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Nunavummi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijikut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

10, 2020

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

December 10, 2020

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
Government of Canada

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

RE: NWMB Decision on the Proposed Final Draft Management Plan for the Ningninganiq National Wildlife Area

NWMB Decision

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM 004-2020) on December 2, 2020, the Ningninganiq Area Co-management Committee requested that the NWMB approve the final draft of the *Ningninganiq National Wildlife Area Management Plan* (Management Plan). The Ningninganiq Area Co-management Committee submitted the Management Plan on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada. The goals of the Management Plan are to (1) protect bowhead whales and other wildlife using marine and terrestrial habitat that they depend on within the Ningninganiq National Wildlife Area from harm by human activities; (2) conserve and protect the cultural and historical elements of Ningninganiq National Wildlife Area, especially with regard to traditional and commercial whaling; and (3) increase public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural and cultural resources of the area, particularly bowhead whales and other wildlife.

The Ningninganiq National Wildlife Area protects important habitat for bowhead whales, over 40 bird species, and many other terrestrial and marine mammals. Up to 11 species that have been listed as species at risk under the federal *Species at Risk Act* or assessed as at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, occur within Ningninganiq. The Management Plan will allow the Ningninganiq Area Co-Management Committee to share their vision for Ningninganiq, guide decision-making for the protected area, continue to facilitate ecological and cultural research, and decide which activities are permitted within the sanctuaries.

The NWMB considered the request for approval at its In-Camera Meeting (IC 004-2020) on December 3, 2020, and made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(c) of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB approve the Ningninganiq National Wildlife Area Management Plan.



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Nunavummi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijikut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Reasons for the NWMB's Decision

After carefully reviewing the best available science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the Board determined that the Management Plan will help to facilitate local involvement in the management of the national wildlife area and the protection of its wildlife and wildlife habitats.

In reaching this determination, the Board took into consideration that:

- The Management Plan was developed jointly by Inuit from Clyde River—represented by members of the Ningninganiq Area Co-management Committee—and the Canadian Wildlife Service.
 - The Area Co-management Committee prioritized Inuit involvement and inclusion of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the development of the Management Plan.
 - The Management Plan does not impose any regulations on Inuit harvesting or traditional activities within the national wildlife area.
 - The Ningninganiq Area Co-management Committee held in-person consultations in Clyde River. The committee also sought comments on the Management Plan from Nunavut organizations, federal organizations, and academia, and received feedback from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Government of Nunavut—Department of Culture and Heritage, McGill University-Department of Geography, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Reasons for the NWMB's Decision

The NWMB is forwarding its decision to you for your consideration pursuant to the terms of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Please contact the NWMB if you or your officials have any questions concerning the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Danica Hogan, Vice-chair, Ningninganiq Area Co-Management Committee.

Ministre de l'Environnement et
du Changement climatique



Minister of Environment
and Climate Change

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

JAN 27 2021

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, 2020, concerning the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on the proposed final draft management plan for the Ningninganiq National Wildlife Area.

I am pleased to accept the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on this matter pursuant to Section 5.3.20 of the Nunavut Agreement, and I will move forward with the implementation of this decision.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Ningninganiq Area Co-Management Committee for all its efforts to complete the management plan. This is another great milestone as Environment and Climate Change Canada continues to work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to collaboratively implement the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Jonathan Wilkinson.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Ms. Danica Hogan, Vice-chair, Ningninganiq Area Co-Management Committee



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