

6th of January, 2020

To: Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Cc: Niqautik Wildlife Committee (LNUK of Inukjuak)

From: Bobby Epoo of Inukjuak

Re: Submission to the Public Hearing on Beluga Management Plan 2020

This is to submit my concerns and the concerns of Inukjuamiut that do not voice their concerns regarding the Beluga Management plans set fourth to the community of Inukjuak for the past 30 years. The Community of Inukjuak is the second most Inuit populated community in all of Nunavik, maybe even the most with the least number of catches based on the needs with population growth.

There are 6 main key I would like to point out in this submission.

1. **Quota system:** Created 30+ years ago as a 1year pilot project as per Department of Fisheries and oceans (DFO) research. It's been more than 30 years and the quota system are still in place DFO's timeline is damaged.
2. **Distance needed to travel:** The hunters of Inukjuak is required to travel the most distance as per the beluga management plan proposed by LNUK/RNUK then adjusted by NMRWB in confidence then forwarded to the minister of DFO. All that wait, and then having to travel by boat. Window of opportunity too short.
3. **Equipment/expenses:** Boats, canoes, firearms/rifles/ammunitions, and fuel. Very expensive, and yet the community of Inukjuak barely reaching the quota, and having to go to Hudson straight and james bay.
4. **Jobs:** not really your concern. but, Inukjuak still has the lowest employment rate to this day in all of Nunavik and having to travel to James bay and long island, and/or Ivujivik. which brings this point back to number 3, self explanatory.
5. **Sighting:** more and more sightings in Inukjuak, DFO studies are not accurate anymore. My grandfather the late Simionie Weetaluktuk use to say that all living creatures leave and come back after a certain time. Decisions need to be made based on Inuit Qaujimagatungit (Inuit Traditional knowledge). Or atleast be more included in the management plan.
6. **Equal use and occupancy:** Sanikilluaq hunters are not so welcoming when Hudson bay hunters (Kuujuaraapik, umiujaq, & Inukjuak) go hunting in the equal use and occupancy zones.
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The Distance/expenses needed for the hunters of Inukjuamiut is no longer an option, with that said. Inukjuamiut are keener to hunt/harvest beluga closer to home especially with no financial aid from the government setting this management plan. All governing parties need to understand that inuit way is and always will be to conserve and share their catch. These management plans that are put in place are only causing more inuit to separate and argue amongst each other.

Inukjuamiut are stressed from being threatened my fisheries officers of having their harvesting equipment being confiscated/and or seized in the event of over harvesting when they never reach the

quota allocated to them. They also want the NMRWB and DFO to understand that Inuit way of life is and always will be to conserve, share and make sure that species are protected and the species growth is sustained.

The quota system was put in place as a 1year pilot project 30+ years ago. DFO need to flip their calendar from 1980's to 2019-2020.

Expenses need to be paid to Inukjuamiut to the governing parties that allocate management plans if they continue to ask hunters of Inukjuak to go to James bay & Long island/ Hudson Straight (Ivujivik, Kangiqsujuaq). Especially when it comes to chartering community boats and Air Inuit planes.

Not only it is expensive, it is also very dangerous for a long-distance travel. Unforgiving waters and weather. With no coast guard patrolling, it is really starting to get frustrating for the hunters of Inukjuak. Having to pay a lump sum amount of money to go harvest in Ivujivik and being told that they should not be here by local because it is not their land/waters, not their hunting grounds. Being told to go hunt to in James bay & Long island/ Hudson Straight Ivujivik, Kangiqsujuaq when we see belugas in the shorelines and hunting areas of Inukjuak.

The Community of Inukjuak wish to allocate their own numbers based on the population growth, and not have the RNUK's make decisions for them.

Therefore, the community of Inukjuak fully supports the people of Quaqtaq of their protest against the current management plan regarding beluga.

Article 5.2.15 (a) 5.2.16 (a), (c) of NILCA, the board of NMRWB can adjust/ or consider our needs to feed the 1700+ population of Inukjuak.



Bobby Epoo