

# Nunavut Wildlife Research Support Letter

Community: Kinngait

HTO/HTA: Aiviq HTO

**Proposed Research Project: Aerial abundance estimate, biopsy sampling of polar bears, and hair snare stations in Foxe Basin, August 2024**

## **Background:**

Polar bears are vitally important to Inuit culture, subsistence, and economic growth. To ensure that Nunavut polar bear populations are managed sustainably, regular population inventories are conducted. The last population inventory of Foxe Basin polar bears was conducted in 2010. Having current and up to date information is important for all co-management partners and can help inform management decisions. Additionally, updating the population estimate is important to ensure that international support for the export of trophies and hides is maintained. Foxe Basin is the largest population that is harvested in Nunavut, providing cultural and economic benefits to the communities. This proposed project will occur in the summer/fall of 2024 and will involve both Government of Nunavut employees and local observers.

## **Objectives:**

1. Determine abundance of polar bears in Foxe Basin by means of aerial abundance surveys.
2. Determine movement between neighbouring subpopulations by analyzing harvest data, collecting genetic material with the use of minimally-invasive biopsy darting, and collecting genetic material using community-led hair snare stations.

## **Do you support this project?**

- Do you support the **aerial abundance survey** project?

☒ **YES**, we support this project ☐ **NO**, we do not support this project

- Do you support the **biopsy darting** project?

☒ **YES**, we support this project ☐ **NO**, we do not support this project

- Do you support the **community-led hair snare** project?

☒ **YES**, we support this project ☐ **NO**, we do not support this project

## **Comments or Recommendations:**

Recommendation: When collecting biopsy. It would be a good idea to have experienced hunters to lead the project. Polar Bears are extremely dangerous. Hunters will keep project

Signature

Position Acting Chair

TAQIALUK NUNA

Date

Safe.  
May 21, 2024