

# Introductory presentation - Phase 2 Polar Bear Public Hearing



**NMRWB**  
 Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board  
 ᓄᓐᓇᓂᑦ ᑕᓪᓂᓄᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᓂᓄᑦ ᑲᑲᑲᓂᓂᑦ



ᑲ ᓇᓂᑦᑕᑦ ᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦ ᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦ ᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦ  
 EEYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD  
 CONSEIL DE GESTION DES RESSOURCES  
 FAUNIQUES DE LA RÉGION MARINE D'EEYOU  
 ᓄᓄᑦ ᑕᓪᓂᓄᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᓂᓄᑦ ᑲᑲᑲᓂᓂᑦ

## This Presentation:

1. Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB)
2. Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB)
3. Cree/Inuit Overlapping Area
4. Public hearing overview
5. Context for this public hearing
6. Phase 2 – NMR/EMR Joint Hearing Feb. 04-06, 2025



# 1. NMRWB



**NMRWB**

Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board  
ᐅᐱᐱᓪᓂ ᑕᐅᑦᓂᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕ ᑲᑎᑎᐱᓪᓂᑦ

---

## WHAT IS THE NMRWB?

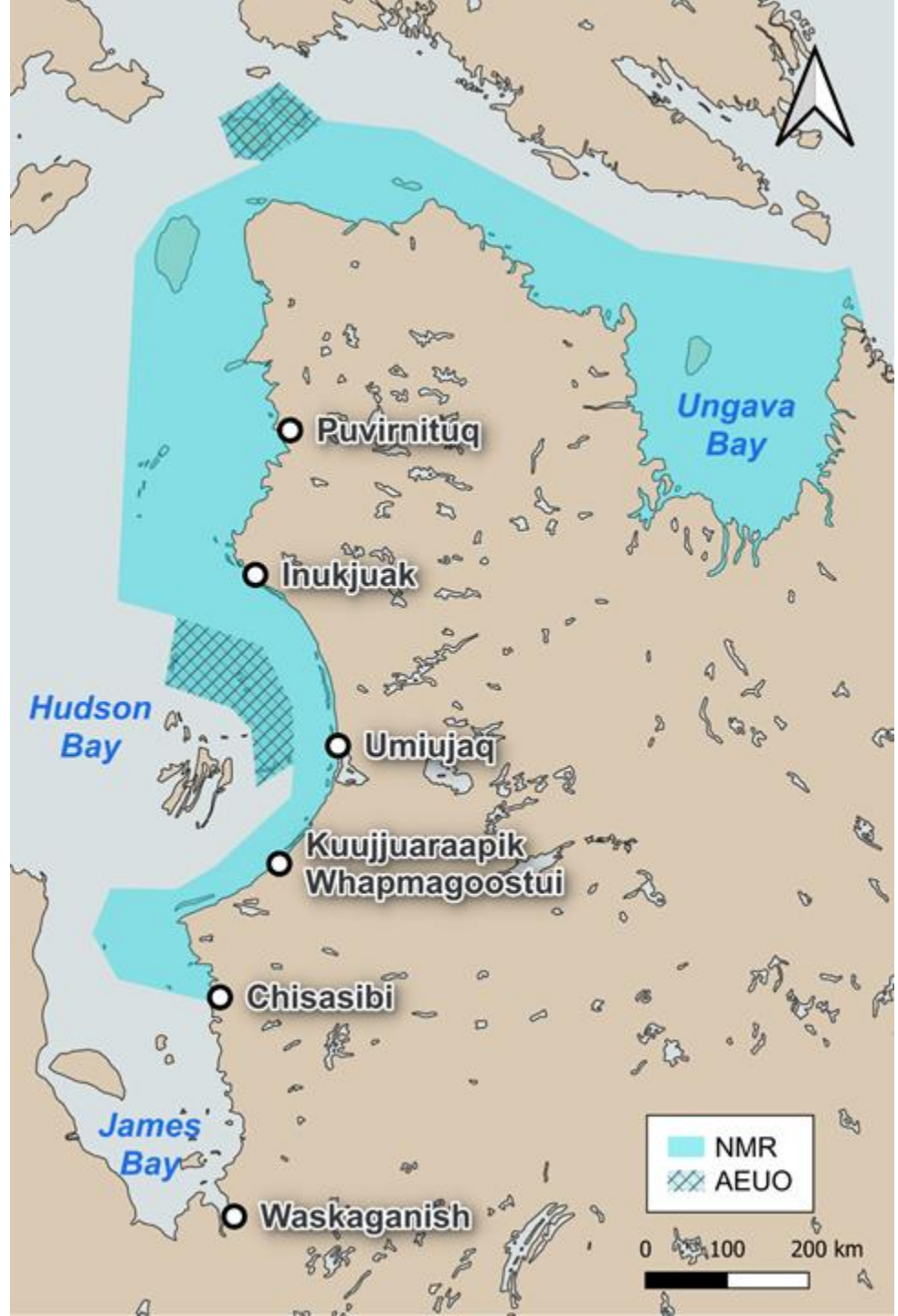
- Institution of Public Government
  - Responsible for Wildlife Management and regulator of access to wildlife in the NMR
    - 6 Board Members + Chair
      - Appointed by **Government** of Canada, **Nunavut** and **Makivvik**
    - Protecting Inuit harvesting rights and ensuring there is wildlife to harvest for generations to come
    - Make decisions based on the best available science and Inuit Knowledge





# NMRWB

Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board  
ᓄᓐᓗᓴᓯ ᑕᓕᓃᓯᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᓄᓃᑦ ᑲᑎᓴᓴᑦᑦᑦ







ᑲ ᑕᑲᑦᑊᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ  
EEOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD  
CONSEIL DE GESTION DES RESSOURCES FAUNIQUES DE LA RÉGION MARINE D'EEOU  
ᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑊᑦ



### 3. Rights and Interests in the Cree/Inuit Overlap Agreement Area



- The NILCA and EMRLCA both apply in this area
- Cree and Inuit both have harvesting rights in this area
- Cree and Inuit both have rights to participate in wildlife management decision making of the two Boards

