



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Nunaligninikmik amma Nunamiutanik
Ujaganik Imaniklu

Lands and Natural Resources

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May 9, 2011

Via email aschneidmiller@nwmb.com
Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Akavak,

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) Public Hearing on the Davis Strait Polar Bear Subpopulation.

It is with regret that the Nunatsiavut Government were notified on Friday, May, 6, 2011 that our Government would not be permitted representation at the Davis Straits Polar Bear hearings that are taking place in Iqaluit on May 16-17, 2011.

In regard to management of Davis Straits Polar Bear population in Newfoundland and Labrador, we are equal stakeholders with Newfoundland and Labrador Government and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board (TWPCB) however, for reasons that remain unclear, we have been overlooked in your hearing process.

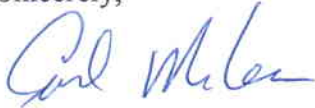
The Nunatsiavut Government is the recipient and manager of all polar bear licences in Newfoundland and Labrador (Province). Once the Province has determined the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) the Nunatsiavut Government is tasked with managing the harvest of this allocation. For this reason we believe that it is essential that the Nunatsiavut Government have representation at these hearings to allow us to convey our recommendations regarding the polar bear population and harvest which are very significant to Nunatsiavut.

Under the Labrador Inuit Land Claim Agreement (LILCA), Inuit have the exclusive right to harvest, throughout the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA), the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of polar bears established by the Province or in or for Newfoundland and Labrador. (LILCA 12.3.6).

Under LILCA, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board, which consists of 3 Provincial appointees, 3 Nunatsiavut Government appointees (non-government) and 1 federal appointee, has the power and responsibility to ... establish, when necessary, TAHs for Non-Migratory Species of Wildlife (LILCA, 12.9.1). This is subject to the decision being presented to the Provincial Minister of Environment and Conservation where the decision can be disallowed or varied by the Minister (LILCA, 12.9.4).

For these reasons, the Nunatsiavut Government is requesting standing by our representatives at these hearings. We look forward to a timely and positive response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl McLean', is written over the typed name.

Carl McLean
Deputy Minister

cc. Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board
via email jamie.snook@torngatsecretariat.ca

John Blake, Director of Wildlife, Department of Environment & Conservation,
Gov't of NL, via email johnblake@gov.nl.ca