



ᓄᓇᓖᑦ ᐃᓯᓳᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᑲᑎᓯᓴᑦ
Nunavutmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

ᐱᓪᓴᑦᓴᓴᑦ ᐃᓯᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ
Tammaqtailinahuarriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

ᐅᑦᓴ 21, 2022

ᓂᓖᓴᑦᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ
ᑦᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ
ᓄᓇᓖ ᓴᓴᓴᑦ

ᐱᓴᑦᓴᓴᑦ: ᐃᓯᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓄᓇᓖ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ

ᑦᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ:

ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᐃᓯᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᑲᑎᓯᓴᑦᓴᓴᑦ

ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓄᓇᓖᑦ ᐃᓯᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᑲᑎᓯᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ (ᐃᓯᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ) ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ
ᑲᑎᓯᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ (RM001-2021) ᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᑦ 10, 2021-ᑦ, ᓄᓇᓖ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ -
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ (ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ) ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᐃᓯᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ.

ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ 1,525 (ᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ = 1,231-
1,819). ᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ 1998-ᑦ 2000-ᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ 1,592-ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ, ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦ.

ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ
74-ᑦ, ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ.

- ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ (1)
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ (2) ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ
ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ ᓴᓴᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ (ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ; ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ,
ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ, ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ, ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᑦ).



July 20, 2022

Honourable David Akeeagok
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Re: NWMB Decision on the Government of Nunavut's Recommendation not to change the Total Allowable Harvest for the Gulf of Boothia polar bear subpopulation

Dear Minister Akeeagok:

Submission to the NWMB

During the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) Regular Meeting (RM001-2021) on March 10, 2021, the Government of Nunavut - Department of Environment (Department of Environment) recommended that the NWMB maintain the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of 74 for the Gulf of Boothia polar bear subpopulation.

The recommendation followed a genetic mark-recapture biopsy survey of the Gulf of Boothia polar bears conducted by the Department of Environment between 2015–2017. The survey resulted in an abundance estimate of 1,525 (range = 1,231–1,819). This abundance estimate is very close to the 1998–2000 estimate of 1,592, suggesting that the subpopulation abundance has remained stable.

The Department of Environment said a TAH at 74 would be in line with the management objective to maintain a viable polar bear subpopulation. The Department of Environment's submission included (1) the science survey report and (2) a summary report of the Department of Environment's in-person consultations with Hunters and Trappers Organizations that harvest from the sub-population (HTOs; Gjoa Haven, Sanirajak, Igloodik, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, and Taloyoak).

Deferral Pending HACCS Review

At the NWMB's In-Camera Meeting (IC001-2021) on March 11, 2021, the NWMB decided to defer consideration of the Department of Environment's 2021 submission pending ongoing consultation and NWMB consideration of the polar bear Harvest



In the NWMB's February 1, 2022, decision letter regarding the Harvest Administration and Credit Calculation System, the NWMB recommended that "the Government of Nunavut and co-management partners work together towards a fair and acceptable alternative to resetting harvest credits to zero when a new Total Allowable Harvest is set." The Minister's letter dated February 7, 2022, acknowledged the NWMB recommendation. The Minister's statements are worth recalling here:

The Department of Environment is committed to working with co-management partners as evidenced by the development of the HACCS based on feedback from these partners. My department is optimistic that after filling their technical advisor positions, the RWOs will fully realize their roles and responsibilities in polar bear harvest management.

We must strive to balance management using sound science, Indigenous knowledge, and conservation principles. To that end, the department recognizes that the increases in co-management organizations' capacity will likely allow the full utilization of the harvest management system, as it is designed. I believe active engagement with co-management partners will address concerns of credit usage and management as well as improve public access to harvest information.

Consideration of regional sharing arrangements

Polar bears in the Gulf of Boothia subpopulation are harvested by more than one community, with communities in this case from the three regions of Nunavut. The current TAH for the Gulf of Boothia is shared by six Inuit communities as follows: Igloodik (11), Sanirajak (4), Kugaaruk (24), and Talajoak (25), Gjoa Haven (5) and Naujaat (5). In such a situation, the *Nunavut Agreement* (s. 5.6.17(b)) directs the NWMB to express the TAH in terms of a regional total allowable harvest.

In 2005, the TAH of 74 was allocated between the three regions as follows: Qikiqtaaluk Region (15 polar bears, or 20% of the TAH), Kitikmeot region (54 polar bears, or 73% of the TAH), and Kivalliq region (5 polar bears, or 7% of the TAH). Harvest records from the Department of Environment show that over the last five years, although communities have harvested below the TAH, each region has stayed within its allocated proportion. The NWMB specifically requested submissions from RWOs on the issue of tag allocation within communities and on the issue of regional TAH, but no submissions were received specifically addressing regional sharing arrangements.

In light of the absence of submissions on this issue, for the current Gulf of Boothia polar bear TAH