### 3. Rights and Interests in the Cree/Inuit Overlap Agreement Area



- Inuit Zone: NMRWB + 1 CNG Appointee replacing a Makivvik appointee

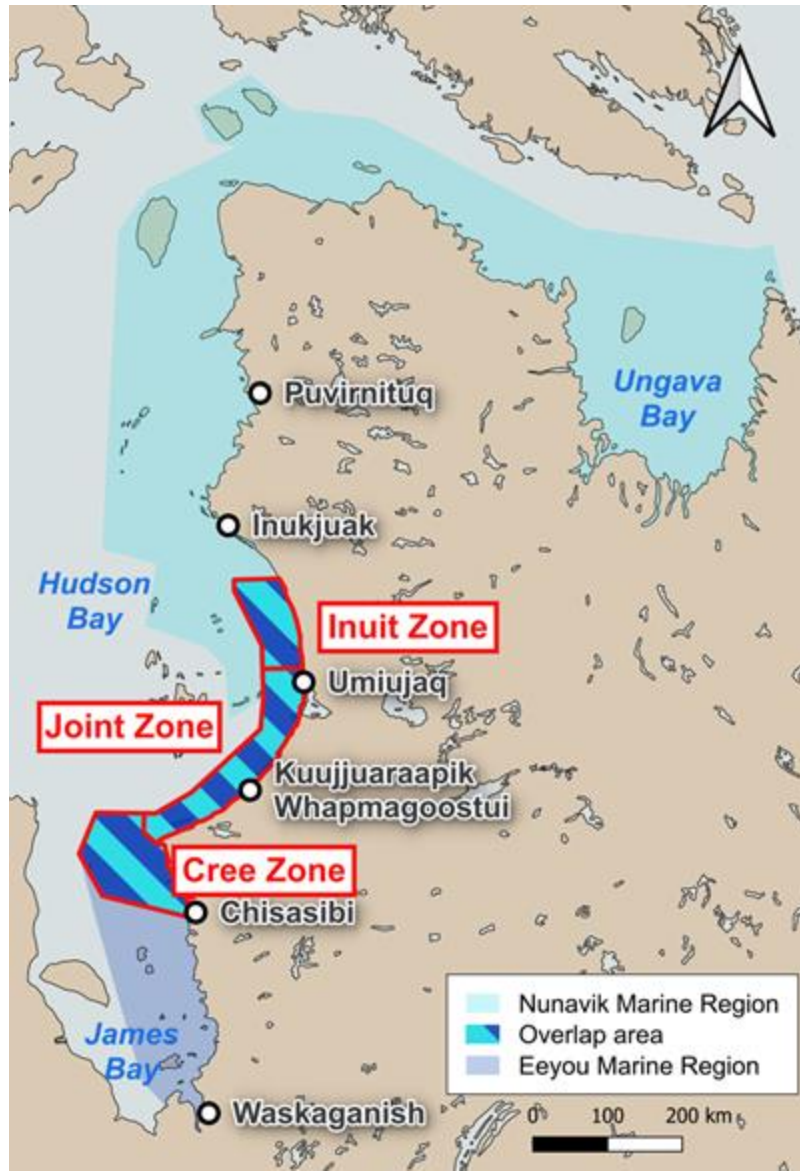


### 3. Rights and Interests in the Cree/Inuit Overlap Agreement Area



- Inuit Zone: NMRWB + 1 CNG Appointee replacing a Makivvik appointee
- Joint Zone: NMRWB and EMRWB Jointly and equally decide.

### 3. Rights and Interests in the Cree/Inuit Overlap Agreement Area



- Inuit Zone: NMRWB + 1 CNG Appointee replacing a Makivvik appointee
- Joint Zone: NMRWB and EMRWB Jointly and equally decide
- Cree Zone: EMRWB + 1 Makivvik appointee replacing a CNG appointee

## 4. Public hearing overview

---

- Different from a meeting
- Public hearings give chance for the Boards to
  - Gather relevant information on a specific issue
  - Hear from people and organisations that could be impacted by the Boards
- Not the place and time for the Boards to make decisions
- But VERY important for informing decisions



## 4. Public hearing overview

---

Why hold a public hearing?

- Chance for the Boards to hear from Parties/Participants
- Chance for Boards to Question Parties/Presenters
- Chance for Parties to Question each other
- Provides the Boards with Information in order to make Decisions



