



Comments Related to the 2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan Nunavut Planning Commission Public Hearing, November 2022, Iqaluit



Michael Ferguson, Kolola Pitsiulak and James Qillag
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB): Membership and Governance

- The QWB is an Inuit Regional Wildlife Organization (RWO) established under section 5.7 of the Nunavut Agreement.
- The QWB is composed of the Chairpersons of the 13 Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) in the Region, plus an independent Chairperson.
- A 5-member Executive sets the priorities for the QWB throughout the year.



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB): Mandate and Responsibilities

- The QWB is responsible for issues affecting Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit among two or more of the 13 communities.
- Each HTO is responsible for addressing wildlife harvesting issues at the community level.
- The QWB Executive and staff collaborate closely with the Boards of affected HTOs on specific issues.
- The QWB also assists individual HTOs on local issues as requested.



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and Land Use Planning

- Other land uses may impact both wildlife populations and Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit.
- As a result, the QWB and the HTOs have responsibilities for land use planning, just as Inuit have had for millennia.
- Inuit and their ancestors have managed harvesting of wildlife and other land uses in Qikiqtaaluk Region for at least 3,500 years.



Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit: An Ancestral and Current Land Use

- Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) related to wildlife and the environment has been derived from active sustainable Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit.
- Inuit Systems of Wildlife Management and IQ are continuously updated 365 days a year in the communities across the Region.



Wildlife Harvesting as a Land Use: Major Source of Inuit Self-Employment

- In 1981 & 1982, a QIA Harvest Study found that wildlife harvesting employed 20% of the Region's Inuit.
- From 1998 to 2001, an NWMB Harvest Study found that wildlife harvesting employed 24% of Inuit.
- Inuit harvesting actually employed a greater proportion of Inuit while the Inuit population increased by 68%.

Years	Regional Inuit Population	Harvesters in Population
1981-1982	6,968	20%
1998-2001	11,741	24%



Wildlife Harvesting as a Land Use: Crucial for Inuit Food Sovereignty

- In 1998-2001, Qikiqtaaluk Inuit obtained nutrition by harvesting at least 45 different species.
- In total, Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit provided at least 1.6 million kg of food annually, for an average of 139 kg per capita via self-employment.
- That yielded average of 380 g of meat daily, while the Canada food guide recommends only 225 g.

Terrestrial Mammals	Marine Mammals	Birds & Eggs	Fish & Clams	Total
491,879 kg	825,048 kg	31,630 kg	284,043 kg	1,632,600 kg



Wildlife Harvesting as a Land Use: Major Source of Inuit Economic Activity

- Economic studies of indigenous harvesting assess the replacement cost of food, plus the values of other resources and activities (e.g., skins, eider down, ivory, sport hunts).
- From the 1998-2001 study, the QWB has estimated that the annual replacement cost of food alone was at least \$59 million annually.

Terrestrial Mammals	Marine Mammals	Birds & Eggs	Fish & Clams	Total
\$17,855,209	\$29,949,225	\$1,148,180	\$10,310,393	\$59,263,393



Wildlife Harvesting as a Land Use: Nutrition, Employment and Economy

- Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit has been the most valuable, adaptive and sustainable land use in Qikiqtaaluk Region for at least 3,500 years.
- Through the Nunavut Agreement, the QWB and the HTOs have been specifically mandated to manage Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit.
- The QWB requests that the Nunavut Planning Commission formally recognize Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit as the most sustainable form of economic development in Qikiqtaaluk Region.



QWB's and HTOs' Land Use Planning Workshops, 2017-2018

- The QWB and HTOs conducted land-use planning workshops in all 13 communities during 2017-18, financially supported by WWF, QIA, NWMB, HTOs and QWB.
- In 2018, the QWB and HTOs submitted 43 written submissions to the Nunavut Planning Commission.
- Some aspects of the submissions were included in the 2021 DNLUP, but important aspects are completely absent or inadequately reflected.



QWB's and HTOs' Advice Informed by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

- The complex responses of wildlife populations to disturbance are well known among Inuit through IQ, while science provides only limited insights.
- During the 2017-18 Workshops, HTO Boards were asked if and where temporary land use restrictions could protect the main wildlife areas of concern.
- All of HTOs independently responded that if a major new development occurred, it is highly unlikely that affected wildlife would return to any given seriously disturbed area in future.



Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit Needs Recognition in the Final Nunavut Land Use Plan

- Prohibitions requested in each submission were clear and carefully considered by the HTOs and the QWB.
- The QWB is deeply concerned that the nutritional, employment and economic values of Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit have not adequately guided decision-making leading to the 2021 DNLUP.
- The Final NLUP should fully recognize Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit as the most valued and actively sustainable land use that it is.



Guidance based on Long-term Sustainability of Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit

- Recognizing and valuing Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit is needed for the well-being of Qikiqtaaluk residents and communities.
- Inuit society and values will adapt and evolve in future, but it is unknown exactly how and when changes may or may not occur.
- The QWB recommends the NPC implements protections for Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit being advanced by the HTOs and the QWB, and to periodically revise the Plan every 10 years in line with Inuit values.

