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BAFFIN FISHERIES



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QIKIQTAAALUK CORPORATION



Nunavut Offshore Allocations Holders Association
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Phone: (867) 979-7862 Fax: (867) 979-7852

May 8, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Re: NWMB call for multi-year submissions under the Commercial Marine Fisheries Policy

The Nunavut Offshore Allocation Holders Association (NOAHA) is writing on the issue of the NWMB's upcoming call for multi-year allocation submissions under its Commercial Marine Fisheries Allocation Policy. NOAHA members strongly object to the NWMB proceeding with this call under the current policy guidelines.

For well over a year the NWMB has been working on revisions to the current policy, a process which has included meetings with stakeholders and written submissions. The members of NOAHA have expressed concerns with several elements of the current policy and have actively participated in the review process, with the understanding that a new, revised policy would be implemented for future allocation decisions.

However, neither NOAHA nor its members have received any correspondence on the revised policy or a timeframe for completion since the start of 2017. In a meeting with NWMB staff at NOAHA's Science and Research meetings in Montreal on March 2, 2017, NOAHA members expressed their concerns regarding the delays in policy revisions. At that time members also expressed their concerns about the call for multi-year allocations potentially taking place prior to the implementation of the revisions. All members strongly objected to proceeding under the current policy and stressed to the NWMB the importance of completing the revisions as soon as possible.

NOAHA is requesting that the NWMB Board of Directors support dedicating the resources and time to complete the policy revisions on a priority basis. It is also requesting that the call for multi-year allocations be delayed until this process is completed. Members of NOAHA commit to being available for consultations on an as required basis to support this process. A commitment by the NWMB to complete this process over the next two to three months would enable the multi-year allocation process to proceed under the new policy in time for the 2018 fishing season.

Thank you for considering this important request. Proceeding under the current policy for such an important decision is not acceptable or fair to the Nunavut fishing industry.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Sowdloopik", with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back over the end of the name.

Sakiasie Sowdloopik
Chair

cc: Jason Akearok, Executive Director, NWMB
NWMB Board of Directors
NOAHA Board of Directors

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