

Peter Hale
Elijassie Kavik

Member, ECCC Appointee, Vice Chair
Member, Government of Nunavut

EMRWB Staff:

Angela Coxon
Félix Boulanger

Wildlife Management Director
Wildlife Management Biologist

Legal Counsel:

Qajaq Robinson

Also Present:

Daniel Oovaut
Jimmy Johannes
Johnny Arnaituk
James May
Mikhaela Neelin
Mark Mills
Anne Provencher St-Pierre
Mike Hammill
Alexandra Valentin
Barrie Ford
(DEWR)

RNUK Treasurer
RNUK Secretary
RNUK Vice-President
RNUK President
RNUK coordinator (am only)
ECCC
DFO, Nunavik area marine mammal biologist
DFO, Research Scientist (am only)
DFO, SARA (am only)
Makivik, Department of Environment, Wildlife and Research

Participating LNUKs:

Richard Tookalook
Raymond Menarick
Ruby Menarick
Nuta Koperqualuk
Jimmy Paul Angutiguluk
Juana Fleming
Richard Ittochat
Silscokkie Cookie Comptois
Jack Nivaxie
Corniliusie Nivaxie
Simeonie Naluktuk
Markossie Tookalook
Eddie Kurmarluk
Jobie Oweetaluktuk
Anna Ohaituk
Simeonie Ohaituk
Charlie Eliasiapik
Daniel Aculiak
Jackie Williams
Eli Angiyou
Adamie Alayco
Ali Qavavauk
Paulusi Tarriasuk
Pitsiulak Pinguatuk

Chisasibi LNUK, president
Chisasibi LNUK
Chisasibi LNUK
Chisasibi LNUK
Kuujjuaraapik LNUK, president
Kuujjuaraapik LNUK, vice president
Kuujjuaraapik LNUK,
Kuujjuaraapik LNUK
Umiujaq LNUK
Umiujaq LNUK
Umiujaq LNUK
Umiujaq LNUK
Umiujaq LNUK (member and manager)
Inukjuak LNUK
Inukjuak LNUK
Inukjuak LNUK
Inukjuak LNUK
Inukjuak LNUK
Inukjuak LNUK manager
Akulivik LNUK, president
Akulivik LNUK, secretary
Ivujivik LNUK, president
Ivujivik LNUK
Kangiqsujaq LNUK

we can. They are expensive and difficult to hunt. Previously there was an estimate for Bowhead and govt thought they were going extinct, and then there was a new estimate indicating there were lots of bowhead whales. Wonder why DFO is now suddenly worried about Bowhead whale? There should not be a concern since the population is increasing.

We do not see the other Northern Bottlenose Whale. Not worried about them, but do not want this to be considered their position as they do not want to impact the harvesting rights of other Indigenous peoples.

We are worried about Killer Whales. There are too many Killer Whales and we do not want that many. They are killing bowheads, narwhal, beluga, seals and other swimmers. We do not know why there are more - maybe climate change, maybe following ships, and ships keeping ice clearer for them. Seeing more killer whales between Quaqtaq and Kangiqsuk. There were two last year, and they impacted the migration of the beluga which resulted in the community having higher access to beluga. Believe Killer Whales caused beluga beaching and blubber out in the ocean which is believed to be the result from a Killer Whale hunt. Saw eight Killer Whales passing through this year which were believed part of the cause for the reduced presence of beluga.

LNUKs decision is to consult the community on this request (*No further comments were received from the community*).

Are still seeing the Atlantic porpoise here. There was an earthquake in the Atlantic that broke up all of the sea ice in May. We do not know how climate change is going to affect species. Some animals will be happy without ice.

Response to Question: Mark M. No comment.

Noah Eetok (Kangirsuk) requested more information about Northern Bottlenose Whale as they may have been seen around Kangirsuk. Is it smaller than the beluga? Like a dolphin?

Killer Whales are present every year and are increasing, especially after beluga and walrus come through. After talking to our hunters and members we may have more information to provide.

Climate change is impacting our land and we are seeing animals we never saw much before. Shipping is impacting our waters and our animals. The shipping for the mine into Nunavut is especially impacting the routes of beluga.

Anne Provencher St-Pierre (DFO) responded that Northern Bottlenose Whales are 7 to 9 meters when at full maturity.

Kangirsuq- Josapie Nassak (Elder) told a story about time and animals. Animals go through cycles, sometimes there are many and sometimes fewer. Hunters are not the only ones that hunt animals, other animals do too (wolves hunt caribou, etc.) and impact populations. There is a chain reaction. This is what I have experienced. Weather also impacts animals. They move towards what they need (food and colder temp), but for the first time recently I saw many killer whales together for the first time (maybe 5). I was seal/walrus (swimmer) hunting. I was followed by Killer Whales. Another time outside of Kangirsuk, I believe they were Killer Whales, but maybe smaller. Tried to flee before, but realized they follow closely when there is an animal or canoe that flees. I learned that I need not to flee right away, to be cautious. This was maybe a year or so ago. Believe they are migrating in the region, following the beluga.

