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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

## Submission to Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Public Hearing on Southampton Island Caribou November 2013

The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) has been invited to participate in the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) public hearing on the Southampton Island Caribou.

QWB understands the request that has initiated the public hearing process. The GN is requesting a decrease for the Southampton Caribou TAH from 1000 to 800. QWB appreciates the collaborative work between the GN and the Aiviit HTO in bringing this request forward.

QWB has been invited to participate in this process by way of Cape Dorset's presence in the area. As the NWMB is aware, Cape Dorset hunters do not travel to Southampton to hunt, but they do travel to Coats Island for caribou hunting. In light of this information, and in following the direction provided to QWB from Cape Dorset, QWB remains neutral on the question of reducing the Southampton TAH of Southampton Island. QWB would prefer to deter to the responses made by the affected HTOs directly, and by the response of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. With this being said, this request does raise interesting questions that will set precedent for caribou management in the areas surrounding Southampton Island, specifically, Coats Island. This has implications on working relationships across different regions of Nunavut.

QWB is aware that the GN has made the decision to include Coats Island on future population survey and health studies for Southampton Island. QWB supports this development, and looks forward to being informed and consulted with on the research plans and results of these studies, along with Aiviq HTO. Again, QWB sees this decision as identifying a broader issue that will require support into the future, specifically, how to better support communication across regions for shared population stocks.

This is not a new issue and there is important work being done on many fronts to address the issue of shared stocks across regions. The Regional Wildlife Organizations are doing their part. This year, the chairs of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB), Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) and QWB held their AGMs in

שפיילשיר הראכייאית טטעשע



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

succession, allowing representatives from the other two regions to observe, and participate in discussions, at the AGM level. This has proven to be a fruitful experience, and it is creating the necessary opportunities for relationship building amongst RWO executives.

The Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat (NIWS) also plays a key role in encouraging and supporting effective relationships and communication between regions. Based out of Rankin Inlet, NIWS has a workforce that includes RWO staff in Kugaaruk, Arviat, Iqaluit and Hall Beach. NIWS may be a small team, but it is constantly providing effective support, and is always striving to run more efficiently into the future.

Nunavut Tunngavik (NTI) also provides a forum for engagement across regions. NTI's Vice President James Eetoolook chairs the Inuit Wildlife and Environment Working Group, or IWEAC, as part of its "closer to Inuit" program. This working group, with its wildlife and environment focus, includes the Chairs of the RWOs, but also representatives from the 3 Regional Inuit Organizations. NTI staff continues to be available and accessible to QWB, its staff, and to individual HTOs. This work is greatly appreciated.

QWB highlights these experiences to acknowledge the diverse work being done to improve the effectiveness of cross-regional work in wildlife management. QWB believes that these strategies will become stronger as we continue to commit to them, and this will result in more effective dialogue. The goal is to harness the strength of our shared interest and responsibilities around wildlife. With this being said, QWB believes there is opportunity to engaging the diverse communities of the shared population stocks.

This is where QWB sees an opportunity for NWMB. While QWB recognizes the hard work of NWMB staff to engage RWOs and HTOs on the wildlife management process, QWB sees NWMB's Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit program as an important site for future growth. NWMB is uniquely positioned to bring together knowledge holders of the diverse communities of shared population stocks, either by way of future gatherings, workshops, and meetings, and QWB encourages NWMB in developing this resources. Not only is this needed, it is expected at the community level, and it is a legal requirement of the NLCA. All our communities, and organizations, will benefit from the support NWMB is uniquely positioned to provide.

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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

We believe NWMB is working to develop this space, and we would like to encourage NWMB in this regard. I would like to acknowledge the work of NWMB's IQ coordinator, Sheila Oolyook. Not only did she attended the AGMs of all 3 RWOs, she introduced herself and the work she did as part of NWMB's update, she was also present for all 3 research priorities workshop held in conjunction with the RWO AGMs. Her presence, contribution, and accessibility were noted and greatly appreciated.

In closing I would like to state that this year's QWB's AGM, held in Iqaluit the week of November 11, QWB worked with NWMB staff to outline the wildlife research priorities for this region for the next three years. This exercise was done to inform the distribution of NWMB's Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund. Caribou was large theme for QWB. One of the specific topics highlighted was the effect of sales of caribou to other region on wildlife populations. In sharing this priority, QWB hopes to express its commitment to the wellbeing of the diverse caribou populations within Nunavut. Clearly, the questions, strategies and work on the caribou management of this stock is important, and has implications for all our regions.

Thank you,

James Qillaq

Chair

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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## Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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## Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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