## 4. Public hearing overview

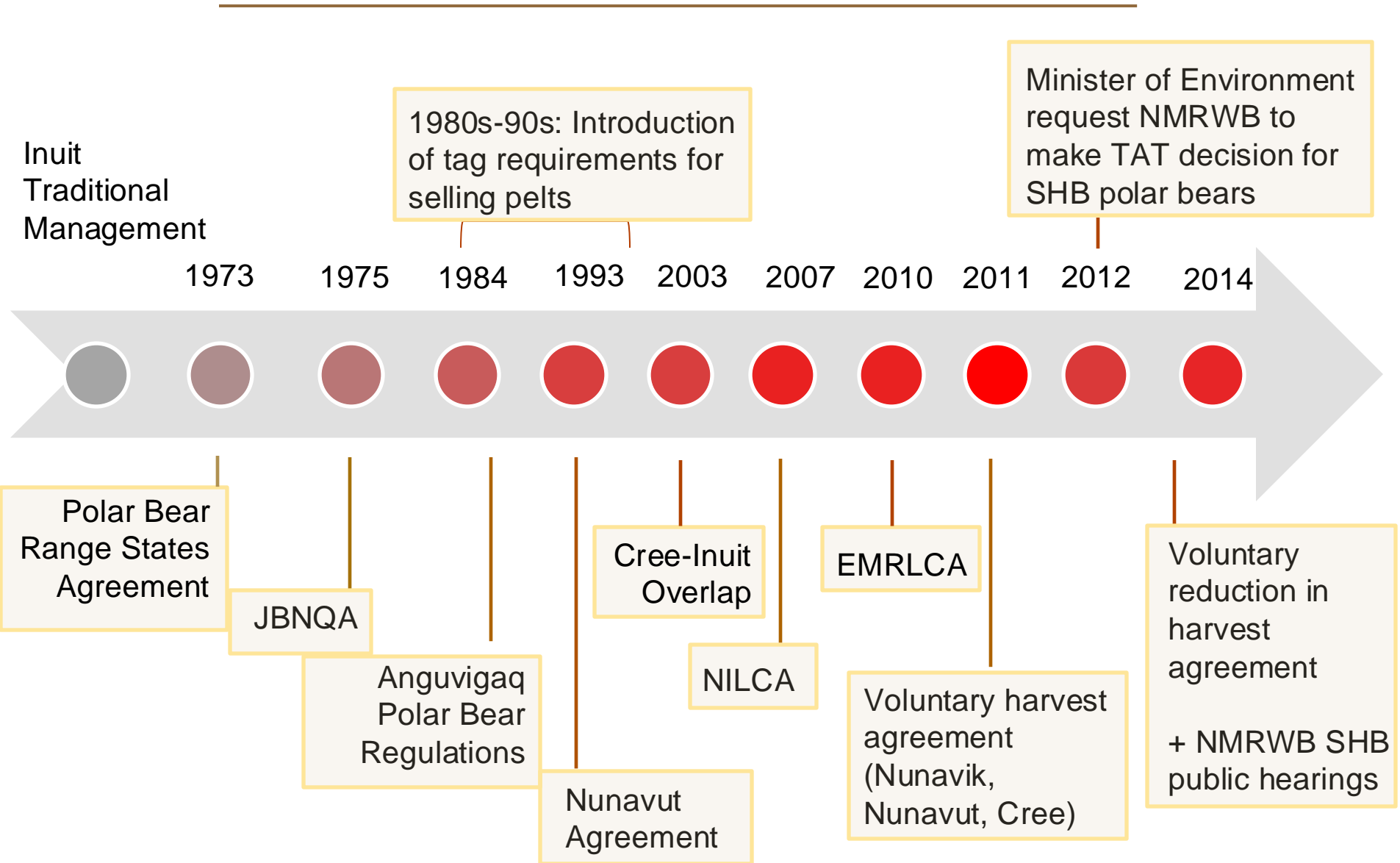
---

Who attend the hearing?

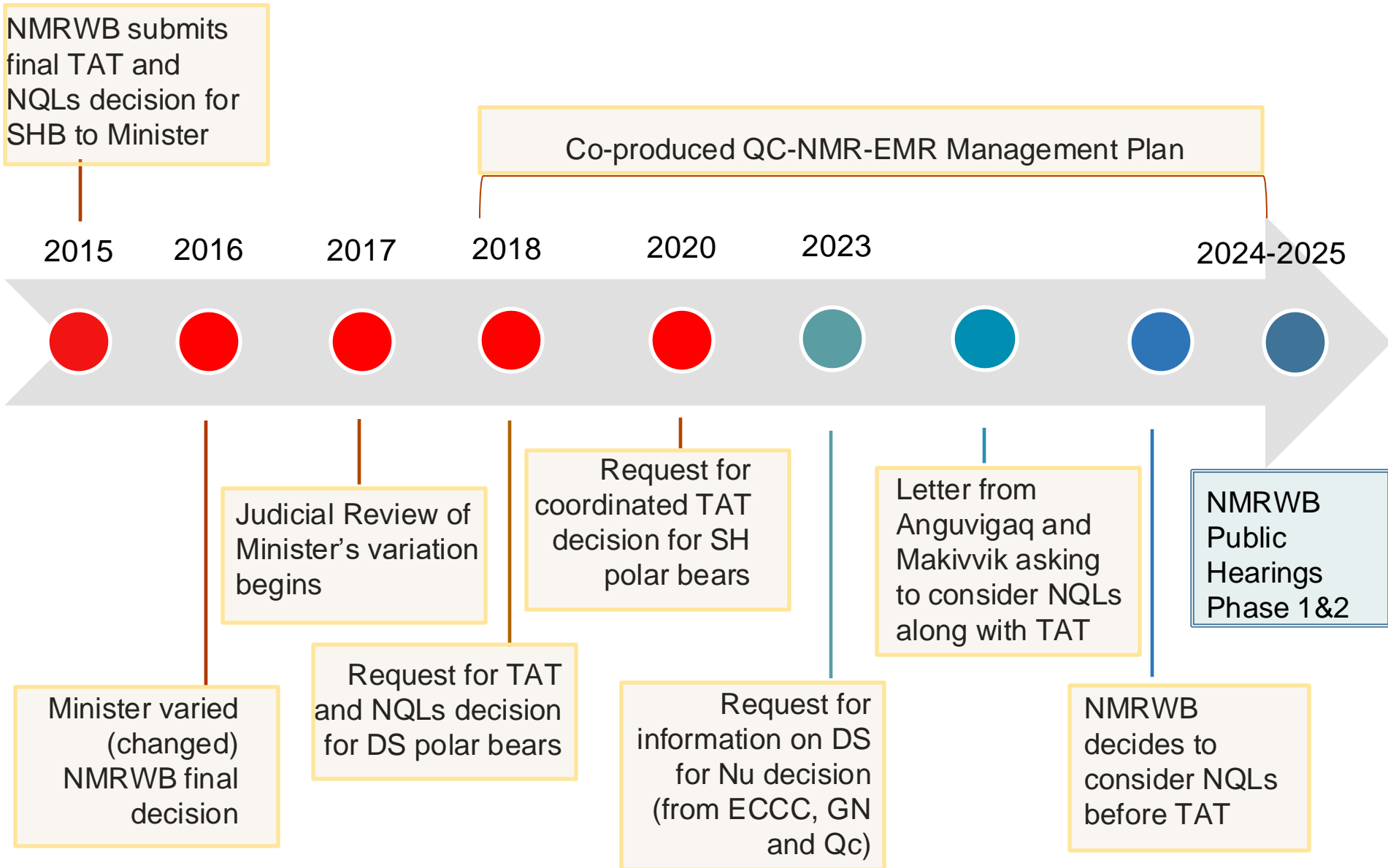
- It is public – anyone can attend
- Some organizations and people have “Party Status”
  - They have the right to present information, and question the information of other parties



