

Kivalliq Peccio Arviat 9589c Baker Lake 96L0-0798 Chesterfield Inlet ALDC LAGE Coral Harbour 5-6-56 Rankin Inlet P3730000 Repulse Bay a.Djc Whale Cove Ubdetale

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Monday, August 18, 2014

NWMB, c/o Chairperson Ben Kovic RE: NWMB reconsideration and final decision concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin Polar Bear subpopulation

First of all, thank you for providing information on NWMB's reconsideration and final decision concerning the level of regional TAH for the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board gave verbal support to Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's request to increase the Total Allowable Harvest by forty four (44) in the fiscal year 2013/2014. The communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik, as well as Chesterfield and Repulse Bay had numerous defense kills within the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation.

Although NWMB recommended to extend polar bear deterrence to Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation; the Kivalliq Wildlife Board is showing support to NWMB's recommendation to extend WWF Canada and Department of Environment's polar bear deterrence to be expanded to both Foxe Basin and Western Hudson Bay subpopulations. The communities are not only experiencing a high number of defense kills, but also, experiencing high traffic of polar bears. KWB Vice-Chairperson Michel Akkuardjuk, and KWB regional coordinator Leah M. Muckpah took part of the Polar Bear Draft Management Plan consultation tour in the Kivalliq region in March/April 2014; and heard numerous people concerned with traffic of polar bears and the safety of the public in ALL Kivalliq communities. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board would like to make a statement that all communities in the Kivalliq refrain from conducting defense kills and only do so when required. The communities do work hard together to deter polar bears, and kill in defense when they get too close/walk into the community or public safety is a concern. The community members also refrain from camping because of the high traffic of polar bears and do not feel safe camping in tents anymore.



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The polar bear deterrence program has been proven effective in the community of Arviat, a Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation. Numerous times, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board has heard frustration and concern from most of communities in the region about too many polar bears coming into their communities in regular meetings, the annual general meeting as well as teleconferences. The communities of Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet expressed the fact that harvesters who are drawn/appointed to harvest polar bears don't even need to drive outside the community to harvest one. The community of Repulse Bay also had to kill some polar bears in defense because they were problematic bears.

NWMB's resolution to approve an increase of twenty seven bears in the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation to share between the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board is a good notion, and KWB is in support of allotting twenty tags out of the twenty seven to defense kills. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board is happy to hear defense kills addressed by the provincial board, however, feel twenty seven will not be adequate to sustain to enable harvesters to hunt domestically.

The Minister of Environment recommended a second aerial survey to be conducted no later than 2016/2017; the Kivalliq Wildlife Board feels that is too long a wait time to set a new Total Allowable Harvest for the Foxe Basin subpopulation. We, the board agree an aerial survey assessment needs to be conducted for the subpopulation to set a new Total Allowable Harvest. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board also recommends the Total Allowable Harvest be allocated annually by the Regional Wildlife Organizations as opposed to setting the Total Allowable Harvest for each community on a three/five year basis.

We would like the Nunavut beneficiaries in the Kivalliq region to continue harvesting polar bears domestically. We would like the traditional Inuit culture and heritage to thrive; especially when it comes to harvesting wildlife and consuming Inuit food.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please contact myself at rosstatty@gmail.com or the Kivalliq Wildlife Board regional coordinator Leah M. Muckpah, at kwb@niws.ca

Sincerely;

Ross Tatty

Chairperson for the Kivalliq Wildlife Board



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CC:
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