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

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Honourable Joe Savikataaq  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

**Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decisions concerning Devon Island muskox harvest management**

Dear Minister Savikataaq,

During its In-camera meeting (IC 005-2016) on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) considered the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment's *Proposal for NWMB Decision* regarding modification of total allowable harvest for Devon Island muskox (Muskox Management Unit MX-04). On September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) provided public notice of its written public hearing to consider the harvest management of Devon Island muskox. Hearing parties included the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association, Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association (Grise Fiord), Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Association (Arctic Bay), and Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization. The NWMB received written submissions from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization.

The NWMB carefully considered the written arguments and evidence submitted during the public hearing<sup>1</sup> at its In-Camera meeting (IC 006-2016) on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, and approved the following resolution:

*RESOLVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB ~~or Board~~), pursuant to Sections 5.6.16 and Subsection 5.6.17(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, as well as the NWMB's inherent authority as the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area:*

1. Approve an increase of the regional total allowable harvest for Devon Island muskox (Muskox Management Unit MX-04) from 15 to 100 muskox; and
2. Recommend that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board consider allocating a portion of the total allowable harvest for Devon Island muskox to the community of Pond Inlet, pursuant to Subsection 5.7.6(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

<sup>1</sup> All of the written submissions received and considered at the hearing are publicly available for download from the Board's website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)).

In making the above decisions, the NWMB noted the following:

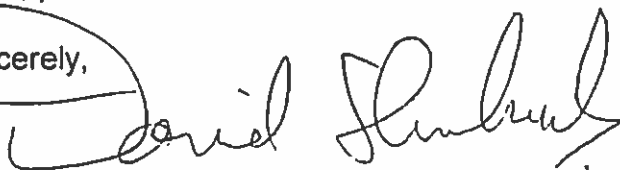
- The most recent survey results of Devon Island muskox indicate the population has increased significantly over the past eight years.
- Maintaining a total allowable harvest would be a reliable means of monitoring harvest levels.
- The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association (Grise Fiord) support the increase to a total allowable harvest of 100, based on written submissions and the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment's consultation summary.
- Neither of the written submissions received by the NWMB expressed opposition to the proposed increase and the consultation summary did not indicate that any of the affected communities were opposed to an increase in total allowable harvest.

The NWMB is also recommending that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board include Pond Inlet in its allocation of Devon Island muskox total allowable harvest, based on the arguments submitted by Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.

As per Section 5.3.8 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decisions concerning the harvest management of Devon Island Muskox to you for your review and consideration. The NWMB recognizes the importance of this decision and looks forward to your prompt reply and the timely completion of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Article 5 decision-making process.

Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk  
Acting Chairperson of the  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

C.C. Ron Elliot, Executive Assistant to Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Government of Nunavut  
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Management, Government of Nunavut –  
Department of Environment



07/14/2016

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Γσ<sup>1</sup>C ኤልቨር<sup>96</sup>,

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