# 5. Context for this public hearing



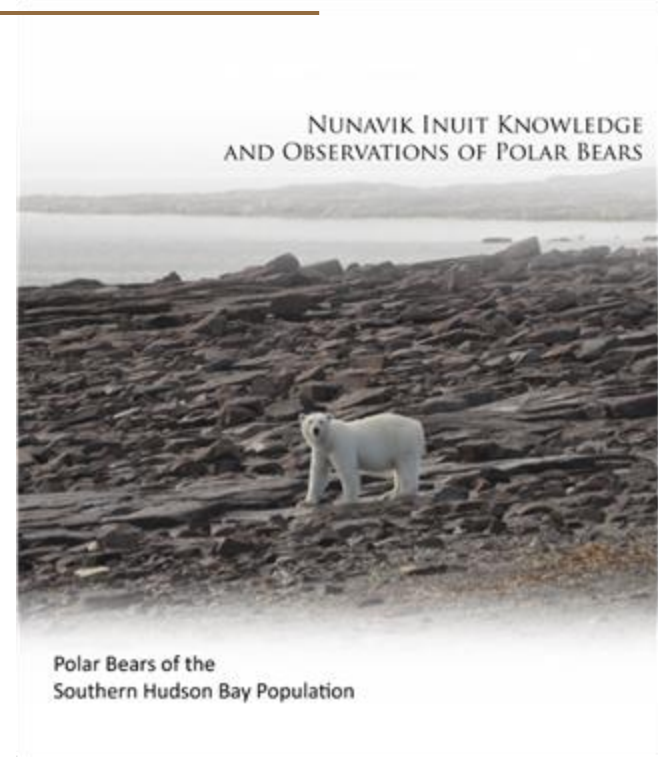
## 5. Context for this public hearing



## 5. Context for this public hearing

### SHB NQL and TAT Decisions (2014)

- February 2014 – Public hearing held in Inukjuak
- Hearing gathered evidence and submissions from all parties
- The NMRWB identified that there was Nunavik Inuit Knowledge that was missing from the hearing record and extended the process to gather that IK and other missing



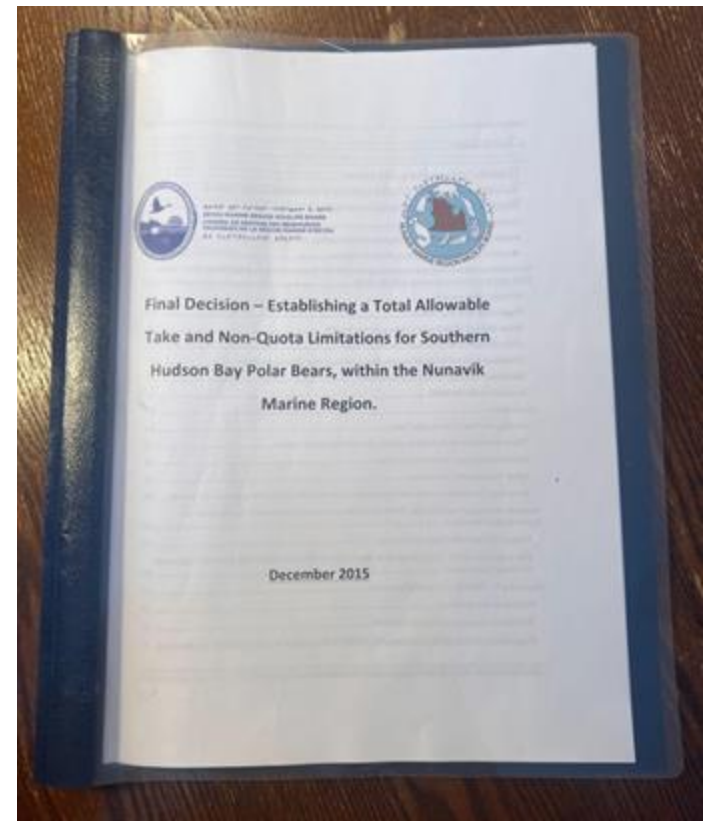


## 5. Context for this public hearing

---

### SHB NQL and TAT Decisions in the NMR (2015-2016)

- NMRWB and EMRWB sent initial decisions to the Ministers of Environment for Canada and Nunavut in July 2015
- Ministers wrote back to the Boards in September 2015 rejecting the initial decisions of the Boards
- The Boards made their final decision (nearly identical to their initial decision) in December 2015
  - TAT of 28 bears
  - No sex-ratio
- These decisions were varied by the Ministers in October 2016



## 5. Context for this public hearing

---

### Ministers' 2016 TAT Decision

Annual TAT of 23 where at least 1 polar bear will be allocated to the Cree for harvest in the Cree-Inuit overlap area

- All human caused mortality will be deducted from the TAT, including bears killed in defense of life and property (DLP) circumstances.
- If the TAT is exceeded, the TAT in the following year will be adjusted accordingly.
- If the harvest in a given year is below the TAT, an increase may be permitted in the following year.
- A maximum of 5 tags can be transferred to a following year and expire at the end of the next harvest season.



