



Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin  
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

**FAXED**  
23/07/09

Paul Kaludjak  
President of Nunavut Tunngavik  
Incorporated

James Qillaq, Chairperson  
Namautaq Hunters and  
Trappers Organization

Nick Lunn, Chairperson,  
Federal-Provincial-Territorial  
Polar Bear Technical Committee

Monte Hummel,  
President Emeritus,  
World Wildlife Fund Canada

Dear Colleagues:

**Re: Public Hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to Consider Proposed Modifications to the Level of Total Allowable Harvest for the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population in the Nunavut Settlement Area.**

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing into the level of total allowable harvest for the Baffin Bay polar bear population. The hearing will take place on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, at the Navigator Inn Salon A and B, in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the “Rules for the NWMB’s Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Modifications to the Level of Total Allowable Harvest for the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population in the Nunavut Settlement Area.” Also attached is a copy of the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Environment “Request for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on a management response to conservation concerns with the Baffin Bay polar bear population” (GN-DOE Proposal), filed with the Board.

Additional documents that the NWMB considers relevant to the hearing are the following:

1. *Polar Bear Management Memorandum of Understanding between Qikiqtarjuaq (Nattivak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization), Clyde River (Nanautaq Hunters' and Trappers' Organization), Qikiqtalluk Wildlife Board, and the Department of Environment for the management of the "Baffin Bay" polar bear population* (implemented by the Government of Nunavut, Minister of Environment, 22 December 2004).
2. *Decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population* (Decision letter from the NWMB to the Department of Environment-Nunavut, 17 September 2008).
3. *Department of Environment response to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population* (Response letter from the Department of Environment-Nunavut to the NWMB, 17 October 2008).
4. *Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Baffin Bay Polar Bear population total allowable harvest record of decision* (NWMB Wildlife Division, 9 September 2008).
5. *Resolutions from the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PBSG*. (IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group, 6 July 2009)

The NWMB also considers the documents submitted for the NWMB's April 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 hearing held in Pond Inlet, Nunavut pertaining to a "*Request for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on a management response to conservation concerns with the Baffin Bay (BB) polar bear population*" relevant to the hearing. The documents considered to be relevant to the hearing include:

*Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment submissions*

1. *Conservation concerns about the Western Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay Polar Bear Populations which may require a management response to modify the established Total Allowable Harvest (TAH)* (Letter from the Department of Environment-Nunavut to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, 11 September 2006).
2. *Request for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on a management response to conservation concerns with the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population* (Letter from the Department of Environment-Nunavut to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, 30 April 2007).
3. *Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population* (Submission from the Department of Environment-Nunavut to the hearing, 11 April 2008).

*Hunters' and Trappers' Organization's responses*

1. *Baffin Bay Hearing Presentation questions and concerns* (Response submission from the Nangmautaq Hunters' and Trappers' Organization to the hearing, 11 April 2008).

*Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated responses*



1. *The Government of Nunavut is proposing to decrease the Baffin Bay Polar Bear TAH in Nunavut based on new harvest information from Greenland* (Response submission from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Wildlife Department to the hearing, 11 April 2008).

#### *Public responses*

1. *Submission to the NWMB for consideration for the public hearing on polar bear management* (Response submission from Levi Palituk (Clyde River resident) to the hearing, 11 April 2008).

2. *WWF-Canada submission to NWMB public hearing on proposed polar bear TAH reductions for the Baffin Bay Population* (Response submission from World Wildlife Fund-Canada to the hearing, 10 April 2008).

#### *NWMB relevant document submissions*

1. *Demography and viability of a hunted population of polar bears* (Taylor, M.K., et al. 2005, Arctic 58:203-214).

2. *Consultations on polar bear quota recommendations for the Western Hudson Bay (WHB) and Baffin Bay (BB) populations for 2006/2007* (Briefing Note presented by the Government of Nunavut at NWMB Regular Meeting #44, 6-8 December 2005, Kugaaruk, Nunavut).

3. *Status of polar bears in Baffin Bay (BB) and Western Hudson Bay (WHB)* (PowerPoint Presentation by the Government of Nunavut at NWMB Regular Meeting #44, 6-8 December 2005, Kugaaruk, Nunavut).

4. *Nunavut polar bear harvest for 2006/2007* (Attachment to Government of Nunavut e-mail received by the NWMB, 23 July 2007).

5. *Greenland's comment to US plan of listing the polar bear as threatened under the endangered species act* (Letter from the Greenland Home Rule Government, Department of Fisheries, Hunting, and Agriculture, to the Supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2 April 2007).

6. *Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> working meeting of the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group* (20-24 June 2005, Seattle, Washington, USA –Aars, J., et al. 2006).

7. *Draft report on Inuit knowledge regarding climate change and the Baffin Bay polar bear population* (Dowsley, M. 2005. Unpublished report presented by the Government of Nunavut at the NWMB Regular Meeting #44, 6-8 December 2005, Kugaaruk, Nunavut).

8. *Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears* (International Agreement signed by Canada, the U.S., Norway, Denmark, and Russia (Soviet Union), 1973).

9. *Modification of the existing TAH for the Baffin Bay polar bear population in response to a Ministerial Management Initiative as per S 5.3.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NWMB staff briefing note, 12 March 2008).

10. *Request for decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on a management response to conservation concerns with the Baffin Bay (BB) Polar Bear Population.* (Letter from Minister of Environment to the NWMB, 30 April 2007)

Copies of all of the above mentioned documents may be obtained - in Inuktitut and English- from the NWMB's website at [www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com) under the title heading "Upcoming Meetings/Dates/Locations" or "Communication Tools-Public Hearings & Meetings" on the websites main page. The associated documents for the upcoming September 29<sup>th</sup> hearing will be under the heading "Sept 29, 2009, TAH for the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population, (public)". Documents from the April 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> hearing will be under the heading "Apr 22, 2008 — Apr 23, 2008, TAH for the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population, Pond Inlet (public)". Attendees to the upcoming hearing are encouraged to refer to the website and print off their own documents for reference at the hearing as a limited number of meeting binders will be available.

The NWMB is inviting your department/organization to file written submissions—in English and Inuktitut-responding to the DOE Proposal, or otherwise regarding the present conservation concerns with the current level of Total Allowable Harvest for the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population, by no later than **5:00 p.m. on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009**. The NWMB encourages parties when submitting submissions that they focus on new information not considered at the April 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> hearing. Unless persuasive reasons are provided to the Board for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials during the hearing that are not filed on time.

Documents may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. Fax or electronic transmissions will only be accepted if your department/organization confirms by phone with the NWMB-by no later than **5:00 p.m. on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009**-that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Electronic submissions should be sent to the following email address: [receptionist@nwmb.com](mailto:receptionist@nwmb.com). All documents should be clearly marked as pertaining to the NWMB Hearing on Baffin Bay Polar Bears. Documents are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the Board.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive supporting evidence and justifications are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)) or contact the Board directly.

Yours sincerely,



Harry Flaherty  
A/Chairperson of the Nunavut  
Wildlife Management Board

cc. The Chairpersons of Nunavut's Regional Wildlife Organizations and Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations