

March 23rd, 2017

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Canada

**Honourable Joe
Savikataaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut**

Aluki Kotierk
President of Nunavut
Tunnqavik Inc.

Joe Ashevak
Chairperson of the
Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife
Board

James Qillaq
Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Stanley Adjuk
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

David Miller
President and CEO
World Wildlife Fund
Canada

Christine Cleghorn and
Caroline Ladanowski
Chairpersons of the Polar
Bear Administrative
Committee

Adamie Delisle Alaku
Executive Vice President
Makivik Corporation

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Notification of a Nunavut Wildlife Management Board pre-hearing teleconference concerning the Government of Nunavut's proposed Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a pre-hearing teleconference in response to a Request for NWMB decision (Proposal) regarding the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. The Proposal was submitted by the Government of Nunavut –Department of Environment on February 2nd, 2017 (attached).

The NWMB reviewed the Proposal during its March 2017 quarterly meeting in Iqaluit and decided to hold an in-person public hearing on the matter.

A hearing of this size presents several logistical challenges, as such the Board would like to discuss proposed dates and timelines for the in-person hearing with hearing parties during a **pre-hearing teleconference**. This will ensure that the Board receives the **best** available scientific knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit during the allotted

time for the hearing. The pre-hearing teleconference will focus on the following four points:

1. The Board has the financial resources to pay for eighteen (18) delegates across Nunavut (including Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives and Qaujimaniliit) to attend the hearing. Each Regional Wildlife Organization will be asked to select six (6) representatives to attend the hearing.
2. The Board has decided that the hearing will be three (3) days in length.
3. The Board is proposing that the first day of the hearing be set aside for the Government of Nunavut's Proposal for Decision and the subsequent question period from hearing parties, as it is expected that there will be several questions for the Government of Nunavut from the hearing parties. Should the Government of Nunavut's time end earlier than expected, the Board will proceed with other hearing parties if time permits.
4. Given the large number of hearing parties, the Board is proposing that each region of Nunavut (Qikiqtaaluk, Kitikmeot and Kivalliq) be given a time on the agenda to jointly present their submissions. Therefore the Board is recommending that the Regional Wildlife Organizations work together with their chosen delegates on their oral submissions to ensure that all relevant information is presented in the time given.

A draft agenda will be provided to those attending the pre-hearing teleconference on Tuesday, March 28th, 2017.

The pre-hearing teleconference has been scheduled to take place on **Thursday, March 30th, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**. For those representatives in Iqaluit the NWMB will be hosting the teleconference in its Boardroom. The dial-in information is the following:

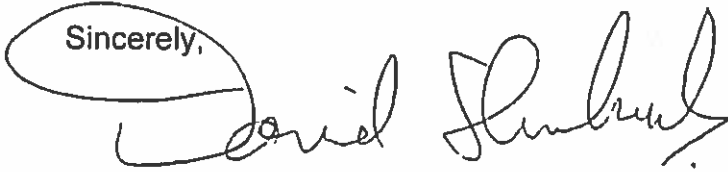
Teleconference number: 1-877-733-5390

Conference ID: 4231582642

The NWMB requests that you provide **confirmation of attendance** at the pre-hearing conference **by no later than Tuesday March 28th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**. Please also inform the Board at that time if you require translation services for the call. For logistical reasons, the Board recommends participation in the call by no more than two representatives from each agency.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Shewchuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment;
Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;
Lisa Pirie, Acting Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service;
Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot Region Wildlife Board;
Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board;
Peter Kydd, Acting Resource Conservation Manager, Parks Canada;
Paul Crowley, Vice President, Arctic, WWF-Canada.

Enclosures (1)



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Resubmission of the draft Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan

Background

During the development of the draft Polar Bear Co-Management Plan (the plan, Attachment 1) a working group was tasked with developing a replacement to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The working group focused on addressing concerns with the existing MOU and with ensuring that the plan reflects the jurisdictional perspective on polar bears. Overall, polar bears are doing well and have increased from the low population numbers of the 1960's and 70's. Public safety has become a serious concern as a result of the increase in population and /or changes in bear distribution and concentration.

A successful polar bear management plan needs to reflect Inuit societal values and concerns. It must support and ensure continued Inuit involvement in polar bear co-management and conservation.

The new draft plan better reflects Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and is more accessible to Nunavummiut.

Current Status

The Department of Environment (DOE) has incorporated many of the comments received during the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) Written Public Hearing (September – October 2015) into the draft plan, which has improved the document. When reviewing comments received, DOE considered what was heard from and said to communities and Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO's) during consultations. Where possible, efforts were made to modify language or to better represent the position that was being proposed.

Consultations

The initial consultations and summary were provided with the original DOE submission. Additional consultations were undertaken after revisions were made to the draft to address comments received during the NWMB Written Public Hearing. These consultations were undertaken during October and November of 2016. DOE presented the revised draft plan to the Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWO's) at their Annual General Meetings, as well to the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife and Environment Advisory Committee (NIWEAC) during its fall meeting. The NIWEAC was instrumental in developing the initial draft in 2014. The Consultation Summary for those meetings is included as Attachment 2 of this document. The current draft Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan reflects input received from those meetings.

DOE also sought a second review of the draft plan from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and their feedback was incorporated, as ECCC was the most critical commenter during the NWMB Written Public Hearing. ECCC's comments were also reflected in other reviews, notably by Parks Canada and World Wildlife Fund. This second ECCC review resulted in additional edits to better clarify language in the draft plan.

Recommendation

DOE requests that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan.

Attachments

- 1) Draft Polar Bear Co-Management Plan
- 2) Consultation Summary



Tammaqtailinahuarinriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

LC 23, 2017

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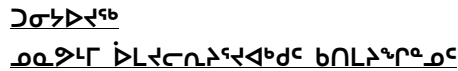
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