

The issue under consideration at the hearing will be the establishment of Inuit basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

“Basic needs level” refers to the level of harvesting by Inuit required to meet their basic needs, as determined through the decision-making process set out in Article 5 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Section 5.6.25 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* requires the NWMB to establish the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus, “...taking into account the fact that they are in short supply in some areas and therefore that the harvest by Inuit has been and is artificially low in relation to their needs and does not necessarily reflect their full level of needs.”

The filing of submissions to be considered at the hearing:

There will be two opportunities to file submissions for this hearing. The NWMB is inviting interested organizations or persons, including any member of the public, to file written submissions and supporting documentation (**initial submissions**) concerning the establishment of Inuit basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area, by no later than **5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on May 31st, 2012.**

The NWMB is also inviting interested organizations or persons, including any member of the public, to file additional written submissions and supporting documentation (**reply submissions**) – in response to any initial submissions they wish to comment on - by no later than **5:00 p.m. (EST) on July 6th, 2012.**

The NWMB will make publicly available all of the written materials filed with it, subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns.

Attendance and participation at the hearing:

The hearing will be open to the public, although part of the hearing may be conducted in camera, where the NWMB considers that confidential or sensitive matters may be disclosed or discussed.

The NWMB will provide an opportunity for oral presentations from the parties at the hearing, by their choice of official, expert or counsel. The NWMB, as well as the parties, may ask relevant questions of any party at the hearing.

The NWMB will provide members of the public in attendance at the hearing a reasonable opportunity to make statements and to ask questions of the parties and the NWMB.

The NWMB will make its decision following the hearing, and after having considered all relevant submissions, presentations and statements.

How to obtain more information:

To receive more information about the requirements for filing hearing submissions and supporting documentation, or about obtaining other submissions and their supporting

documentation, additional relevant documents, the rules applying to the hearing, the agenda for the hearing, or attendance as a member of the public or as a party at the hearing, please contact the NWMB:

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