

TOP DEL PLYCUPSED PULPAPE Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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ΔΕΚΕΛΑΘΙΚΟ ΔΕΕΕΡΡΩΝΟΙ

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Box 1379

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LY 28, 2017

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< tsataa@nwmb.com >

ϽĠ^ና₀Ͻ^{ና₀} Γ^៶C. ∠▷⁽ζ[·]:

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C⁶, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
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January 27th 2017

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decision concerning approval of the Narwhal Flexible Quota System and Tag Transfer Policy Phase II

1. NWMB DECISION

In response to a *Proposal for Decision* (Proposal) submitted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) at its June 2016 quarterly meeting, the NWMB held a written public hearing to consider approval of the Narwhal Flexible Quota System and Tag Transfer Policy Phase II of the *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area*¹.

At its In-Camera Meeting (IC005-2016) on September 14th 2016, the NWMB carefully considered the Proposal and written hearing submissions, and made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5.6.16 and 5.2.34(d)(i) of the <u>Nunavut Land Claims Agreement</u>, the NWMB approve full implementation of the <u>Narwhal Flexible Quota System</u> and <u>Tag Transfer Policy Phase II</u> of the <u>Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area</u>.

2. REASONS FOR THE NWMB DECISION

The NWMB's decision is based on the most reliable and persuasive evidence and arguments received during the written public hearing process. All of the written submissions filed with and considered by the Board are publicly available for download

(888) 421-9832

¹ The Proposal also included a request to modify the total allowable harvests for the four narwhal stocks in the Baffin Bay population and two stocks in Jones and Smith Sounds, however the NWMB has chosen to address this portion of the Proposal separately.

from the NWMB's website (<u>www.nwmb.com</u>). In carrying out its deliberations, the NWMB carefully considered written submissions provided by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board².

Neither Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated nor the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board raised any concerns with the Narwhal Flexible Quota System or Tag Transfer Policy Phase II and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board expressed support for both systems as they provide each narwhal harvesting community with an opportunity to maximize their harvest. The NWMB also considered the written support provided by all three Nunavut Regional Wildlife Organizations for interim implementation of the Narwhal Flexible Quota System during the 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 harvesting seasons. In addition, the NWMB noted that new scientific information produced by Fisheries and Oceans Canada indicates that neither the Flexible Quota System nor Tag Transfer Policy Phase II pose a conservation concern for narwhal stocks as long as the total hunting mortality over a five-year period does not exceed five times the annual Potential Biological Removal. For these reasons, the NWMB decided to approve the full implementation of the Narwhal Flexible Quota System and Tag Transfer Policy Phase II of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

3. CONCLUSION

Mr. Minister, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision to you, for your consideration pursuant to the terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. If you or your officials have any questions with respect to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB at your convenience.

Sincerely

Daniel Shewchuk A/Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

² Both submissions included positions, arguments and evidence regarding Fisheries and Oceans Canada's proposed total allowable harvest modifications, which the NWMB has chosen to address separately. Therefore, only the positions concerning the Narwhal Flexible Quota System and Tag Transfer Policy Phase II were included in the NWMB's considerations.

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

MAR 2 8 2017

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk A/Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board c/o Ms. Taqialuq Sataa < tsataa@nwmb.com >

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 27, 2017 regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB, or Board) decision concerning implementation of the Flexible Quota System and Tag Transfer Policy Phase II components of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

I commend the Board's diligence in conducting a written public hearing, and its careful review of the thoughtful submissions provided by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.

Pursuant to Section 5.3.18(a) of the *Nunavut Agreement*, this letter confirms my acceptance of the Board's decision

"... to approve full implementation of the Narwhal Flexible Quota System and Tag Transfer Policy Phase II of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area."

It is important to note that timely and accurate harvest reporting is required under the *Fisheries Act*, the *Marine Mammal Regulations*, and the *Nunavut Agreement*, and I strongly encourage co-management organizations to emphasize the importance of harvest reporting and monitoring.

I look forward to continued collaboration with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board regarding narwhal co-management.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard