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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuariniit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

January 28th 2014

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Environment
Environment Canada

Honourable Johnny Mike
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Cathy Towtongie
President of Nunavut
Tungavik Inc.

Attima Hadlari
Chairperson of the Kitikmeot
Regional Wildlife Board

James Panioyak
Chairperson
Cambridge Bay Hunters and
Trappers Organization

James Qitsualik
Chairperson
Gjoa Haven Hunters and
Trappers Organization

Peter Qayutinuak
Chairperson
Taloyak Hunters and
Trappers Organization

David Lee/Marsha Branigan
Chairpersons of the Polar
Bear Technical Committee

Drikus Gissing
Chairperson of the Polar Bear
Administrative Committee

Dag Vongraven
Chairperson of the IUCN
Polar Bear Specialist Group

David Miller
President and CEO
World Wildlife Fund Canada

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Notification of a Nunavut Wildlife Management Board pre-hearing teleconference concerning proposed modifications to the total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear subpopulation

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a pre-hearing teleconference in response to a Request for NWMB decision (Proposal) regarding an increase in the total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear subpopulation. The Proposal was submitted by the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board on May 7th 2013 and it is attached for your consideration.

The NWMB made an initial decision with respect to the Proposal during its June 2013 quarterly meeting in Rankin Inlet and submitted its decision to the Government of Nunavut Minister of Environment (Minister). Following subsequent correspondence, the Board decided to retract its initial decision, and to start the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Article 5 decision-making process again. The Board intends to hold a public hearing on the Proposal to ensure procedural fairness in the decision-making process.

The NWMB is organizing a pre-hearing teleconference with hearing parties in order to inform hearing preparations. The pre-hearing teleconference will focus on the follow points:

- the positions of the parties with respect to the Proposal;

- the appropriate type and extent of the hearing given the circumstances (i.e. in-person hearing or written hearing); and
- timing/scheduling considerations of the NWMB and parties (e.g. submission deadlines, potential location of an in-person hearing).

The pre-hearing teleconference has been scheduled to take place on Friday **January 31st 2014 at 3:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time)**. For those representatives in Iqaluit the NWMB will be hosting the teleconference in its Boardroom. The dial-in information is the following:

Teleconference number: 1-866-969-8429

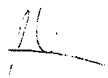
Conference ID: 8947428

The NWMB requests that you provide **confirmation of attendance** at the pre-hearing conference **by no later than Wednesday January 29th 2014 at 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time)**. Please also inform the Board at that time if you require translation services for the call. For logistical reasons, the Board recommends participation in the call by no more than two representatives of each agency.

The NWMB is hopeful that the outcome of the pre-hearing conference will be a consensus position on how to move forward. That position will then be proposed to the Board for consideration.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Ben Kovic
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment;
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;
Siu-Ling Han, Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service;
Ema Qaggutaq, Kitikmeot Liaison Officer, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat

Enclosure (1)

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Kitikmeot Regional
Wildlife Board

VIA FACSIMILE

May 7, 2013

Manasie Audlakiak
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0
Fax: (867) 975-7320

Dear Mr. Audlakiak,

Re: Request for Increase in Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for the M'Clintock Channel Population

During our meeting in Taloyoak held in April 2013, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) discussed the current TAH of 3 animals for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear population.

As you know, the communities of Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven have been severely negatively impacted and harmed by a moratorium on their harvest that was put in place by the Government in 2001. There is now a limited harvest of 3 animals that is shared between the communities of Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven. But, the community of Taloyoak has never had its quota restored for this population. This has put serious social strain on Inuit by restricting opportunities for hunters to teach their children the cultural importance of hunting polar bears and the preparation of polar bear hides and distribution of meat within the respectively communities.

The communities, the KRWB, and NTI have repeatedly asked the Government of Nunavut (GN) to address this issue. The last research for this population was conducted between 1998 and 2000.

Based on the following information, the KRWB requests an increase in the TAH by 15 animals for the M'Clintock Channel for the 2013-2014 harvesting season and by the same number for subsequent harvesting seasons until the information from the GN survey is made available.

The KRWB feels that this is a reasonable request based on the following information:

1. There was a moratorium put in place between 2001-2003 to help the population recover.
2. Since 2003, there has been a quota of 3 shared between 2 communities.
3. An Inuit knowledge study was conducted by the local HTO and other studies have been completed for this area that suggest that the number of bears in this area has increased.

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Kivikmeor Regional
Wildlife Board

- 4. Knowledge from hunters indicates that bears move between the subpopulations of Gulf of Boothia and M'Clintock Channel.
- 5. Hunters and local knowledge indicate that there are more bears in this area.
- 6. The GN has begun consultations with communities and is planning to begin a new survey of this subpopulation.

The communities have been impacted for over 12 years and the GN survey will take a few years to complete. We do not feel that there is a conservation concern for this population by increasing the current TAH or that it will harm the population. Further, the polar bear Memorandum of Understanding states that the TAH will be based on the "Guided Harvest Rate" after 7 years when the TAH had been first established based on the "Conservative Harvest Rate". The "Guided Harvest Rate" is based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ), perception of trend, and probability of increase or decline. The KRWB requests that the TAH be increased while the research is being completed based on all of the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time in reviewing our request; we anxiously wait for your response to this very critical issue.

Sincerely,

Attima Hadlari
Chairperson