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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaajitkut Katimajiat  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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

May 31, 2012

Honourable Keith Ashfield  
Minister of Fisheries  
and Oceans  
Government of Canada

Cathy Towtongie  
President of Nunavut  
Tunngavik Inc.

Honourable James Arreak  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

Ross Tatty  
Chairperson of the  
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Attima Hadlari  
Chairperson of the  
Kitikmeot Regional  
Wildlife Board

James Qillaq  
Chairperson of the  
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Chairpersons of the Nunavut  
Hunters and Trappers  
Organizations  
c/o Richard Connelly  
Executive Director of the Nunavut  
Inuit Wildlife Secretariat

Jobie Tukkiapik  
President of Makivik Corp.

Dear Colleagues:

**Re: Public Hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning a proposed “Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area”, including the establishment of total allowable harvests, basic needs levels and non-quota limitations**

**Purpose, dates and location of hearing**

In response to a *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (Proposal) received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing to consider approval of a proposed “*Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area*” (IFMP), including the establishment of total allowable harvests (TAHs), basic needs levels (BNLs) and non-quota limitations (NQLs).

The hearing will take place over three (3) days - July 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 - in Iqaluit at the Frobisher Inn (Koojesse Room). The hearing will be conducted each day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The NWMB may also hold one or more evening sessions from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### **NWMB funding for attendance by representatives of Inuit harvesters**

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to six (6) Distinguished Elders and six (6) Regional Wildlife Organization/Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives (twelve (12) delegates in total). Selection of those representatives will be decided by the Regional Wildlife Organizations. If other representatives of Inuit harvesters wish to attend, the NWMB has no further funding available, but will – if requested, and to the extent reasonably possible – make arrangements for electronic attendance at the hearing.

### **Explanations of IFMP, TAH and BNL**

The purpose of the IFMP is to identify the main objectives and requirements for the narwhal fishery, as well as the management measures that will be used to achieve the objectives.

The TAH is the overall amount of a stock or population of wildlife that the NWMB decides can be lawfully harvested in accordance with the terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA).

The BNL is the level of harvesting by Inuit required to meet their basic needs, as determined through the decision-making process set out in NLCA Article 5. The BNL constitutes the first demand by Inuit on the TAH for a stock or population of wildlife.<sup>1</sup>

If a BNL is less than the TAH for a particular stock or population, the difference between them is referred to as the Surplus, which is allocated in the order and priority set out in NLCA Article 5.

### **Best Available Information and NWMB Hearing Rules**

Copies of the DFO Proposal and the IFMP are attached to this letter, as are the *Rules for the NWMB's Public Hearing to consider the 'Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal in the Nunavut Settlement Area'*. These - and a number of additional documents comprising the best available information to date - are also available for download from the NWMB's website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)), or by contacting the Board at the following coordinates:

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<sup>1</sup> NLCA Section 5.6.25 requires the NWMB to establish the BNLs for narwhal (as well as for beluga and walrus), "...taking into account the fact that they are in short supply in some areas and therefore that the harvest by Inuit has been and is artificially low in relation to their needs and does not necessarily reflect their full level of needs."

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Inuksugait Complex  
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0  
Phone: 867-975-7300  
Fax: 1-888-421-9832  
E-Mail: [receptionist@nwmb.com](mailto:receptionist@nwmb.com)

**Invitation and instructions to provide written submissions**

**Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation in response to the DFO Proposal, including with respect to proposed TAHs, BNLs and NQLs. All written materials must be filed with the NWMB – in English and Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit Time) on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions and supporting documentation will be placed on the NWMB's website, and will be available for download, within one business day after they are filed with the Board.

**Please take careful note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the Board will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.**

Materials may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Public Hearing on the IFMP for Narwhal*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit Time) on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 – that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

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 or to contact the Board directly.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Kusugak  
A/Chairperson of the  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (3)

- c.c. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
- Glenn Williams, Wildlife Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
- Bert Dean, Senior Policy Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
- David G. Burden, A/Regional Director General, Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
- Keith Pelley, A/Director, Eastern Arctic Area, Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
- David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister, Nunavut Department of Environment;
- Wayne Lynch, Director of Fisheries and Sealing, Nunavut Department of Environment;
- Stas Olpinski, Science and Policy Advisor, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board;
- Johnny Oovaut, Chairperson, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board; and
- Mark O'Connor, Director of Wildlife Management, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board.