



AMENDED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Related to the Consideration of Establishing Non-Quota Limitations for Polar Bears in the NMR and EMR

This **Amended Notice of Public Hearing** is herein provided on December 11, 2024, to give notice that the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) and Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) are holding hearings on the issue of whether it is necessary to establish, modify or remove Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) for polar bears in the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR) and the Eeyou Marine Region (EMR) including the Cree/Nunavik Inuit Offshore Overlapping Areas of Interest.

Further, the NMRWB and EMRWB provide Notice herein that, following due consideration of the November 7, 2024 request from Makivik to extend the scope of the Phase 2 portion of these hearings, the Boards have decided to expand the scope of Phase 2 to include a reconsideration of the current Total Allowable Take (TAT) and NQLs in place for the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear management unit, as established by the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Environment for the Government of Nunavut in October 2016. This will include portions of the NMR as well as the Inuit Zone and Joint Zone of the NMR/EMR Cree/Inuit Overlap Area. [See Figure 1]

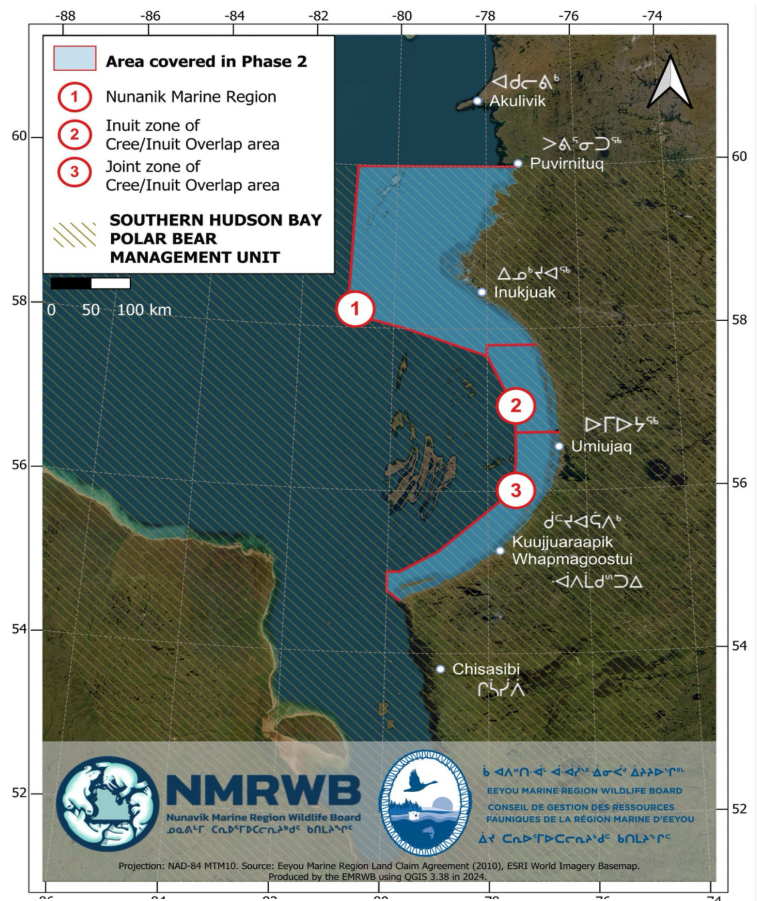


Figure 1: Area covered in Phase 2 of the Public Hearing

The hearings will be split into two phases to facilitate effective and meaningful participation.

Phase 1 In-person Hearing: NMRWB

Will be held by the NMRWB covering the areas of the NMR that do not include any areas of overlap with the Eeyou Marine Region, and that correspond with the areas of the NMR that correspond with the areas covered by the Foxe Basin and Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation areas.

Date: November 5 – 8, 2024

Location: Montreal, Quebec

Phase 2 In-person Hearing:

NMRWB/EMRWB Joint

Will be jointly held by the NMRWB and EMRWB and will cover the areas of the NMR, and the Cree/Inuit Overlap Areas known as the Joint Zone and Inuit Zone - specifically those areas that correspond to where there is a TAT and NQLs established by Government currently in place See Figure 1.

Date: February 4 – 7, 2025

Location: Kuujjuaraapik/Whapmagoostui, Quebec

NOTE: EMRWB intends to hold a hearing at a later date to consider the necessity for the establishment of TAT and NQL for the areas of the EMR where the EMRWB have exclusive jurisdiction (i.e. the Cree Zone and the rest of the EMR area south of the Cree Zone).

NOTE: *There will be an option to attend virtually through Zoom for both Phase 1 and 2.*

PARTIES WITH STATUS:

Phase 1

The following parties have Full Party status at the Phase 1 hearing:

- a) Makivvik Corporation
- b) The Regional Nunavimmi Umajulirijiit Katujiqatigininga (Anguvigaq)
- c) 12 Local Nunavimmi Umajulirijiit Katujiqatigininga (Anguvigait)
 - Kangiqsualujuaq
 - Kuujjuaq
 - Tasiujaq
 - Aupaluk
 - Kangirsuk
 - Quaqtaq
 - Kangiqsujuaq
 - Salluit
 - Ivujivik
 - Akulivik
 - Puvirnituaq
 - Inukjuak
- d) Any Nunavik Inuk
- e) The Government of Canada
- f) The Government of Nunavut
- g) The Nunatsiavut Government

Phase 2

The following parties will have Full Party status at the Phase 2 hearing:

