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√∟△ 04, 2019

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(867) 975-7300 (888) 421-9832 Titiqqap Turaarvia 1379 Iqaluit, NU XOA 0H0



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July 04, 2019

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard Government of Canada

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

RE: Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada Agency's Proposal to Establish an Interim Protected Area through Ministerial Order—the **Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area**

NWMB Decision

On June 19, 2019, at the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM002-2019), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) requested that the NWMB approve the establishment of the Tuvaijuittug Marine Protected Area through designation by Ministerial Order, under the Oceans Act.

The proposed protected area is located to the west of the Arctic Archipelago and is projected to be one of the last areas with summer sea ice, as the effects of climate change become more pronounced.

At its In-Camera Meeting (IC002-2019) on June 20, 2019, the Board passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the NWMB approves, pursuant to Sections 5.2.34(a), 9.3.2, 15.2.1, and 15.3.4 of the Nunavut Agreement and considering the undertaking provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to bring any change following Canada Gazette 1 publication back to the NWMB for consideration, the plan to establish the Tuvaijuittug Marine Protected Area through designation by Ministerial Order, under the Oceans Act.

Rationale for the NWMB decision

In reaching this decision, the Board took into consideration the following:

The undertaking provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff to bring any changes made to the plan to establish the Tuvaijuittug Marine Protected Area through designation by Ministerial Order following the Canada Gazette 1 publication, back to the NWMB for reconsideration.

(888) 421-9832



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- Letters of support from Arctic Bay Hamlet and Hunters and Trappers
 Organization (HTO), Clyde River Hamlet and HTO, Grise Fiord Hamlet and HTO,
 Pond Inlet Hamlet and HTO, Resolute Bay Hamlet and HTO, Qikiqtani Inuit
 Association, and the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment.
- Written and oral submissions from other co-management partners.
- Bill C-55, the Act to amend the Oceans Act received Royal Assent on May 27, 2019.
- If no permanent protection is secured after five years, the ministerial protection will expire.
- The current boundaries of Tuvaijuittuq include areas that lie inside the Nunavut Settlement Area and outside in Zone 1.
- Tuvaijuittuq lies in an area that has been identified as an ecologically and biologically significant area and could be the last refuge for ice-dependent species as sea-ice extent and duration continue to decline.

Conclusion

The NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision to you, for your consideration pursuant to the terms of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

If you or your officials have any questions with respect to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk

David Kulmel

Chairperson

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Leah Brown, Senior Biologist, Oceans Program, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

AUG 2 2 2019

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board PO Box 1379 Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0



Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 4, 2019, regarding the approval of the proposal to establish the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area by ministerial order.

This letter confirms that I accept the June 20, 2019 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision that says:

"RESOLVED that the NWMB approves, pursuant to Sections 5.2.34(a), 9.3.2, 15.2.1, and 15.3.4 of the Nunavut Agreement and considering the undertaking provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to bring any change following Canada Gazette 1 publication back to the NWMB for consideration, the plan to establish the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area through designation by Ministerial Order, under the Oceans Act."

I would like to express my appreciation to you and the members of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for supporting the advancement of important marine protection measures within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.

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Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

