

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Ben Kovic**  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Inuksugait Complex, P.O. Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0



**RE: NWMB reconsideration and final decision concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Foxt Basin polar bear subpopulation.**

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Mr. Kovic,

The Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) thanks you for the opportunity to provide further input to your Board's decision-making process, as it pertains to the Foxt Basin (FB) polar bear management unit.

First, I wish to note that the NMRWB remains committed to initiating its own decision-making process regarding the establishment of a Total Allowable Take (TAT) for FB polar bears in the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR). The NMRWB, in order to avoid making presumptions until its hearing process is complete, is therefore not in a position to comment on the overall allowable harvest for this management unit, nor specifically on most of the reasons provided by Nunavut's Minister of Environment for rejecting your initial decisions.

However, we do wish to reiterate that until a TAT is established for the NMR pursuant to the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, there is no upper limit for harvest of FB polar bears by Nunavik Inuit. Through the NMRWB public hearing on Southern Hudson Bay (SHB) polar bears and subsequent interviews with Nunavik Inuit, it is increasingly evident that the harvest records maintained by Quebec should be considered as the minimum level of removals. We expect that this is also applicable to harvesting by those Nunavik communities situated within the range of FB polar bears.

The Minister's decision indicated "that more specific consideration is warranted with respect to how the available harvest will be shared before either jurisdiction introduces significant increases in the harvest". Though we recognize that your timelines will not allow sufficient time for the NMRWB to undertake its own hearing, this response underlines the importance of a coordinated effort between our respective organizations. Given recent experiences pertaining to the management of the SHB and FB polar bear management units, the need for a more coordinated approach in dealing with shared populations is increasingly evident. To this end the NMRWB continues to encourage the development of a joint decision-making process with the NWMB and looks forward to a closer collaboration on the polar bear issues before us.

**Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board – Submission to NWMB: Foxt Basin Polar Bear reconsideration**

We trust that your final decision will give full consideration to the needs of Nunavik Inuit, as expressed by Makivik and the RNUK, and that it will recognize the NMRWB's efforts to establish a TAT for the Nunavik Marine Region.

Should the NWMB require clarification on any of the information contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact the NMRWB at the coordinates below:

Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board  
P.O. Box 433, Inukjuak, QC, J0M 1M0  
Phone: (819) 254-8667 | Fax: (819) 254-8816  
Email: moconnor@nmrwb.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josepi Padlayat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

**Josepi Padlayat**  
Chairman  
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

*Please confirm receipt.*