- a) Makivvik Corporation
- b) The Regional Nunavimmi Umajulirijiit Katujiqatigininga (Anguvigaq)
- c) 6 Local Nunavimmi Umajulirijiit Katujiqatigininga (Anguvigait)
 - Akulivik
 - Puvirnituaq
 - Inukjuak
 - Umiujaq
 - Kuujjuaraapik
 - Chisasibi
- d) Any Nunavik Inuk
- e) Any Cree of Eeyou Istchee
- f) The Regional Cree Trappers' Association
- g) 2 local Cree Trappers' Associations:
 - Whapmagoostui
 - Chisasibi
- h) The Government of Canada
- i) The Government of Nunavut
- j) The Cree Nation Government

Application for Party Status:

Individuals or organizations not listed above, who have an interest and may be impacted by the decisions to be made by the NMRWB and/or the EMRWB may submit a Request for Party Status by completing and submitting the form attached to this notice titled "FORM 1: Application to Obtain Party Status". The deadline for applications for Phase 1 is no later than **5:00 PM EST on October 11, 2024**. **Applications for Phase 2 are to be submitted no later than 5:00 PM EST on January 10, 2025.**

Non-parties may submit information/evidence to the Boards for consideration following the same deadline as parties for the filing of responses to Information Requests.

INFORMATION REQUEST:

Phase 1

The NMRWB herein issues an **Information Request** to all parties to Phase 1 of the hearing. The NMRWB requests that any parties, including individuals and/or organizations seeking Party Status, **deliver to the NMRWB all relevant reports, studies or information that they have in their possession, that would assist the Board in this hearing.** The deadline for responding to this Information Request and for filing relevant information with the NMRWB is no later than **5:00 PM on October 25, 2024**

Phase 2

The NMRWB and the EMRWB herein issue an **Information Request** to all parties to Phase 2 of the hearing. The NMRWB and the EMRWB are requesting that any parties, including individuals and/or organizations who are seeking Party Status, **deliver to the NMRWB and the EMRWB all relevant reports, studies or information that they have in their possession, that would assist the Boards in this phase of the hearings.** The deadline for responding to this Information Request and for filing relevant information with the NMRWB and EMRWB is no later than **5:00 PM on January 24, 2025.**

Responses to this Information Request may be sent electronically to the following contacts:

Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

polarbearNQLhearing@nmrwb.ca

P.O. Box 433, Inukjuak (QC) J0M 1M0

Phone: (819) 254-8667

Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board

polarbearNQLhearing@nmrwb.ca

6, Chief Isaiah Salt Rd, P.O. Box 580 (QC)
J0M 1R0

Phone: (819) 895-2262

NOTE: Receipt of all submissions will be acknowledged.

HEARING SCOPE:

The objective of the hearings will be to gather information relevant to the EMRWB and NMRWB decision-making on the issue of polar bear NQLs. This will include information about harvest levels, polar bear population abundance and health trends, as well as local practices for effective polar bear harvest management in the NMR and the EMR.

For The Boards to make decisions that include the best available information from Nunavik Inuit and Cree Knowledge of wildlife and wildlife management, as well as knowledge gained through scientific research, the Boards are specifically requesting that the following information be provided in response to the Request For Information and at the hearings:

1. Harvest levels: Knowledge and information about polar bear harvest levels.
2. Polar bear knowledge: Cree, Inuit, or Scientific knowledge on the abundance, health, and environment of polar bears within the NMR and the EMR.
3. Management approaches and techniques: Knowledge and information about Nunavik Inuit and Eeyou Cree polar bear management approaches. This could include information about what types of measures are being used by harvesters in your communities now and historically to support the long-term presence of polar bear in the NMR and EMR.

With respect to the scope of Phase 2, the scope has been expanded to include the consideration of the Total Allowable Take (TAT), particularly as it applies to portions of the NMR, and the NMR/EMR overlap area, specifically the Inuit Zone and the Joint Zone portions of the Cree/Inuit Overlap Area (Figure 1), where a TAT and NQL established by the Governments are currently in effect. The Boards recognize that evaluating the necessity, impacts and effectiveness of the current TAT and NQL is essential for the proper and meaningful fulfilment of the mandates of the Board as outlined in the NILCA and the EMRLCA. As such, this Phase will include information about harvest levels, polar bear population abundance and health trends, the impact of current management measures on harvesting rights, harvesting techniques and practices, impacts on communities and culture, as well as local practices for effective polar bear harvest management in the NMR and the EMR.

HEARING RULES:

In addition to the **NMRWB Public Hearing Guidelines**, the NMRWB and the EMRWB have adopted the attached **NMR-EMR 2024-2025 Polar Bear NQL Hearing Rules** for this matter. The applicable rules are attached to this notice and available at [<https://www.emrwb.ca/polar-bear-public-hearing-2025/>].

HEARING RECORD

The Boards will post all information submitted and gathered for this hearing on the Board's website and will continue to add information as it becomes available. Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all relevant documents will be posted on the hearing registries on the NMRWB and EMRWB websites:

- Phase 1 (<https://nmrwb.ca/polar-bear-nqls-public-hearing-2024/>)
- Phase 2 (<https://www.emrwb.ca/polar-bear-public-hearing-2025/>)

These documents can also be obtained by contacting the NMRWB and EMRWB offices (see contact information above).

Additional Information: If you require further information concerning the hearing or filing of submissions, to obtain other relevant documents, or to learn about the NMRWB and EMRWB's hearing procedures please contact The Boards (see contact information above).