E. Regehr stated that the estimates from the 2011-12 and 2016 surveys were not statistically different. Therefore, science information indicated that the abundance of the sub-population was probably similar during both surveys.

Most community representatives at the U2U meeting requested that the next survey, planned for 2021 or 2022, should be better planned and conducted with greater input and participation of local Inuit and Cree experts.

Recommendations:

1. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board recommends that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board does not reset the TAH for Southern Hudson Bay polar bears at least until after the results of the next survey become available in 2022, if warranted at that time.
2. The QWB requests that the NWMB ensure that any of Sanikiluaq's harvest credits that may be unused as of June 30, 2020 shall be carried forward for use in future years.

Prepared by: Michael Ferguson, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Date prepared: May 4, 2020