

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.

Over the past 3 years or so Management plans our community has not harvested from EHB stock in our community hunting area, therefore we would like to plan a pilot project during the next new management plan. To have non quota limitations to ensure the conservation of the EHB stock. We would limit our selves to hunting in our area between July 1st to August 31st. After that we would be under the percentage system of the current plan. In this pilot project we would aim for a 75 percent sampling goal and communicate to our hunters to hunt bigger whales, because we know they aren't EHB. Other non quota limitation would include not hunting the females with calves, Harpooning first, each boat not hunting more than 2 whales at a time, the opening of this pilot project would coincide with Sanikiluaqs voluntary closure to ensure the conservation of EHB, We would hold community workshops on the importance of sampling and distinguishing the difference between the 2 stocks.



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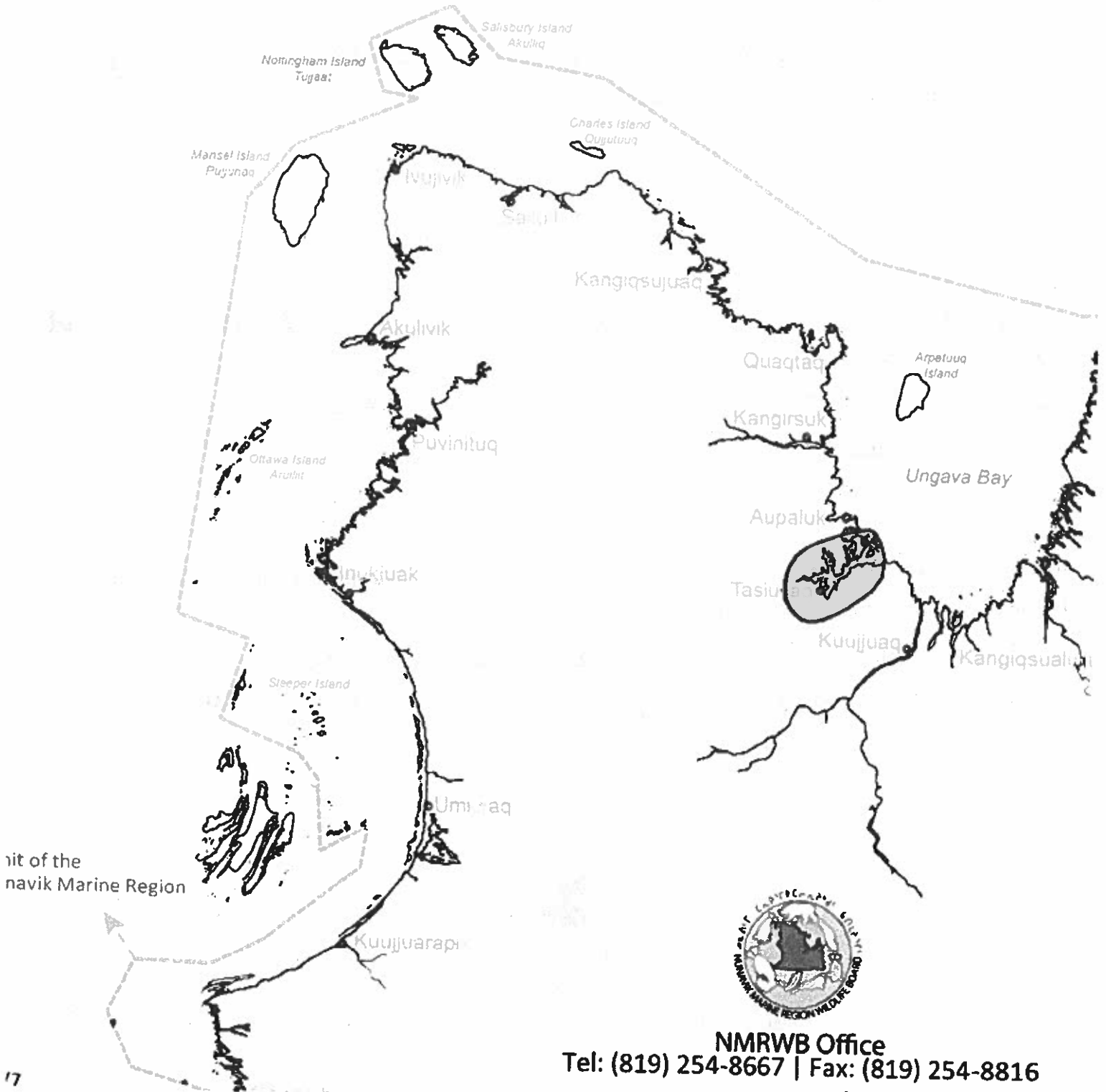
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You can draw on the map to help communicate your comments (for example sensitive beluga areas, ideal hunting areas, or areas where the harvest management should be done differently).

