

Because those submissions are likely to include new information, the NWMB is setting aside additional time for any party to also file reply submissions.

Following receipt and NWMB consideration of the two sets of submissions, the Board intends to reconvene the in-person public hearing. The NWMB will provide all parties with reasonable notice of the location, date(s) and time(s) of the reconvened hearing.

2. The content of additional submissions

While the Board welcomes any additional submissions relevant to the hearing issues, particularly the three main ones (the level of regional TAH, the regional BNL and the NQL prohibition on cow-calf pairs), the NWMB is specifically seeking submissions with respect to the following:

1. From the Government of Nunavut (GN), its considered position, with reasons, concerning what types of harvests must be included in the calculation of the regional BNL (e.g. subsistence, subsistence and commercial, etc.);
2. From the GN, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Regional Wildlife Organizations, and Hunters and Trappers Organizations, proposed (approximate) harvest numbers, with reasons, to be used in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) calculation(s) of the regional BNL,² and
3. Reply submissions, with reasons, from the hearing parties to the submissions outlined in points 1 and 2 above.

3. The value of providing reliable and persuasive reasons in support of submission positions

All three points above emphasize the requirement to provide reasons which support the position(s) that a hearing party puts forward. The NWMB appreciates, and will take into account, the practical difficulties encountered in arriving at reasonably accurate subsistence and commercial harvest numbers from:

- (i) the five years prior to the imposition of a TAH (2007 to 2011 – see NLCA S.5.6.24), and
- (ii) the considerably more distant Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study years (1996 to 2001 – see NLCA S.5.6.23).

Notwithstanding such difficulties, the Board is required to make its BNL decision (as well as other decisions) on the “*best evidence available*”. Accordingly, the more reliable and persuasive a party’s reasons/supporting documentation are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the NLCA decision-making process.

² See NLCA Sections 5.6.23 and 5.6.24.

4. Where to access the best available Southampton Island Caribou Public Hearing information

The hearing rules and a number of additional documents comprising the best available hearing information to date – including a new submission filed by NTI on December 16th 2013, a summary of the key issues discussed during the first part of the hearing and revised harvest numbers for the Southampton caribou population during the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study - are available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
3rd Floor, Ikaluktuutiak Drive
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 975-7300
Fax: (888) 421-9832
E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

The NWMB has also prepared a transcript of the December 10th and 11th oral submissions at the in-person hearing, available upon request to the Board.

5. Instructions with respect to filing written submissions

As indicated above, through this letter the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide up to two (2) sets of written submissions and supporting documentation/reasons concerning any or all of the following: the proposed regional TAH, the proposed regional BNL, and the proposed cow-calf NQL for the Southampton Island caribou population.

The first set of written submissions and supporting documentation/reasons (**initial submissions**) must be filed with the NWMB, in English and Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on Monday, March 31st, 2014.

The second set of written submissions and supporting documentation/reasons (**reply submissions**) – provided in response to submissions filed as of March 31st, 2014 - must be filed with the NWMB, in English and Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on Friday, May 2nd, 2014.

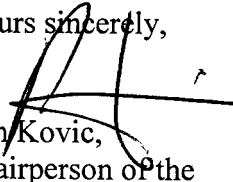
Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions will be placed on the NWMB's website, and will be available for download, shortly after the submission deadline.

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.

Initial and reply submissions, and their supporting reasons/documentation 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 for Southampton Island Caribou*. 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 - prior to each filing deadline - 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.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Kovic,
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment;
Lynda Orman, Manager of Research, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment;
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Bert Dean, Senior Policy Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Janet Dionne, Acting Executive Director, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat;
Leah Muchpah, Kivalliq Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat;
Jackie Price, South Baffin Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat; and
Jason Mikki, North Baffin Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat