

Comments - Management System for Beluga Whale Harvesting in Nunavik

You can write your general comments here. Alternatively, arrange a time to conference call with the NMRWB staff. Specific questions for LNUKS can be found on page 4 to 6. Additionally, please refer to the Public hearing notice for additional questions for which the NMRWB is looking for comments.

We would like you to know that we are tired of being asked to go to Long Island as it is very far and very costly. Lives have been lost, no compensation for the families even though the life was lost because of DFO's requests, equipments have been lost, its very costly to go hunt in Long Island, about 1500 to 5000 per hunter depending where they're from, so if DFO will do that again we demand they start paying for the hunts requested at Long Island, please allow us to harvest near home, where nothing will go to waste.

We'd also like to go back to our harvesting grounds at Little Whale River during the month of July, its the best time of the year to dry and store for the fall and winter. respecting our voluntary agreement is also contributing to slowly losing our traditional harvesting, camping areas, because we used to camp all summer with our families, therefore being in harmony as well as passing down our culture & tradition.



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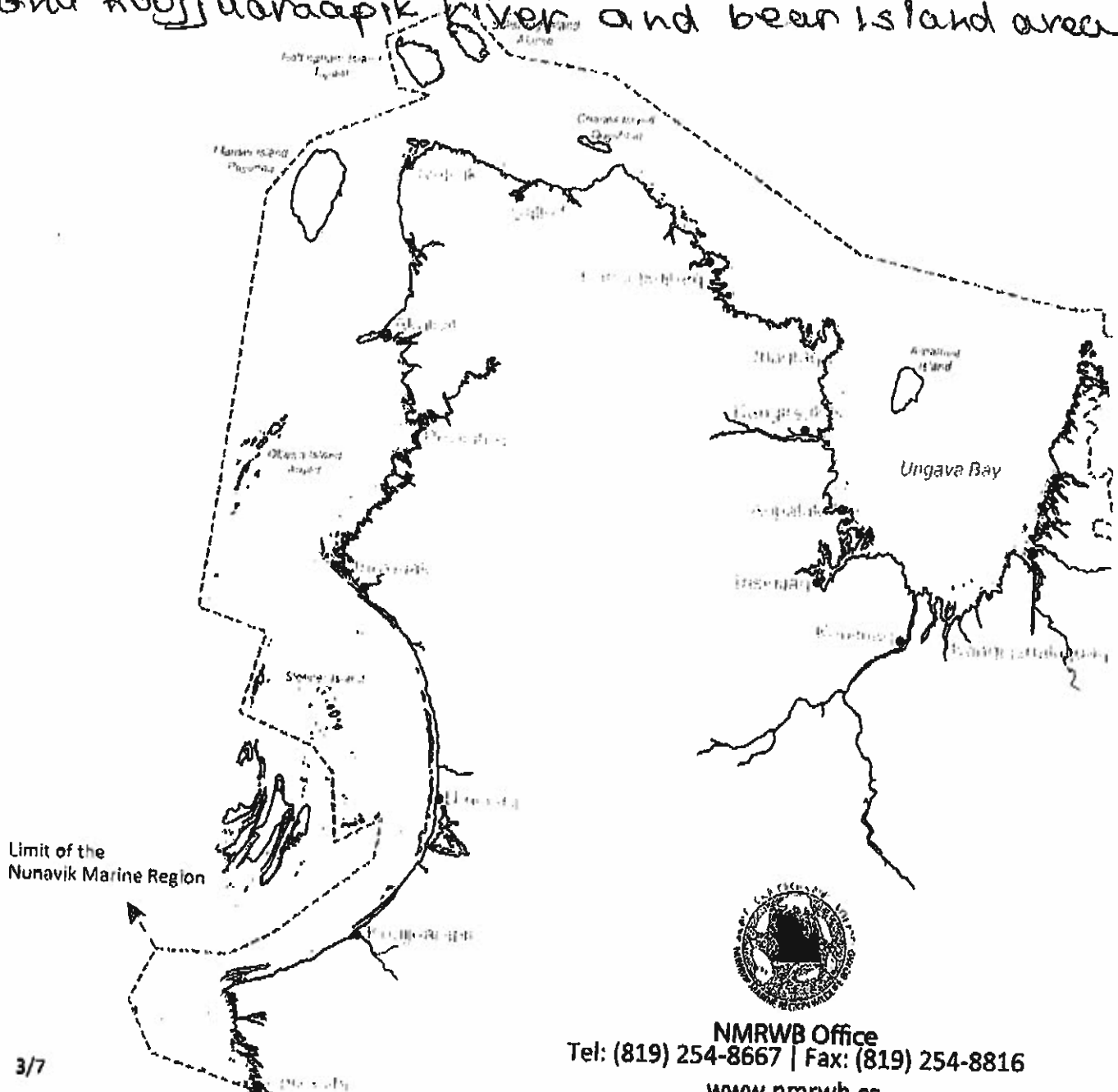
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You can draw on the map to help communicate your comments (for example sensitive beluga areas, ideal hunting areas, or areas where the harvest management should be done differently).

