

Report of Activities for the NAMMCO Scientific Committee

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated represents Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area and Inuit enrolled under the Nunavut Agreement. The Nunavut Lands Claims Agreement (NLCA) was signed in 1993 by the Inuit of Nunavut and the Government of Canada and is protected by the Canadian Constitution.

NTI's mission is to foster Inuit economic, social and cultural well-being through the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. NTI implements Inuit obligations in the NLCA, and ensures that other parties to the NLCA meet their obligations. In terms of wildlife and wildlife habitat management, NTI remains the default designated Inuit Organization for responsibilities under the Nunavut Agreement. NTI advocates for the recognition and protection of Inuit hunting rights and the Nunavut Agreement entitles Inuit to participate in all aspects of wildlife management, including research.

Some current research initiatives are: The Inuit Marine Monitoring Program (IMMP) is an Inuit-led project coordinated by NTI to understand changes in shipping activities in Nunavut. The program combines Inuit Knowledge of the marine environment with vessel tracking technology and underwater acoustics to provide communities with information on changing marine use. It has been deployed in a number of Nunavut communities.

In 2017, NTI partnered with the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for a pilot project to test for *Trichinella* in Atlantic Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*). The main goal of the Pilot was to develop the capacity to test for *Trichinella*. Currently, planning is underway to establish a permanent testing program for Nunavut. At present, there is a two year commitment to continue testing at the Iqaluit-based laboratory.

NTI also participates at the Joint Meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee Working Group on the Population Status of Narwhal and Beluga in the North Atlantic and the Canada/Greenland Joint Commission on Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga Scientific Working Group. In 2017, it attended the meeting of the Joint WG on 8-11 March 2017 as well as the Global Review of Monodontids on 13-16 March 2017, and the NAMMCO Walrus Working Group Meeting on 23-25 October 2018.