



MAR 26 2015

Mr. Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Kovic:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 26, 2015, conveying resolutions and decisions of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or “Board”) concerning the implementation of regional total allowable harvest levels for bowhead whales.

It is commendable that the NWMB has resolved to replace its two previous decisions (March 11, 2009 and July 20, 2014) concerning the levels of total allowable harvest for bowhead whales, thereby enabling consistency between the previous decisions and the current decision. I appreciate the Board’s diligence in this matter, and I agree with the replacement text that the NWMB has adopted for these decisions, namely:

“RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5.3.3(a), 5.6.16 and 5.6.17(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB establish – effective as of summer 2009 - an annual level of regional total allowable harvest (TAH) of one bowhead whale for the Qikiqtaaluk Region, an annual level of regional TAH of one bowhead whale for the Kivalliq Region, and an annual level of regional TAH of one bowhead whale for the Kitikmeot Region.”

and

“RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5.3.3(a), 5.6.16 and 5.6.17(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB modify – effective as of summer 2014 - the annual level of regional total allowable harvest (TAH) of one (1) bowhead whale for the Qikiqtaaluk Region to an annual level of regional TAH of two (2) bowhead whales for the Qikiqtaaluk Region.”

My correspondence of January 16, 2015 regarding the implementation of regional TAH levels summarized my Department’s three expectations regarding the NWMB’s implementation of regional TAH.

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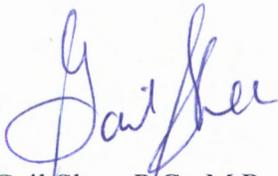
There has been no subsequent correspondence to suggest that the NWMB (or other organizations or Departments) and my Department disagree on the matter. Therefore, I am pleased to accept the NWMB's decision:

"Pursuant to Sections 5.6.16 and 5.6.17(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB modify the annual level of regional total allowable harvest of bowhead whales in the Kivalliq Region from one (1) whales to two (2) whales."

An updated abundance estimate for the Eastern Canada-West Greenland bowhead whale population is currently undergoing scientific peer review and approval. This information will be presented to the Board in the near future and allow the Board to reassess the Department's sustainable harvest advice against the current harvest level in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

I look forward to our continued collaboration in the sustainable co-management of the East Canada-West Greenland bowhead whale population.

Yours sincerely,



Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.