

[illegible]



Mr. Chairman, polar bear is, again, a great predator and it is widely known in Inuit custom, polar bears are like human, agile and can adapt to hunting techniques and its environment in order to survive. When we hear news or reports nationally or internationally about climate change and polar bears being species of concern due to Arctic becoming ice free, the older generation think this is a joke, meaning polar bears are well known to be more fat and healthier during the summer and fall seasons, this can be confirmed by any local hunter but this will be rebutted by any scientist or biologist looking at data/reports 10,000 miles away. Polar bears are more successful with their natural color as Inuit know, seals (ringed, bearded and harp) are attracted to ice which they tend to approach polar bears, by mistake for being an ice than they become easy prey. This is only one example Inuit know of but again, any biologist will deny as it's never been observed or reported on hard copy.

The tourism business has increased in the last 20 years especially the 3 communities in Davis Strait Population, polar bears encounter increases also. There has been 2 highly publicized cases in the last 10 years, an Inuk was attacked and survived and another one involving a tourist, he was lucky to have a friend and survived. Where do we draw the line? Are we going to be re-active once a tourist is killed or a guide?

In order to be pro-active, you as Board of NWMB should accept an increase of TAH in Davis Strait population and listen to the residents whom travel and hunt in their respective area.

As mentioned at the beginning of my presentation, I have couple of words that are Inuit terminology on polar bears and you as members of NWMB should be able to understand;  
1. Tukisiniit, 2. mamisimajuq and avasingajuq and 3. katalungajuq; these have been used by Inuit for generations prior to colonialism

Last November, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board passed a resolution at their AGM here in Iqaluit this resolution was to support 3 communities receive additional 10 tags each from their current allowable catch, we at QWB had listen to the communities and the feedback received from some biologists (biologist meeting happened the same time) that an increase of 30 per year was sustainable and conservative. Much to our surprise, the support letter along with the resolution weren't included when NWMB had made a public hearing invitation call to all parties. QWB is supporting the 3 communities to have their total allowable harvest increased.

Thank you Mr Chairman for the time you have given me to speak on behalf of Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.