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ĊĹσ⁶ て'ċ⁶ Γσ'C Δ'b⊃cռσ'J', ΔĹ'ΓδCcռσ'J'ン ϤʹL ≀dイδ∩Δ' 200 Kent Street ⊲ϽϤ, Ϥ⁶∩δα√ K1A 0E6

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Minister of Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des Peches et des Oceans

Ottawa, Canada K1A OE6

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk A/Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board P.O. Box 1379 Iqaluit, NU XOA OHO

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Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.



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January 3rd 2018

Honourable Dominic LeBlanc Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard 200 Kent Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on 2018 walrus sport hunt applications

On September 5th 2017, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) issued a call for walrus sport hunt applications for the 2018 season with a deadline for applications of October 31st 2017. The NWMB annually requests applications for walrus sport hunts for approval by the Board, according to its Interim Policy for Walrus Sport Hunts (Interim Policy; attached), and Fisheries and Oceans Canada prior to the issuance of sport hunt licences.

The NWMB reviewed walrus sport hunt applications for the 2018 season at its December 2017 quarterly meeting in Igaluit, NU. Eight applications were received from four communities. Seven of the applications were to conduct walrus sport hunts in the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock (AW-05)¹ and one application was to conduct sport hunts in the North and Central Foxe Basin stocks (AW-04)². The Board carefully considered each application, and in accordance with Sections 5.2.34(d)(i) and 5.6.48 of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB made the following decision:

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Luke Eetuk of E and E Outfitting (6 walrus), Aaron Emiktowt of Siku Outfitting (6 walrus), Darcy Nakoolak of Southampton Island Adventures (4 walrus), Clifford Natokok Sr. of Natokok's Outfitting (8 walrus), and Danny Pee of Polar Bear Adventures (5 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

 That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Igaluit;

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Box 1379 Igaluit, NU XOA 0H0 **23** (867) 975-7300

(888) 421-9832

¹ Five applications were received from outfitters located in Coral Harbour, one from Naujaat, and one from Igaluit.

² One application was received from Hall Beach.



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- That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- 3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing; and
- 4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Alex Flaherty of Polar Outfitting in Iqaluit (7 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Igaluit;
- That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- 3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing; and
- 4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Solomon Malliki of Arctic Wilderness Guiding and Outfitting (5 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Iqaluit;
- 2. That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- 3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;
- 4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease; and
- 5. That Solomon Malliki obtain written support from the Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization for the requested sport hunts.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunt applications: Enoki Irqittuq of Enoki's Outfitting (15 walrus), subject to the following conditions:

1. That all struck, lost and landed information is reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Iqaluit;



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- That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements established by Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- 3. That the assignment of each walrus to a sport hunter be made in writing;
- 4. That samples be collected and provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inspection of any animal that is in suspicion of contamination or disease; and
- 5. That Enoki Irqittuq obtain written support from the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization for the requested sport hunts.

Reasons for the NWMB's Decisions

Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Stock (AW-05)

The NWMB received seven applications to conduct walrus sport hunts from the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Atlantic walrus stock. These applications, requesting a total of 41 walrus sport hunts, were submitted by outfitters from the communities of Coral Harbour, Naujaat and Iqaluit. Coral Harbour has a community quota of 60 walrus (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 26), while the individual quota of 4 walrus per Inuk per year (*Marine Mammal Regulations*, Section 6(1)(c)) applies in Naujaat and Iqaluit. Over the past five years³, the average annual harvest of walrus in these three communities through sport hunts and subsistence hunts has been as follows:

Community	Sport Hunt Average	Subsistence Hunt Average
Coral Harbour	7	21
Naujaat	0	6
Iqaluit	0	9

The requested number of walrus sport hunts is within the community or individual quotas⁴ and should not interfere with subsistence harvests. As well, the hunt plans submitted addressed the Interim Policy's conditions regarding humane harvesting and hunter and public safety.

North and Central Foxe Basin Stocks (AW-04)

(888) 421-9832

³ Five-year averages for the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait stock are based on 5 years of data from 2012/13 to 2016/17.

⁴ As an individual Inuk in Iqaluit, Alex Flaherty is restricted to 4 walrus per year by the current harvesting limitation in the *Marine Mammal Regulations*. However, Mr. Flaherty has indicated that the additional 2 walrus requested will be assigned to sport hunters by another Inuk.



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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

The NWMB reviewed one application from Hall Beach to conduct walrus sport hunts within the North and Central Foxe Basin Atlantic walrus stocks. The hunt plan adequately addressed the Interim Policy's conditions regarding humane harvesting and hunter and public safety. Over the past five years, the average annual reported harvest of walrus from the North and Central Foxe Basin stocks was 7 through sport hunts⁵ and 122⁶ through subsistence hunts, for a total of 129. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's most recent analysis (DFO 2016) of aerial survey data has indicated a Potential Biological Removal of between 211 and 422 walrus, with an estimated average annual removal of 243 if a struck and loss rate of 30% is applied. This analysis also concluded that the reported harvests do not appear to be having an impact on the population, as it appears to have remained stable over the last 60 years. The NWMB is confident that the number of walrus sport hunts requested by the outfitter from Hall Beach is consistent with current quantitative limits on walrus harvesting and does not pose a conservation concern for the stocks.

Conclusion

Mr. Minister, the NWMB hereby forwards its decisions to you for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Should you accept the decisions of the NWMB with regards to the 2018 walrus sport hunts, the Board anticipates that implementation of the decisions by your department will include appropriate notification to the applicants. Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns with respect to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk A/Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Attachments (1)

Titiggap Turaarvia 1379

⁵ Based on 5 years of data from 2012/13 to 2016/17.

⁶ Based on 3 years of data from 2012/13 to 2016/17.

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk A/Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board P.O. Box 1379 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

APR 0 6 2018

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

I want to acknowledge and thank you for the Board's letter dated January 3, 2018 and received February 8, 2018, conveying the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) decisions regarding the walrus sport hunts for 2018. Pursuant to section 5.3.18 of the Nunavut Agreement (NA), I provide the following written reply.

This letter is to confirm that I accept the NWMB's decision to approve seven (7) walrus sport hunts for Alex Flaherty of Iqaluit, fifteen (15) walrus sport hunts for Enoki Irqittuq of Hall Beach, six (6) walrus sport hunts for Luke Eetuk of Coral Harbour, six (6) walrus sport hunts for Aaron Emiktowt of Coral Harbour, four (4) walrus sport hunts for Darcy Nakoolak of Coral Harbour, eight (8) walrus sport hunts for Clifford Natakok Sr. of Coral Harbour, five (5) walrus sport hunts for Danny Pee of Coral Harbour, and five (5) walrus sport hunts for Solomon Malliki of Naujaat for the 2018 season, subject to the conditions set out in the NWMB's letter of January 3, 2018.

It is important to note that timely and accurate harvest reporting is required under the *Fisheries Act*, the *Marine Mammal Regulations*, the NA, and as condition of the license for the sport hunt. I strongly encourage co-management organizations to emphasize the importance of harvest reporting and monitoring and providing the information to the Department.

Department officials in Iqaluit will notify the successful applicants. Once the Department's Iqaluit office has received all of the required information to complete a licence for the sport hunt, departmental officials will issue the licence.

I look forward to continued collaboration with the NWMB and its technical staff on walrus co-management issues.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., O.C., M.P.

Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

