

# **SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

## **FOR**

**Information:**

**Decision: X**



### **Walrus Sport Hunt Applications for 2022**

#### **Background**

In May 1999, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or The Board) approved an interim policy for evaluating requests for walrus sport hunting in Nunavut (Appendix 1). According to the policy, the NWMB shall approve plans for walrus sport hunting before licenses are issued. The Board further requires that those conducting sport hunts report their struck, lost, and landed animals at the time of application the following year.

The NWMB on August 30, 2021, issued a call for walrus sport hunt applications to all Hunters and Trappers Organizations and other interested individuals or outfitters for the 2022 harvest season. The deadline for submission of applications was November 1, 2021.

#### **Status**

Hunt applications were received for the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05) walrus stock and the Foxe Basin stock (AW-04) (Figure 1). The following table summarizes the sport hunts requested for the 2022 season:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Walrus Stock</b>	<b>Sport Hunts Requested</b>
Jonathan Emiktoiw - Touring Southampton	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	5
Darcy Nakoolak	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	10
Aaron Emiktoiw - Siku Tours	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	7
Leonard Netser - Ancient Arctic Tours	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	6
Luke Eetuk - E&E Outfitting	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	7
Henik Lake Adventures	Arviat	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	4
Hall-Beach Hunter's and Trappers	Sanirajak	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	25

Thirty-nine (39) sport hunt tags were requested by Coral Harbour and Arviat outfitters for hunting from Hudson Bay- Davis Strait- Management Unit AW-05. This management unit is shared with Nunavik and Greenland. A comprehensive, systematic science survey did not occur for this stock and there is no reliable population estimate. Currently, due to the limited amount of data over the stock's full range, it is not possible to determine the size or trend of this stock. Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60 walrus per year (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 26). An individual quota of four walrus per Inuk per year applies to the community of Arviat (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 6(1)(c)).

Twenty-five sport hunt tags were requested by the Sanirajak HTO for hunting within the Foxe Basin - Management Unit AW-04. Recent surveys resulted in a range of abundance estimates of 8,153–13,452. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has set a sustainable harvest level ranging from 211-422 walrus for this management unit, including subsistence and sport hunting. An individual quota of four walrus per Inuk per year applies to the community of Sanirajak (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 6(1)(c)).

NWMB staff will present a decision briefing note to the Board during its In-Camera Meeting on December 10, 2021.

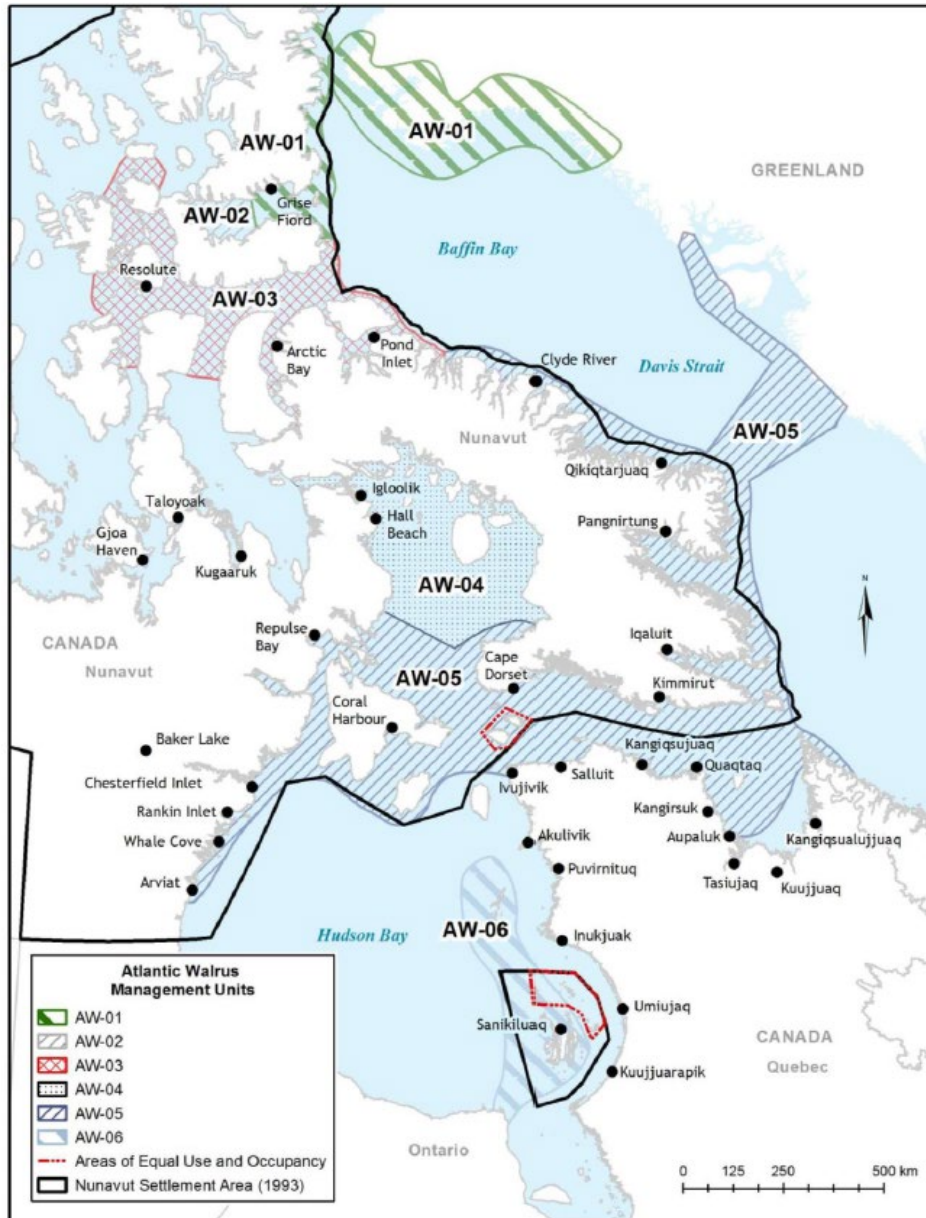


Figure 1. Map of walrus management units.

## **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 four conditions are met:

1. (i) no conservation concern arises;
2. (ii) hunter and public safety are maintained;
3. (iii) humane harvesting takes place, and the whole animal is used; and
4. (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 three 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 four), attempt to ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous five 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), before 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 five years should be allocated to sport hunts.