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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

June 20th, 2018

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
Government of Canada

Dear Minister McKenna:

RE: NWMB decision on the proposed final draft Management Plan for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM 002-2018) on June 6th, 2018, the Board received a Proposal for Decision (Proposal) from the Ahiak Area Co-management Committee. The Proposal was submitted by your department on the Ahiak Committee's behalf. The Proposal was on the final *Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary Management Plan* (Management Plan or Plan). Section 6.2.6 of the Management Plan also outlined restrictions for commercial fishing operations to avoid bottom trawling within 10 km of bird colonies, which is also subject to a NWMB decision as per section 5.6.48 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

This request was considered by the NWMB at its In-Camera Meeting (IC 002-2018) on June 7th, 2018, where the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Subsections 5.2.34(c) and 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary Management Plan.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.48 of the Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board require all commercial fishing operations to avoid bottom trawling within 10 kilometres of bird colonies in the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

In addition to carefully reviewing the best available science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the Board also took into consideration the following:

- The Plan was developed jointly by Inuit from nearby communities (Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Umingmaktok) and the Canadian Wildlife Service;
- Affected communities, government organizations, and additional stakeholders were invited to consultations in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven;
- Those included in the consultations were given the opportunity to provide input on the written version of the Management Plan; and

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- The Plan does not impose any restrictions on Inuit harvesting rights.

As per Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision on the approval of the proposed final Management Plan for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary to you for your consideration.

If you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

David Kritterdlik

David Kritterdlik
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Jennie Rausch, Vice-chair, Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary

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