Jimmy Paul Angutiguluk (Kuujuaraapik) would like to know if a survey can be done in the Hudson Bay and Cape Jones (James Bay) areas on the population of Killer Whales. Killer Whales were sighted in that area as well and a baby killer whale was spotted near Sanikiluaq. There is no concern from Kuujuaraapik that Killer Whales are decreasing or on the listing of killer whales. Maybe they have moved on from other areas (like Greenland) because they have been disturbed.

Anne Provencher St-Pierre (DFO) responded that when the aerial survey for beluga are done, they take note of all species they observe. She does not believe they saw killer whales this summer, but will verify the data.

Jimmy Paul Angutiguluk (Kuujuaraapik) responded that Killer Whales were spotted around Cape Jones, and because of that they did not see many beluga.

Eli Angiyou (Akulivik) stated that Bottlenose are rarely / never seen in the area around Akulivik. Therefore, it is easy for to approve the listing of all three species under Species at Risk Act. We do not mind if they are put into the SARA as we do not hunt them.

BREAK for lunch from 12:00 - 1:30

Roll call by Lola to confirm all back on the line.

Continuing the session- allowing for LNUKs that have questions and comments to continue- as we did not get through everyone in the morning.

Jack Niviaxie (Umiujaq LNUK) noted that these species do not really come near around us, and we do not hunt them, so we do not have much to say about this. However, they do not believe that Killer Whales are a risk, because they see them when they go to Long Island.

Eddie Kumarkluk (Umiujaq LNUK) reported that they do not see many Killer Whales, and we worry about the Killer Whales killing beluga. We have seen some around Long Island and James Bay and we blame them for reducing beluga in our area. Can we reduce the Killer Whale population in this area? If Eastern Hudson Bay beluga are at risk, can we address the impact Killer Whales have on Eastern Hudson Bay beluga?

Johnny Cain (Tasiujaq VP of the LNUK) noted that they do not hunt any of the species under consideration. They do not see Bottlenose at all but a long time ago one of the large whales (Bottlenose or Bowhead) was seen near Tasiujaq. There were fewer beluga in our area and believe Killer Whales play a role. Do not believe Killer Whale are at risk. It is more important to reduce their presence, and believe that their presence in area is moving away beluga. Have seen Killer Whales, but has never been a part of harvesting.

Umiujaq clarified question: Can Killer Whales be harvested to have the numbers brought down? Can work be done to decrease the number of Killer Whales in the areas of Eastern Hudson Bay?

Anne Provencher St-Pierre (DFO) responded that she does not know but will look for the answer from others.

Iola and Qajaq Robinson noted that it will be necessary for DFO/ECCC to answer in writing back to the Boards and parties as soon as possible.

Salamiva Weetaltuk stated that she is not happy that the government officials are not on the line now (Mark M., Alexandria and Mike H.). We gathered and they were supposed to be made available, and now they are not here when important information from the region is being shared. Also, suggested that if you speak Inuktitut and English to translate yourself to ensure they are translated correctly.

Jimmy Johannes (LNUK of Kuujuaq) noted that the local Kuujuaq committee will go on radio to gather information from the local hunting population and report it to the Wildlife Board.

We had never seen Killer Whales until a few years ago. When they come to the region, then suddenly, the seals, beluga and fish all disappear. Killer Whales are increasing and very dangerous animals. We would like to know how to hunt them like Greenland Inuit.

Minke Whales are also increasing. Bottlenose, we know nothing about this species.

We have no concern about Bowhead. The threats that have been noted. The Bowhead that was severely depleted by commercial whaling in earlier days. Beluga were also severely depleted by companies that wanted to make money, including the estuaries that are now closed. There were massive slaughters though, and the government now points the finger at Inuit who are left to deal with the issue of a low population of their food source. What are the repercussions for the whaling companies or government?

Norman Cooper (Kuujuaq LNUK): Killer Whales could be quite dangerous to us, and they go after beluga and seals. We have never seen bottlenose whales. Do not know if they are good to eat. Killer Whales have been spotted around here, and they seem to be increasing more. For sure we will be consulting our community members, maybe even tomorrow.

Salamiva repeated the question raised by Eddie Kumarluk to Mark Mills who rejoined the call.

Mark Mills stated that he is not able to answer the question about the management of killer whales (i.e. can they be removed to decrease their effect on beluga). In response to Jimmy Johannes's question about Greenland information, Mark pointed to the reference list for where the information came from and stated that according to COSEWIC Killer Whales have decreased in Greenland.

Jusipi Kulula (Quaqtaq LNUK): Have seen a whale I thought was a Minke whale, [something about the fin was different], but may have been a Bottlenose Whale. Minke whales are around but we do not bother them much. In Tasiujaq and Kuujuaq they see Minke whales.

Charlie Angutinguak (Aupaluk LNUK) would like get back to my community about this. It seems that Greenland and Nunavut should be involved in this public hearing since it affects their quotas. My concern is for people who normally harvest these animals, such as Greenland people, I'm worried that we will be impacting their quota.