We the hunters would like to start going back to our traditional camp spots that we had a verbal voluntary agreement concerning hasapoka, the whale river and kujuarapik river and beer island area



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If possible, please provide responses to the following questions:

1- Currently the harvest management of beluga aims to keep the population numbers the same over the years. Would you prefer to manage beluga harvesting to keep the population stable (regulations similar to now, possibly with changes) or to help the population increase (regulations would likely become more strict, but as the population increases, regulations would be lowered)

I think our ancestors did very well and passed down their traditional values and how important it is to respect animals, our elders still practice those values and have also passing it down and managing our could easily manage on our own

2- How long would you like the next management system to last?

(3 years, 1 year, something else?)

Dont feel the need to have a management system as we were fine before that but if need be 3 years was fine.

3- If a Total Allowable Take is established again, do you think it should be shared among all of Nunavik, or divided into smaller regions?

if there will be another allowable take we'd like it to be insured that each allocated allowable take between communities should be respected, and DFO be present to insure that each communities get their share as allocated



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If possible, please provide responses to the following questions:

4- If the NMRWB decided to move away from a Total Allowable Take, what other conditions or regulations could be used to conserve the East Hudson Bay beluga, including during their migration through Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay? Examples could include closed hunting seasons, or areas, or other hunting limitations which do not include a quota. We are looking for any ways that hunting pressure on EHB beluga could be reduced, without using a Total Allowable Take. What are traditional approaches to ensuring beluga are not over-harvested?

The hudson straight should refrain from harvesting the eastern hudson bay beluga and allow them to pass first as they claim to know how they look, no closure but respect and do their best and refrain unless of course they are starving.

5- Have you noticed any changes in beluga abundance, migration, or health in the last 3 years? 6 years? longer? Please comment on any other changes you may have noticed as well.

The belugas ~~to~~ are very healthy and they seem to be more abundant but its horrible just watching them while our mouths water from craving for them as we werent allowed to harvest them near here, we are losing our tradition



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If possible, please provide responses to the following questions:

6- How many belugas are struck and lost during hunting in your community?

For example, One in every five? One in every ten?

one in every ten or more

Rarely struck and loss, due to the fact we harpoon first.

7- When and where does your community prefer to hunt beluga, and how many does the community hunt during these times? How many would your community prefer to hunt?

wed like to harvest our whole gouata if there should be a gouata again near Kujjuanaapik as we have respected the management that was in place passed 3 years, we have never overharvested, nor have we ever touched our gouata.

8- What should be the roles of partner organizations in regulating the beluga hunt (RNUK, LNUKs, DFO, Umajuit wardens)?

Insure not one community over busvest and also insure that each allocated take is respected by all communities and also that each beluga no matter where its harvested should be sampled and that samplings importance is made an obligation



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You can copy this document as many times as you need to provide all your comments.

The hunters of Kuujjuarapik would like to opt out of the voluntary agreement concerning Nastopaka falls, Little Whale river and Kuujjuarapik. The hunters of Kuujjuarapik wish to harvest their whole gozata (allowable take) near their community because it's our tradition and culture, to teach our children, grandchildren how to hunt, butcher and preserve every edible piece of the beluga, harvesting too far from home limits our harvest. We don't mind the gozata system providing we harvest our allocated belugas. Please, remember that our community, hunters, respected your management system so show us the same respect and give us our way of life back so we can finally teach our younger generation and thus also provide for the whole community and if we are once again asked to go far we want compensation for it.



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