The are circled is where we would like to
implement the pilot project.



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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)

Stays the same for EHB

Non EHB should have less restrictions depending on samples results and locations.

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

(3 years, 1 year, something else?)

3 years if it will be divided into 3 Regions, instead of 1 region.

IF it will stay all of Nunavik it should be 1 year management plan.

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?

It should be divided into 3 regions
Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, Ungava bay.



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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?

Without Restrictions

abstaining from Hunting in Ungava Bay in June.
Only Beginning in July when EHB have passed
and focus on bigger Belugas.

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.

There has been a Increase in Abundance in the
last 10 years, but it fluctuates year to year
depending on ice and predators

But in Nunavik as a whole there is a bigger
abundance in the Migrations.



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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?

1 out of 20 are struck and loss because our hunting practice is harpoon first and kill after.

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?

As always we prefer to hunt near our community, but we go to the Hudson straight when abundance is low, usually we go in the fall to get 5 in the Hudson straight before winter. We would prefer to hunt 25 in the summer and 5 in the fall in Hudson straight.

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

Umajuit wardens should be more engaged in the community and give more information on remaining TAT to hunters. Umajuit wardens should have more training on percentage allocations and zones with different percentages and community percentages allocations. RNUK and LNUK's have always worked together they should be the ones to decide TAT in each of the communities that will meet the demands of their population.



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Tasiujaq , August 23,2019

Object : Beluga management Plan

We as a Committee understand the percentage system, therefore we would like to keep the 3.6 EHB as a Quota but would like to be able to allocate our Quota ourselves according to the seasons. According to past genetic analysis results, we have hunted minimal to no EHB belugas over the past 2 management plans, therefore we believe that we should not be a part of the EHB management plan.

We have worked very hard to have a good sampling program with our hunters, but we have not seen any positive changes as we were told in the past would happen. This is creating a loss of interest in sampling so there is starting to be a decline in samples provided. We would like to see a change in our TAT since we hunt only WHB.

Also we would like to see a pilot project undertaken in our community. Since we do not hunt EHB we would like to have no quota from July 1st -Sept 30 ; if so we would request that 100% of the whales taken during that time would be sampled by our hunters, this coincides with Sanikiluaks voluntary closure that happens from July 15 to Sept 30.

taken from a dfo publication ...Harvesting by hunters from the Nunavut village of Sanikiluaq, Belcher islands, is limited by a local agreement to not harvest between July 15 and September 30, the period when EHB beluga are most likely to be present

also taken from a dfo science publication-In Nunavik samples from the spring harvest in Hudson strait indicated that 8.4% and 10.8% of the whales harvested in the ungava bay and the hudson strait hunting area during this season belong to the ehb stock. Their proportion in ungava bay harvest declines to 3.1% in the SUMMER

We recommend that the NMRWB visit every community to teach this percentage system and why it's different for different areas. It would minimize tension and confusion between communities, hunting allocations, and areas.

This is what we would like to see in the next management plan!

Sincerely

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