

## Hall Beach Hunters' and Trappers' Association

P.O. Box 14 ~ Hall Beach ~ Nunavut ~ X0A 0K0

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
P.O Box 1379  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
X0A 0H0

Re: Foxe Basin Walrus TAH

December 17, 2014

On December 3, 2014 Hall Beach HTA held a public meeting regarding DFO's proposed TAH for Foxe Basin Walrus. The membership in attendance of our public meeting unanimously cited they don't support DFO's proposal for total allowable harvest on walrus. Our membership feels this TAH will create tension and arguments within the community, as it is Inuit culture and practice for Hall Beach and Igloodik to provide fermented meat (Iggunaq) to it's membership and across Nunavut.

We do not believe the technicalities of this proposal has been considered. For example, the Walrus Working Group or DFO has not mentioned or offered recommends on how walrus calves will be counted in the harvest counts (i.e. Polar bear MOU indicates ½ tag on cubs and full tag for adult). This causes confusion and concern as our elders and harvesters harvest calves since the meat is more tender than adult meat.

As mentioned in a DFO's submissions, Hall Beach has been harvesting for many decades. It has been estimated that Hall Beach has harvested over 7300 walrus' since 1972. We believe this might be a high estimate. Since reporting begun in 1972, residents/beneficiaries have been harvesting less walrus' on an annual basis as Inuit are less reliant on dog teams. Also our membership does not harvest much in the winter after the 1991 walrus hunt tragedy which resulted in a fatality. The harvesting also fluctuates depending where the Nunavut Quest dog teams begins as Hall Beach and Igloolik hunters try to harvest more walruses for dog food, country food exchange or just giving. The harvesting practice hasn't changed in generations, where walrus product is utilized to maximum where the only bones and organs are left behind.


Hall Beach HTA is confused over this request as DFO documents have mentioned there "MIGHT BE a conservation concern". This is confusing as previous meetings with survey participants and follow up meetings, the HTO Board was informed that the population is stable and not declining. Again, Hall Beach HTA is opposing the recommendation and if not we ask NWMB to consider higher recommended total allowable harvest.

With funding provided by NWMB, Hall Beach HTA collected and documented IQ values on walrus and harvesting with elders, former harvesters and current harvesters. Through these interviews, the participants have clearly indicated the population is stable but depending on the year (weather) the hunters are either traveling longer distances or old traditional harvesting areas.

The Hall Beach HTO is of the opinion that the published survey results have flaws, an argument confirmed by DFO. This creates more confusion as to how NWMB will make a decision when science indicates the survey has flaws, including the absence of summer haul outs between Hall Beach and Repulse Bay in the survey. Hall Beach HTA is requesting NWMB either increase the recommended TAH or postpone decision until DFO can properly conduct full and credible survey of Foxe Basin walrus.

If you have any question (s) or comments (s) please contact our office during working hours from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm by phone 867-928-8994 or email [hbhta@qiniq.com](mailto:hbhta@qiniq.com) will be directed to the chairman and manager of HTA.

Best Regards

  
Manasie Naullaq, Chairman  
Hall Beach HTA



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