## 5. Context for this public hearing

---

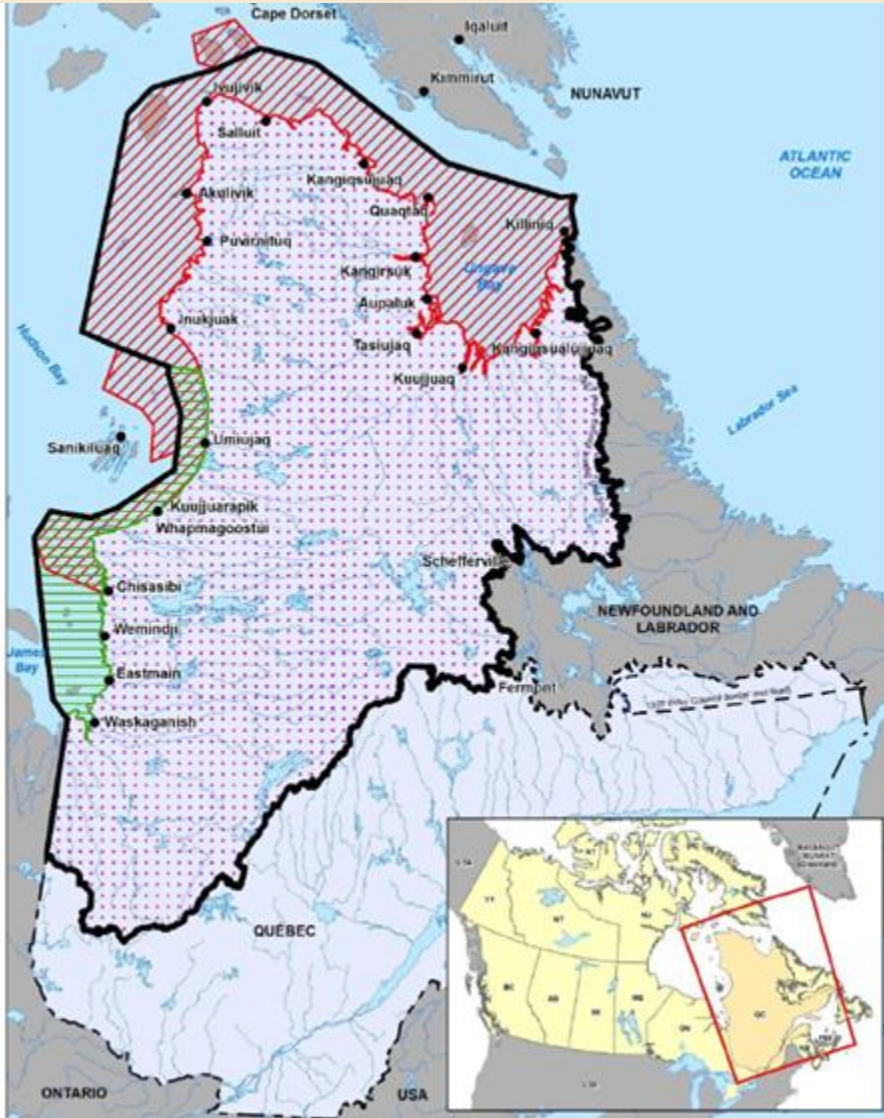
### Ministers' 2016 NQLs Decision

- TAT is based on an annual harvest with a sex ratio of 1 female per 2 males
- All harvesting reported
- Harvesting year round (administratively July 1 to June 30)
- Cubs, females with cubs or bears less than three years old shall not be killed, except for DLP
- Bear cannot be killed in dens, unless authorized
- Anguvigaq to allocate the TAT among Anguvigait
- Anguvigait to allocate TAT among members
- Anguvigaq and Anguvigait may impose additional non-quota limitations



# 5. Context for this public hearing

## Polar Bear Management Plan for Qc, the EMR and the NMR



- Collaborative approach to polar bear management in the NMR, the EMR, and the territories covered by the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement
- Community consultations held in 2017
- NMRWB and EMRWB approved in 2023



Comité conjoint de chasse,  
de pêche et de piégeage  
Hunting, Fishing and Trapping  
Coordinating Committee



Québec



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

## 5. Context for this public hearing

---

### Polar Bear Management Plan for Qc, the EMR and the NMR

The plan provides a framework for planning and decision making towards maintaining healthy bear populations:

- must be founded upon the best available traditional knowledge and scientific information
- must respect the wildlife management principles detailed in Land Claims Agreements
- must engage Nunavik Inuit and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee - fully consider their management approaches, concerns, priorities, and rights
- must be adaptive and able to respond to changing conditions
- protection of human lives and property is paramount

## 5. Context for this public hearing

---

### Polar Bear Management Plan for Qc, the EMR and the NMR

Objective 1: Establish a management system to ensure long-term persistence of polar bear in the NMR and the EMR

- Approach 1.4: provide necessary tools to achieve the objectives, which can include NQLs and TAT.
  - review the status of each subpopulation  
*e.g. abundance, harvest level*
  - identify management objectives
  - determine if the current system ensures sustainable harvest and respects Inuit/Cree harvesting rights
- Approach 1.3: revise the harvest registration process to achieve complete reporting of all human-caused mortality of polar bears.
  - Accurate harvest monitoring is essential

## 5. Context for this public hearing

---

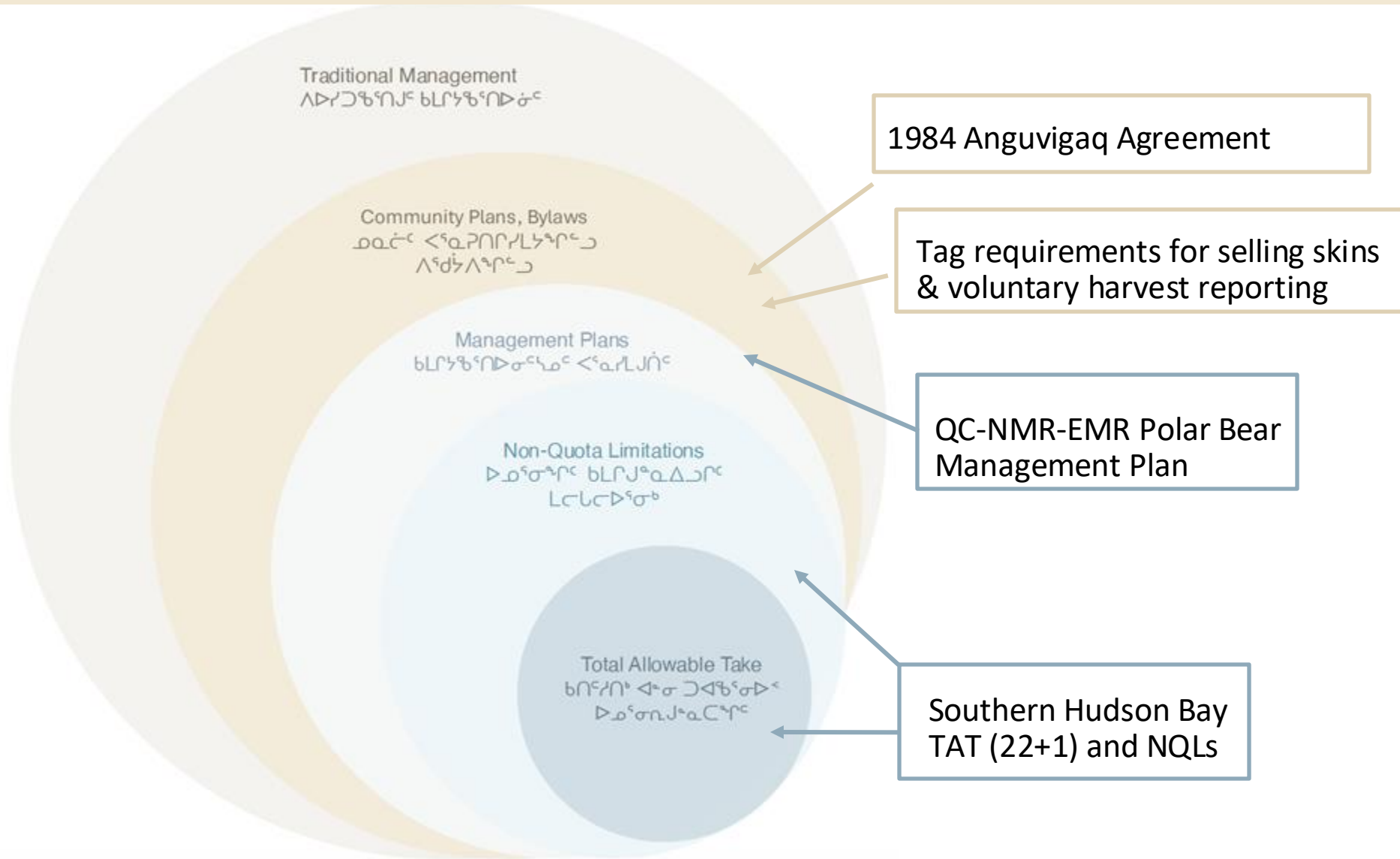
### Polar Bear Management Plan for Qc, the EMR and the NMR

