

Written Submission No. 04

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Area of Interest –Walrus Calving and Post-calving

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and
the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) of Resolute Bay

Background Information:

Atlantic walrus are important to the nutritional, cultural and economic well-being and traditions of Inuit. They are also a vital component of the ecology of marine environments in Qikiqtaaluk Region.

Walrus are at risk to increasing industrial development in the Arctic because they are very sensitive to human disturbance. They are sensitive to noise, and the presence of humans and aerial, terrestrial and water vehicles and other equipment.

Walrus calving and post-calving areas are recognized as being important habitat where pregnant females and young walrus are very sensitive. Calves are born beginning in late May, and young walrus are dependent on their mothers for about two years after birth. Mature females may give birth only once every three years at most. Given their sensitivity and low reproductive rates, it is important that known calving and post-calving areas are given strong protection.

Walrus calving and post-calving areas have not been well documented. Those areas known to Inuit must be recognized and protected, if the Nunavut Land Use Plan is to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents as a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Protected Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Obnoxious Land Use;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure;
- Tourism; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- No vessel may approach within five (5) km seaward of a walrus calving and post-calving area at any time during the year.
- When walrus are present, fixed wing aircraft must maintain a minimum vertical setback of 460 m (1500 ft) above ground level (AGL) while within 310 m (1000 ft) of a group of walruses. Helicopters should remain at altitudes greater than 910 m (3000 ft) AGL when traveling within 1,610 m (1 mile) of a group of walruses.
- When walruses are present, walruses must not be approached by terrestrial vehicles closer than 800 m (0.5 mile) while the vehicle remains out of sight of the walruses.
- Any project in Nunavut that may violate these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Areas of Interest - Walrus Calving and Post-Calving:

Two areas along eastern Bathurst Island, as per the attached maps and associated shp files.

Date of this draft: November 21, 2018

