

LA 10, 2017

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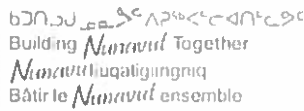
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KRWB-kut | Titigagaqvia 104 Kugaaruk NU X0B 1K0 | hivayauta 867.769.1007 | faxkut 867.769.1009



3 May 2017

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Building Nunavut Together  
Nunavutluqatigiingniq  
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Ministère de l'Environnement

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May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

Dear Minister Savikataaq,

**Re: Polar bear credit requests from Spence Bay (Taloyoak) Hunters and Trappers Association**

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received communications from the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board regarding two requests for polar bear credits from the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association. The Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association requested 1 female polar bear credit from the M'Clintock Channel subpopulation and 2 female polar bear credits from the Gulf of Boothia subpopulation. Both requests are for use in the 2016/2017 polar bear harvest season. The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board indicated its support for approving both of the requests (Appendix 1) and the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment confirmed that the credits are available for use.

The NWMB considered the requests during its internal in-camera teleconference on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (INT-004-2017) and passed the following resolutions:

*RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, in accordance with the principles of conservation, the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association's request for one (1) female polar bear credit from the M'Clintock Channel subpopulation for use during the 2016/2017 polar bear harvest season, which is compliant with the "Polar Bear Management Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Population" and its associated flexible quota system.*

*RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, in accordance with the principles of conservation, the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association's request for two (2) female polar bear credits from the Gulf of Boothia subpopulation for use during the 2016/2017 polar bear harvest season, which is compliant with the "Polar Bear Management Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Gulf of Boothia Polar Bear Population" and its associated flexible quota system*

In making this decision, the NWMB considered the credit records for Spence Bay from the subpopulations in question. The Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment has confirmed that there are 1.33 female polar bear credits available from M'Clintock Channel and 2.99 female polar bear credits available from Gulf of Boothia for the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association (Appendix 2). By approving these requests, Taloyoak's allocations of

M'Clintock Channel polar bears will increase to five (three males and two females) and its Gulf of Boothia polar bears will increase to twenty-seven (seventeen males and ten females).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk  
Acting Chairperson of the  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

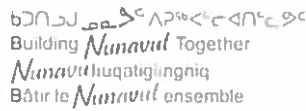
c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Management, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Mike Harte, Polar Bear Harvest Technician, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Joe Ashevak, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Management Board  
Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association

Appendix 1. Letter from Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board to NWMB supporting Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association request for polar bear credits  
Appendix 2. Letter from Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment to Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board confirming the available polar bear credits.





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KRWB-kut | Tiitgaqagvia 104 Kugaaruk NU X0B 1K0 | hivayauta 867 769 1007 | faxkut 867.769.1009



20 April 2017

**RE: REQUEST FROM SPENCE BAY HTA TO DRAW 41 MALE POLAR BEAR CREDITS AND 2 FEMALE POLAR BEAR CREDITS FROM THE GULF OF BOOTHIA POLAR BEAR SUBPOPULATION TO BE USED IN THE 2016/2017 POLAR BEAR HARVEST SEASON**

**IN ADDITION: SPENCE BAY HTA HAS REQUESTED THE USE OF 1 FEMALE POLAR BEAR CREDIT FROM THE M'CLINTOCK CHANNEL POLAR BEAR SUBPOPULATION TO BE USED IN THE 2016/2017 POLAR BEAR HARVEST SEASON**

Dear Chairman Ashevak,

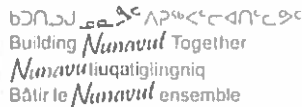
According to the letters and motion papers you forwarded to the Polar Bear Harvest Lab on April 19, 2017, we are now aware that Spence Bay HTA would like to utilize 41 male and 2 female polar bear credits from the Gulf of Boothia subpopulation in addition to 1 female credit from the M'Clintock Channel subpopulation to be used during the 2016/2017 polar bear harvest season. It is the responsibility of the Polar Bear Harvest Lab to keep track of credits and historical harvest data. This letter is intended to provide you with current credit information for Spence Bay HTA (with respect to the Gulf of Boothia and M'Clintock Channel polar bear subpopulations) and a brief summary of past harvest years.

### Available Credits – Gulf of Boothia

Spence Bay HTA currently has 41.59 male and 2.99 female polar bear credits available in the Gulf of Boothia subpopulation which are sufficient to cover this portion of the request.

### Available Credits – M’Clintock Channel

There are currently -0.33 male and 1.33 female credits available to Spence Bay HTA in the M'Clintock Channel subpopulation which is sufficient to cover this portion of the request.



Mike Harte  
Polar Bear Harvest Technician  
Department of Environment  
Avatiliqiykkut  
Ministère de l'Environnement

## Harvest History – Gulf of Boothia

During the 2015/2016 harvest season Spence Bay HTA harvested 24 bears (16 male: 8 female) which is one under the TAH of 25 (17:8).

In the 2014/2015 season, Spence Bay HTA harvested 23 bears (16:7), which are 2 under the TAH of 25.

The 2013/2014 season saw Spence Bay HTA harvesting under a reduced TAH of 8 (4 male: 4 female). This reduction was caused by the over harvest of 4 females in the 2012/2013 harvest season. Under this reduced TAH (8), Spence Bay HTA harvested 7 bears and was able to restore full TAH in 2014/2015.

### Harvest History – M'Clintock Channel

The 2015/2016 harvest season was the first TAH allocated to Spence Bay HTA (for M'Clintock Channel) since 2000/2001. The allocation was 4 (3 males: 1 female). Spence Bay HTA harvested three males only, allowing for the single female credit being requested in the current season.

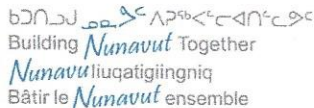
If you require any additional information to aid your decisions please do not hesitate to contact myself (867 934 2184) or Markus Dyck (Polar Bear Biologist II 867 934 2181). Thank you and we look forward to hearing your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

*MR*

**Mike Harte – Polar Bear Harvest Technician**

CC: Regional Coordinator, KRWB, E. Qaggutaq  
Chairperson, Spence Bay HTA, Sam Tulurialik  
Manager, Wildlife Research, Department of Environment L. Orman  
Wildlife Biologist, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, E. Keenan  
Polar Bear Biologist II, Department of Environment, M. Dyck  
Director, Wildlife, Department of Environment, D. Gissing



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Minister of Environment  
Ministaat Avatiliqiyitkut  
Ministre de l'Environnement

May 30, 2017

Daniel Shewchuk  
Acting Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

**RE: Polar bear credit requests from Spence Bay (Taloyoak) Hunters and Trappers Association**

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

Thank you for your letter dated May 10, 2017 regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) decision related to the use of polar bear credits by the Spence Bay (Taloyoak) Hunters and Trappers Association.

I hereby accept the NWMB decision to approve the credit requests of:

- one (1) female polar bear credit for the 2016-2017 harvest season from the M'Clintock Channel sub-population;
- two (2) female polar bear credits for the 2016-2017 harvest season from the Gulf of Boothia subpopulation.

I will instruct my staff to implement the change and distribute additional tags to the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association immediately, for polar bear harvests up until June 30, 2017.

Sincerely,

Hon. Joe Savikataaq  
Minister of Environment

cc: Joe Ashevak – Chairperson, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board  
Sam Tuluiarik – Chairperson, Spence Bay HTA  
Drikus Gissing – Director of Wildlife, Department of Environment