

Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management
System -- Sanikiluaq, Nunavut

For

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Public Hearing
on Nunavut Polar Bear Management Plan

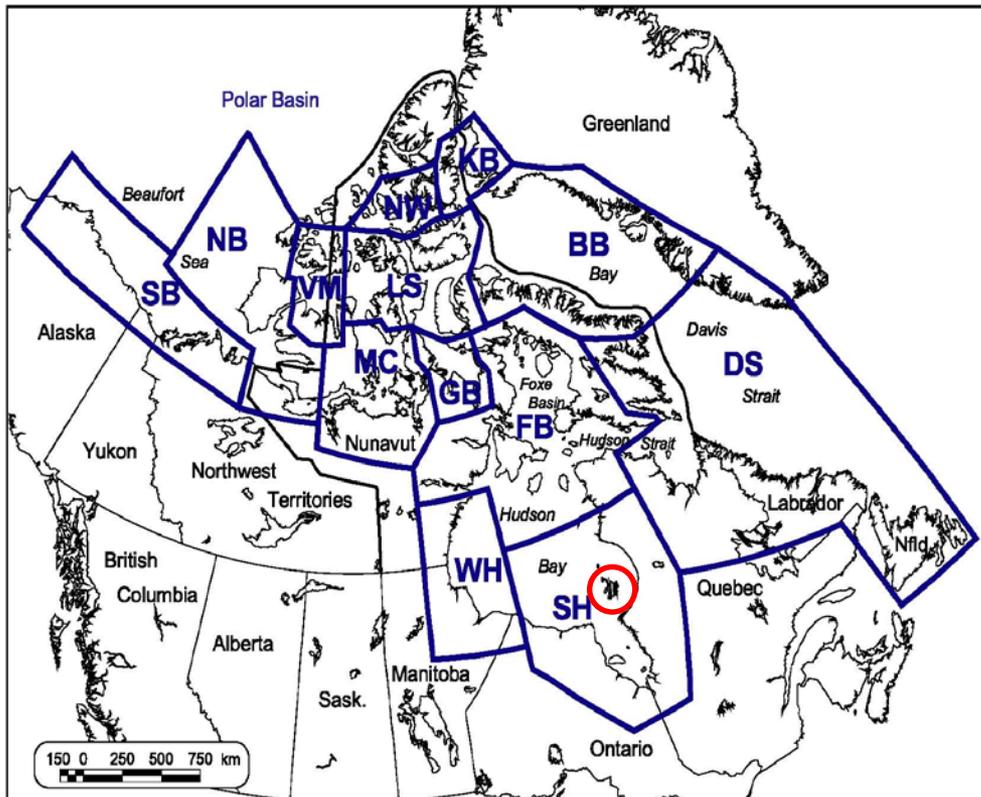
Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers

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- Sanikiluaq, Nunavut
- Current population 882 (2016)
- The community has used a quota system for over 40 years
- Since 2005, the community has used the MOU which includes a flexible quota system and sex ratio

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- Since 2005, Sanikiluaq has been using the flexible quota system.
- This system is based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Sanikiluaq and the Government of Nunavut.
- The community has followed the flexible quota system for the past 11 years. Its purpose is to conserve the population and maintain a sustainable harvest level.

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- The system also prohibits harvest of family groups, bears in dens, or cubs.
- However, for cultural reasons, a cub can be harvested through a request to the Government of Nunavut.
- The sex selective system means that one female can be harvested for every two males that are harvested.
- The community has been following this system and has not expressed any concerns

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- Under the system, every person in Nunavut has the right to protect life and property.

Sustainable Harvest Management

HARVEST SEASON	TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST (TAH)	ACTUAL HARVEST
2005/2006	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	25 (16 Males: 9 Females)
2006/2007	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)
2007/2008	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	25 (18 Males: 7 Females)
2008/2009	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	26 (18 Males: 8 Females)
2009/2010	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)
2010/2011	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	30 (21 Males: 9 Females)
2011/2012	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)
2012/2013	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	26 (22 Males: 4 Females)
2013/2014	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	27 (17 Males: 10 Females)
2014/2015	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	20 (14 Males: 6 Females)
2015/2016	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	20 (14 Males: 6 Females)
2016/2017	25 (17 Males: 8 Females)	20 (13 Males: 7 Females)
Totals	300 (204 Males: 96 Females)	294 (204 Males: 90 Females)

- Over this period, the community has harvested bears within the total allowable harvest and also maintained a 2:1 male to female sex ratio harvest.
- In some years, the community has used credits accumulated from unused harvest from previous years as permitted through the flexible quota system
- Since 2014, the community has respected a user to user agreement

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- Sanikiluaq HTO has requested credits that they have accumulated from unused harvest in previous years.
- This is part of the flexible quota system currently in place.
- The community of Sanikiluaq has successfully adopted and used this system.

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- By using the system, the Sanikiluaq HTO has helped conserve the polar bear population, through a sustainable harvest.
- The HTO has responsibly and successfully managed the system and polar bear harvest for many years.

Issues



- Some concerns include a high population of polar bears that destroy bird colonies which are not in balance with the environment
- Eider ducks are very important part of Sanikiluaqmiut diet
- Another concern is encounters with polar bears in the community.
- Sanikiluaq HTO has been working on establishing a community bear management plan, which identifies preventative measures and deterrent procedures to protect people and property from bears that come close to the community.
- Therefore, harvest remains important not only for cultural reasons but also to maintain bears at numbers that maintain natural balance

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- Sanikiluaq is an excellent example of how HTO's in Nunavut conduct responsible harvest practices that are sustainable and respectful of the principles of conservation.

Thank You