Ali Qavavauk (Ivujivik LNUK President) noted that Ivujivik has not had their LNUK elections yet because of COVID. In Ivujivik they have noticed that Killer Whales are increasing. Even Bowhead Whales are sometimes seen in Iuvjivik area. We see Bottlenose Whales too. The Killer Whales may be driving other species away. We have also seen Humpbacks. The second type (Bottlenose Whales?)- they have a white

belly, maybe white fin. There was less beluga this summer, possibly due to Killer Whales, but they are here now and there seeming to be a lot. Seems like it is a different stock from what we usually have, maybe from Nunavut. Beluga usually pass by for a day, but were not just passing by one day. For the communities, where people come to hunt beluga, it would be appreciated if communities do not come when a community becomes a red zone (COVID). In Oct 1997, there was a tsunami around Ivujivik (Island of Tudjat) that had an impact on a walrus hunt. They almost tipped over their boat. It may have had an impact on currents in the areas and therefore also on migration, including of the beluga. More species are coming now, we even see different seagulls.

Paulussi Tarriasuk (Ivujivik LNUK) Tujat had a tsunami which impacted the area and could have impacted the beluga migration.

Pitsiulak Pinguatuk (Kangiqsujaq LNUK President) Concerning these three species. The Killer Whales were studied in 2016. We read the document. They hunt in the slows and bays and have the same kind of diet that we Inuit eat (beluga, seals, etc.). There are also other species that we may not have seen sometime. Killer Whales can be killed quite quickly by a cut on the back fin, not that I am encouraging the killing of them. Do not hunt them when they shake, they are dangerous. There are food chains and animals feed off each other.

Bowhead also studied and hunted in 2016 but we do not hunt them much. Described the baleen. Bowheads do not eat the same food as we consume. Eat small animals with their baleen.

Eli Angiyou (Akulivik LNUK) noted that they are not worried about these species being listed- think its ok. Emailed their input:

From Email:

For your information, we are fine with the listing of all three species, but for Orca, they are present in Hudson's Bay during summer even up to winter freeze up and there was several orcas that perished in the freeze up and was found all around south of Akulivik in 2010-ish, for Bowhead it is seldomly seen in our waters and never pursuit or harvested it would be better to be included in the listing, for bottlenose.....never seen it before put it in listing.

you can use this comment as from Akulivik LNUK committee.

Johnny Arnaituk (Kangiqsujaq LNUK) reported that they are seeing more and more Killer Whales around Kangiqsujaq. Over 21 were seen in one spot near Kangiqsujaq and they were in the area for about 2 months. They are going after our animals - fish, beluga, seals etc. Killer Whales are not at risk - we see them every day. I hope we do not become killer whale hunters though.

We do not hunt bowhead either, even though we see them every year.

It can be a risk to hunters. Please do not list species.

Simeonie Ohaituk (Inukjuak LNUK Vice-president) re: Bowhead Whales, we have them and have been seeing them for a long time. They are food. They have muktuk and are good to eat. Not Killer whales though, as they are scary. Killer Whales are known to be present in our waters on most occasions. It is said that they go after the hunter who may have missed them. Killer Whales kill many beluga. Who will do the killing of the Killer Whales? It will not be me because I am afraid of them. It is known that Killer Whales kill more beluga than we do and they contribute to the depletion.

Jobie Oweetaluktuk (Inukjuak LNUK President) noted that they do not hunt Killer Whales and Bowhead Whales, but Alaskans and our Greenland relatives do. They should teach us how. We should invite them to come and teach us if we are considering harvesting these species as well. Greenland people eat them, and they should be involved. Nunavut eat bowhead whales; they too should be involved.

Jackie Williams (Inukjuak LNUK manager) stated that they will confer with community to see what they think. They will get back to the Boards on positions etc.

Iola asked if there are any other communities with questions before we go on a break and if DFO and ECC have anything to say.

Richard Tookalook (LNUK Chisasibi President) stated that they will consult with community about these three species. Questions for DFO or ECCC: Has the Canadian Royal Navy conducted drills in James Bay and/or Hudson Bay before? If they did, did they consult with DFO and the people before entering Eeyou Marine Region / Nunavik Marine Region, because the sonars on the submarines are very powerful (up to 140dB) and can kill animals.

Mark Mills (ECCC) responded that he has never heard of ECCC being informed of military exercises by the navy. They have their own environmental staff and would do their own consultations. Only come to ECCC if needed, but maybe DFO can add.

Iola stated that this is not the decision-making moment. This meeting is for learning and gaining understanding. Consultation will follow and everyone will have other times to give their view. If people do not have more questions and are satisfied with the information, then they can sign off and if others are done too, we could stop all together.

Iola closed by reminding everyone of the need to work together and have a well thought out conversation and finished product and thanked everyone for your contribution today.

Tommy noted that next week LNUKs could let their respective communities know about the proposed listing and consult with them. Once LNUKs are ready please call the office and further questions can be received through email, phone or fax.

Salamiva provided closing prayer.

Call ended at 3:15pm