



Northwest  
Territories Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

OCT 23 2015

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
1104D IKALUKTUUIAK DRIVE  
PO BOX 1379  
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0

Email: [receptionist@nwmb.com](mailto:receptionist@nwmb.com)

### **Public Hearing Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan**

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) would like to thank the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for the opportunity to comment on the draft Nunavut Polar Bear Management Plan. The GNWT is currently involved in the development of a Management Plan for polar bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Area and appreciates the efforts that went into the Nunavut plan.

The GNWT shares management authority for two subpopulations (Northern Beaufort Sea and Viscount Melville Sound) with Nunavut and it is important we continue to collaborate and coordinate management of this important species. The GNWT is very interested in continuing to work collaboratively with Nunavut to manage harvest and determine management objectives for the shared populations. The GNWT supports continuing to work with the users under the agreement that exists between the Inuvialuit and Inuit of the western portion of the Kitikmeot but also feels direct government to government communication on shared management issues is important.

We also offer the following specific suggestions for revisions to the plan:

- On page 8 of the plan, "Southern Beaufort (SB)" should be replaced with "Northern Beaufort (NB)" in the list of Nunavut subpopulations.
- After extensive consultation, the GNWT changed the boundary between the SB and NB Sea subpopulations and asks that Figure 1 (page 9) be adjusted accordingly.
- The table in Appendix A should include the year of the Polar Bear Technical Committee table used and if the table is from 2014 or later, the data for NB and SB should reflect the boundary change.

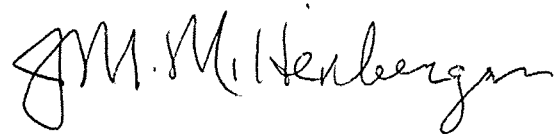
.../2



- Appendix B XI and B XII could benefit from a bit more detail and it is our understanding the Inuvialuit co-management partners proposed some changes, which we support. These subpopulation and status summaries will also need to reflect the adjusted population estimates that would be in the updated version of Appendix A.
- Finally, Appendix F seems to be missing the NB harvest and we suggest a change to the title to better reflect the table contents as this appears to be harvest quotas by sex not harvest data. Identifying the actual season these numbers represent, rather than listing them as “current harvest” may also add clarity.

We look forward to continued collaboration on polar bear conservation.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Miltenberger

- c. Drikus Gissing, Wildlife Director, DOE GN  
Lynda Yonge Director, Wildlife, ENR, GNWT  
Dan Lindsay, Director Fish and Wildlife, DOE YG  
Larry Carpenter, Chair WMAC (NWT)  
Patrick Gruben, Chair IGC  
Lindsay Staples, Chair WMAC (North Slope)