

## **Estimates of Minimum Population Size for Walrus around Southeast Baffin Island**

Robert E. A. Stewart<sup>1</sup>, Erik W. Born<sup>2</sup>, Rune Dietz<sup>3</sup> and Anna K. Ryan<sup>1</sup>

*1. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Freshwater Institute, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2T 2N6, Canada*

*2. Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 370, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland*

*3. National Environmental Research Institute and Aarhus University, P.O. Box 338, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark*

### **Abstract**

To support management objectives in Canada and Greenland, DFO-GNIR joint research was begun in 2005. Direct counts were used to determine the minimum number alive in summer on the SE coast of Baffin Island. Aerial surveys spanned the coast from roughly the Saddleback Island in northern Hudson Strait to Isabella Bay on eastern Baffin Island but concentrated on the area between Loks Land and Cape Dyer. The maximum count was obtained on 3-4 September 2007 during boat surveys. This count of 1056 may be adjusted for animals at sea by using tag data from other areas. The resulting estimate of ~4400 however must be viewed with caution until better data are available for this area.

### **Introduction**

Atlantic walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus*) occur in Canada in several stocks, some of which may be shared with Greenland. The Hudson Bay – Davis