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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific knowledge

Δ 7, 2015

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2. Carried-over quota from the previous season – determined by the number of unused Marine Mammal Tags from the previous season – is applied to narwhal harvests in the subsequent harvest season before any of the subsequent season Marine Mammal Tags are applied to such harvests;
3. Any remaining carried-over quota from the previous season expires at the end of the subsequent harvest season;
4. As soon as a total allowable harvest for a Management Unit is modified pursuant to the co-jurisdictional decision-making process set out in Article 5 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, no remaining unused Marine Mammal Tags from the previous season can be applied to narwhal harvests in the subsequent harvest season; and
5. For greater certainty, all other provisions of Phase One of the *Marine Mammal Tag Transfer Policy* concerning the transfer of Marine Mammal Tags – if not inconsistent or in conflict with the five-point narwhal quota carry-over rule – continue to apply.

The NWMB's approval of the interim Narwhal Flex Quota System is made pursuant to Sections 5.6.16 and 5.2.34(d)(i) of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. That approval consists of:


- (i) A modification to all relevant narwhal total allowable harvests, which have been transformed from total allowable harvests confined to a 12-month period to cumulative annual total allowable harvests (point 1 of the five-point quota carry-over rule), subject to the other points set out in the carry-over rule;
- (ii) Accompanying total allowable harvest rules (points 2, 3, and 4) which contribute to ensuring that the Board's total allowable harvest decisions and the rest of the interim Narwhal Flex Quota System are properly understood, implemented and followed;
- (iii) The "*for greater certainty*" point 5 of the carry-over rule; and
- (iv) A consequential modification to the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area (Management Plan).

In making its decision, the NWMB considered the conservation implications of the interim Narwhal Flex Quota System as well as the impact that continuation of the system will have on harvesters. The Board was satisfied that the continuation of this system does not pose a conservation concern, based on a non-peer reviewed examination by Pierre Richard, a highly respected Fisheries and Oceans Canada research scientist and marine

mammal management biologist with over 30 years' experience in narwhal management. In addition, the NWMB's decision is conditional on receiving written support for the continuation of the interim Narwhal Flex Quota System in the 2015-16 narwhal fishery from the three Regional Wildlife Organizations². Co-management partners are also aware of the potential challenge to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's 2013 Non-Detriment Finding for five of the six narwhal Management Units in Nunavut that could result from a change to the management regime for narwhal.

Madame Minister, should you or any of your officials have any questions with respect to the NWMB's rendition of the five-point narwhal quota carry-over rules, its decision in this matter, or any other aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Board at your convenience. The NWMB looks forward to receiving your *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Section 5.3.18 reply to its decision in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

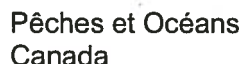


Ben Kovic
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (1)

c.c. Larry Dow, Director of Northern Operations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; and
Stefan Romberg, Senior Resource Management Officer, Fisheries and Oceans
Canada.

² To date, the NWMB has received a letter of support from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, which is attached to this letter. The NWMB will forward the two additional letters of support from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board to your officials in the Department's Iqaluit office as they are received.



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Canada

I look forward to continued collaboration with the NWMB and its technical staff on narwhal co-management issues.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,



for.
Larry Dow
Director, Northern Operations
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Iqaluit, Nunavut



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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

July 7th 2015

**The Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6**

Dear Minister Shea:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decision to approve the carryover of 2014-2015 Northern Hudson Bay narwhal tags from the Nunavik Marine Region for use inside the Nunavut Settlement Area during the 2015-2016 harvest season

On March 9th 2015, at its March Regular Meeting, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was presented with a request from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to approve the continuation of the interim Narwhal Flex Quota System for the 2015-2016 narwhal fishery. This Proposal for Decision also included a request to include 9 unused tags from the 2014-2015 harvesting season, previously allocated to Nunavik Inuit¹, for use in Nunavut for the 2015-2016 harvesting season. The NWMB forwarded its decision concerning the continuation of the interim Narwhal Flex Quota System on April 16th 2015 and is hereby providing you with its decision concerning the carryover of 9 Northern Hudson Bay narwhal tags from the Nunavik Marine Region, which is as follows:

WHEREAS the NWMB has approved the continuation of the Interim Narwhal Flex Quota System into the 2015-2016 Nunavut Settlement Area narwhal fishery;

AND WHEREAS ten (10) narwhal tags from the Northern Hudson Bay Narwhal Population were issued to Nunavik Inuit for the 2014-2015 harvesting season;

AND WHEREAS Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Makivik Corp. (Makivik) formally entered into the 2013 "Harvesting Agreement for the Northern Hudson Bay Narwhal Population

¹ Pursuant to Article 4.2 of the 2013 *Harvesting Agreement for the Northern Hudson Bay Narwhal Population Between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated representing the Inuit of Nunavut and Makivik Corporation representing the Inuit of Nunavik*, these unused tags have been transferred from Nunavik Inuit to Nunavut Inuit.

Between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) representing the Inuit of Nunavut and Makivik Corporation representing the Inuit of Nunavik" (Agreement);

AND WHEREAS in accordance with article 4.2 of the Agreement, and pursuant to signed correspondence from Makivik to NTI dated February 3rd 2015², Makivik formally approved the carryover and allocation of the nine (9) remaining 2014/2015 Nunavik tags to Nunavut hunters;

NOW THEREFORE the NWMB approves the carryover of the 9 narwhal tags to the Nunavut Settlement Area Northern Hudson Bay Narwhal Fishery for the 2015-2016 harvesting season only.

The NWMB chose to delay forwarding this decision to you to seek input from the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Boards on the allocation of these 9 tags between the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions, in accordance with recent practice agreed upon by co-management partners³. Since making its decision, the NWMB has contacted both Regional Wildlife Organizations and is satisfied that an agreement has been reached with respect to the allocation of all 2014-2015 Northern Hudson Bay narwhal tags carried over to the 2015-2016 harvest season⁴.

The NWMB is confident that all necessary steps have been taken for the successful implementation of the interim Narwhal Flex Quota System for the 2015-2016 narwhal fishery and looks forward to working with co-management partners on further implementation of the narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.

Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (3)

² Attached as Appendix 1 to this letter.

³ See November 27th 2014 correspondence from the NWMB to co-management partners and your January 16th 2015 response correspondence.

⁴ Letters from the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Boards detailing these allocations are attached as Appendices 2 and 3 to this letter.