Objective 2: Collect traditional knowledge and scientific information to inform management decisions

- Approach 2.1: Ensure coordination and collaboration towards monitoring the health and abundance of polar bears, at a frequency that allows robust decision-making.

# 5. Context for this public hearing

## Current Polar Bear Management measures





## 6. Phase 2 – NMR/EMR Joint Hearing Feb. 04-06, 2025

---

**SCOPE: To consider if there is a need for Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) for Polar Bears in the NMR and the EMR, including the Cree/Nunavik Inuit Overlapping Area;**

**And: to reconsider the current Total Allowable Take (TAT) and NQLs in place for the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear management unit, as established by ECCC and GN in 2016.**

**This is phase 2 of a larger process.**



# 6. Phase 2 – NMR/EMR Joint Hearing Feb. 04-06, 2025

**SCOPE of phase 2:**  
NMR and EMR, (Cree-Inuit  
Overlap area).

Southern Hudson Bay  
subpopulation

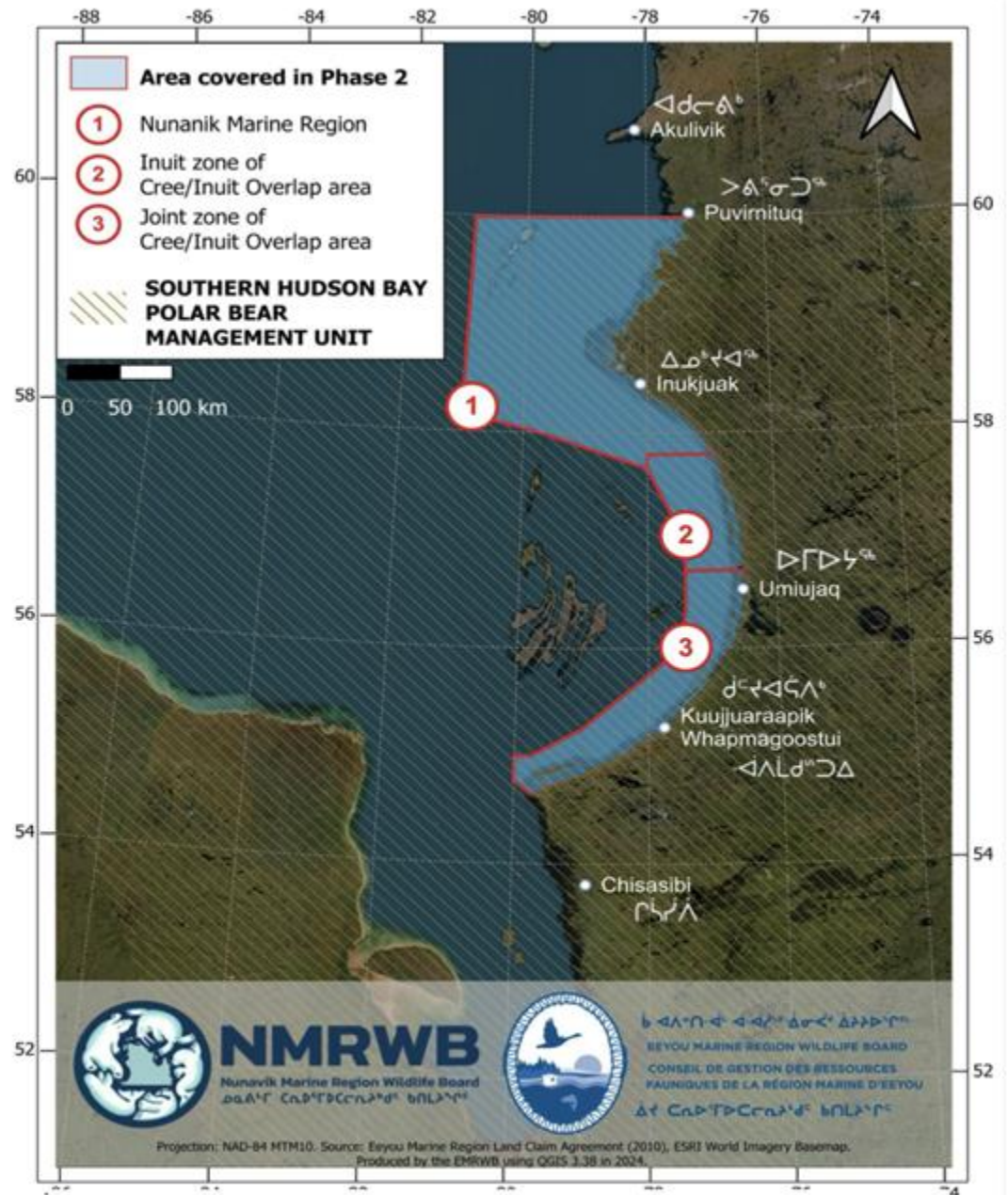
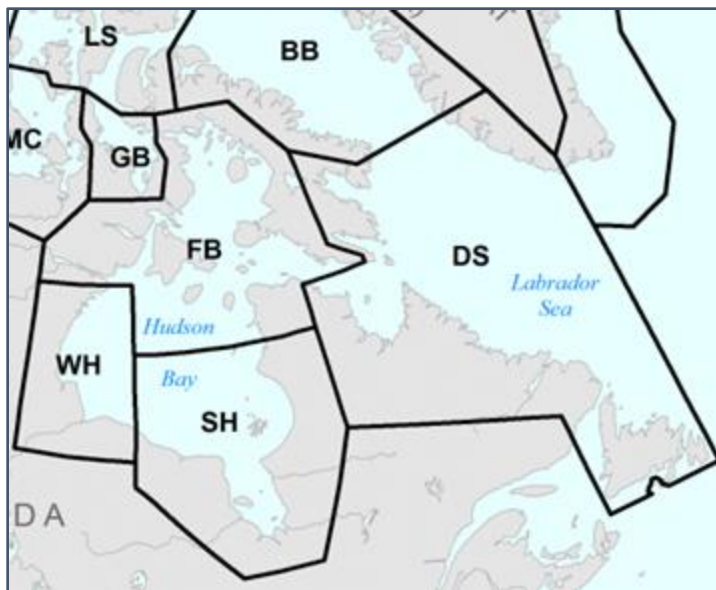


Figure 1: Area covered in Phase 2 of the Public Hearing

## 6. Phase 2 – NMR/EMR Joint Hearing Feb. 04-06, 2025

---

The objective is to gather information on:

- Harvest levels
- Cree, Inuit or scientific knowledge on polar bear health, abundance, habitat, etc.
- Management approaches and practices
- Better understand issues of responsibility for implementation



## 6. Phase 2 – NMR/EMR Joint Hearing Feb. 04-06, 2025

---

### What does Non-Quota Limitations mean?

Non-quota limitations (Article 5.11 of NILCA and Article 13.8 of EMRLCA):

- A limitation on harvesting or hunting that is not a quota.
- Can be a limitation on sex, size or age of the animal, or season of harvest, or location.
- Can be a limitation on the method of harvest.
- is NOT a quota.



## 6. Phase 2 – NMR/EMR Joint Hearing Feb. 04-06, 2025

---

### Next steps:

- Information gathered this week, and from Phase 1, will be reviewed and analysed by the Board(s).
- The Boards will deliberate internally to make their initial decisions.
- Initial decisions will remain confidential until final.

**Now, is the time for people to speak,  
and for the Boards to hear.**



**NMRWB**  
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board  
ᓄᓐᓇᓴᓂ ᑕᓪᓴᓄᓂᑕᑦᑕᓪᓴᓂᓄᓂᑦ ᑲᑎᓴᓴᓂᑦ

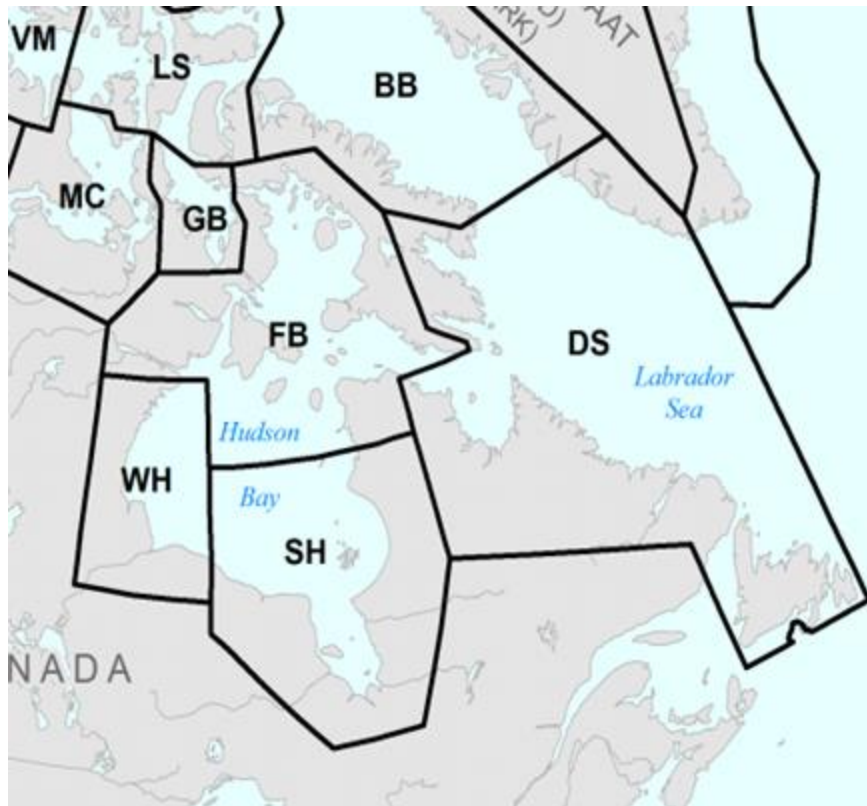


ᑲ ᓴᓴᓂᑦ ᓴᓴᓄᓂᑕᑦᑕᓪᓴᓂᓄᓂᑦ ᑲᑎᓴᓴᓂᑦ  
EEOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD  
CONSEIL DE GESTION DES RESSOURCES  
FAUNIQUES DE LA RÉGION MARINE D'EEOU  
ᓴᓴᓂᑦ ᑕᓪᓴᓄᓂᑕᑦᑕᓪᓴᓂᓄᓂᑦ ᑲᑎᓴᓴᓂᑦ

Back up slides for more  
information...

# Map of polar bear subpopulations

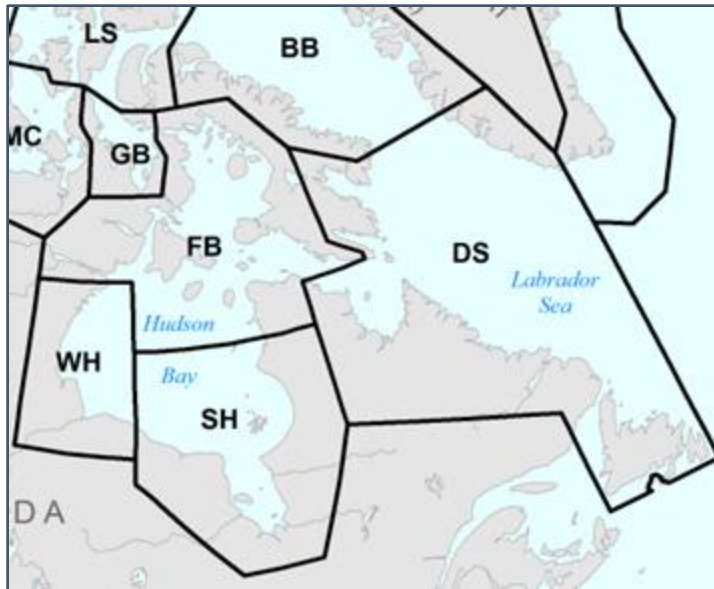
---



## Previously - phase 1

PHASE 1: NMR only  
Inukjuak to Killiniq

Foxe Basin and Davis  
Strait subpopulations






## 5. Context for this hearing



Polar Bear workshop, March 2024.

