



February 21st 2014

Robbie Tookalak
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Submission to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board’s Written Hearing on the Establishment of a Total Allowable Take for Bowhead Whales in the Nunavik Marine Region

Dear Mr. Tookalak,

This letter is in response to the public notice that was provided on January 13th 2013 that invited written submissions to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board’s (Nunavik Board) public hearing on the establishment of a total allowable take for bowhead whales.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Nunavut Board) has also recently received a request for an increase in the total allowable harvest of bowhead whales in Nunavut from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and the NWMB plans to hold a written public hearing on the matter. A copy of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board’s request is attached. As with the community of Quaqtaq, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board is also requesting a decision in time for the 2014 hunt. Given that Inuit from Nunavut and Nunavik harvest bowhead whales from the same Eastern Canada – West Greenland population, the NWMB respectfully requests that the Nunavik Board not make a decision until after the NWMB has received and considered its own hearing submissions.

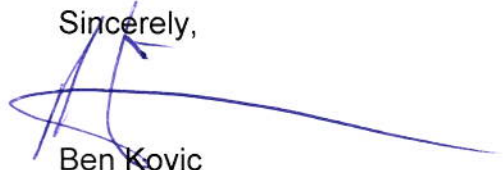
The NWMB also recommends that once both boards have reviewed all of their hearing submissions and are considering their proposed individual decisions to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, they consult with one another to ensure that the proposed **combined** total allowable harvest and total allowable take decision-making results in an overall sustainable harvest for the shared bowhead population. Once the two Boards have confirmed that their combined total allowable harvest and total allowable take decisions will reflect an overall sustainable harvest, the NWMB also recommends that

our two Boards consider issuing a joint decision letter to the Minister, as they successfully did in May 2013 for shared shrimp allocation decisions.

The NWMB looks forward to continued collaboration and cooperation with your Board on co-jurisdictional wildlife management issues.

If there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Ben Kovic
Chairsperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Enclosure (1)