**Time for people to speak and ask questions,  
and for the Board to hear.**





Traditional Management  
ᐱᐅᓯᐅᑦᑎᓯᑦ ᑲᐅᓯᑦᑎᐅᑦ

Inuit Traditional practices  
ᐃᓄᐅᐅᑦᑎᑦ ᐱᐅᓯᐅᑦᑎᑦ  
ᐅᑎᑎᓯᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ



Traditional Management  
ለምድብናገደብ ገደብ

Inuit Traditional practices  
ልግረራ ለምድብናገደብ  
ገደብ

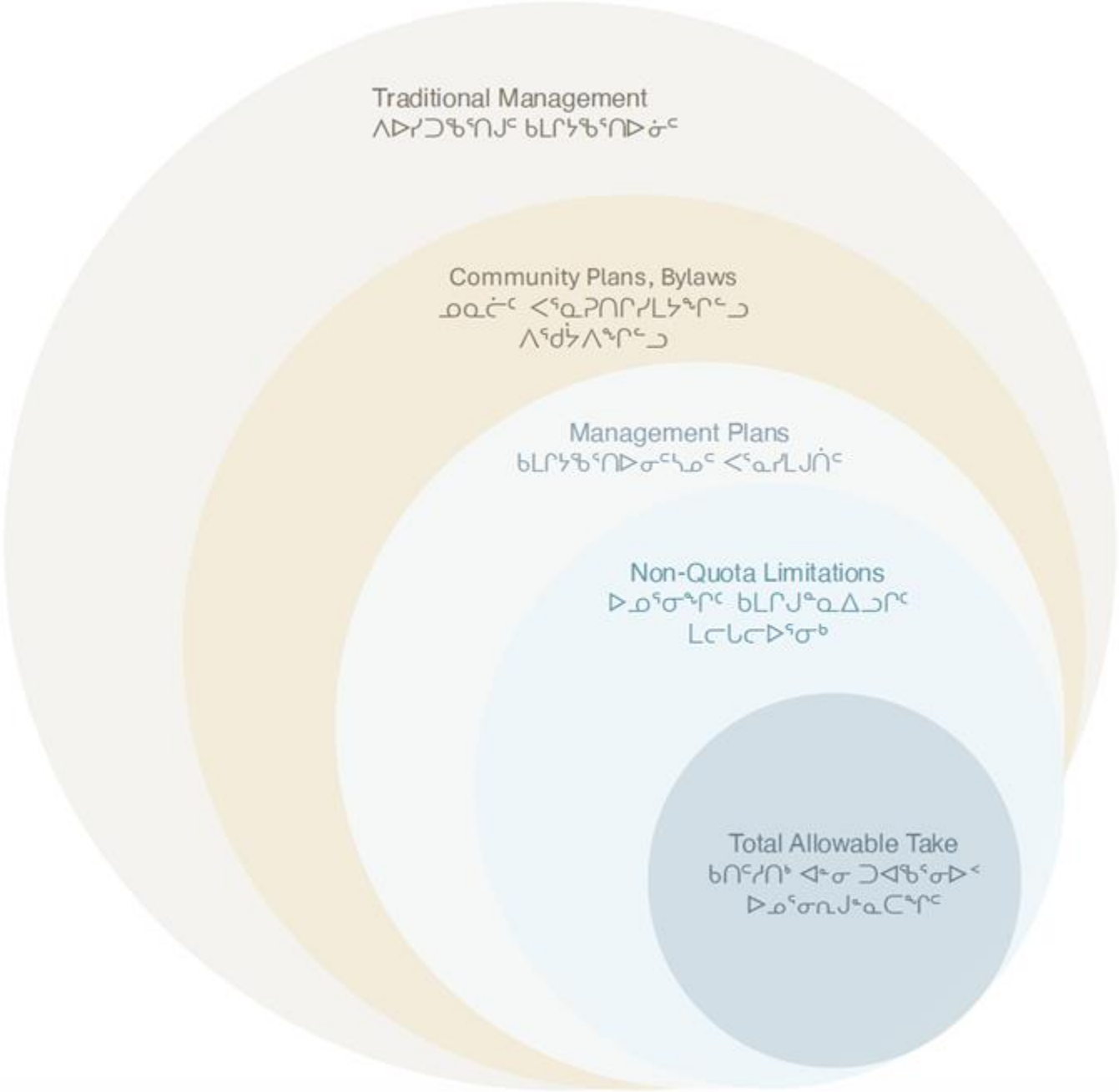
Community Plans, Bylaws  
ምድብና ገደብ ለምድብናገደብ  
ገደብ

Anguvigaq, any of the  
Anguvigait  
ገደብ ለምድብናገደብ  
ገደብ

Management Plans  
ምድብናገደብ ለምድብናገደብ  
ገደብ

Approval: NMRWB;  
Production: Co-management  
partners  
ገደብ ለምድብናገደብ  
ምድብናገደብ ለምድብናገደብ  
ምድብናገደብ ለምድብናገደብ  
ምድብናገደብ ለምድብናገደብ





Traditional Management  
ᐱᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Inuit Traditional practices  
ᐱᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐱᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Community Plans, Bylaws  
ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐱᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Anguvigaq, any of the Anguvigait  
ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ, ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Management Plans  
ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Approval: NMRWB;  
Production: Co-management partners  
ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ: ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑕᕐᑕᑭᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ;  
ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ: ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Non-Quota Limitations  
ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Total Allowable Take  
ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

Decision: NMRWB;  
Input: Co-management partners  
ᑕᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ: ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑕᕐᑕᑭᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ;  
ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ: ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ ᐅᑭᕐᑕᕐᑕ

## This Presentation:

1. NMRWB
2. EMRWB
3. Public Hearing Information
4. Phase 2 – NMR/EMR Joint Hearing Feb. 04-06, 2025
5. Context for this public hearing
  - **2015 SHB NQL and TAT Decision**

