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Nunavummi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijikut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

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David Shauluk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

උග්‍රීත්‍යා – Drikus Gissing, Chairperson, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Legislative Assembly
Signature:



19, 2018

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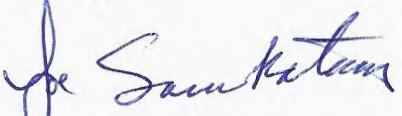
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Adam Sirkie
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Адам Сірікі:
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Tammaqtailinahuarnirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

March 29th 2018

Honourable Joe Savikataaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Dear Minister Savikataaq:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decisions concerning the total allowable harvest for the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation

1. THE NWMB DECISIONS

On March 08th 2018, during its In-Camera meeting (IC001-2018) in Iqaluit, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) considered the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment's *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (Proposal) concerning the total allowable harvest of the Kane Basin (KB) polar bear subpopulation. At this meeting, the NWMB passed the following resolutions:

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, pursuant to Sections 5.5.3(a), 5.6.16, and 5.6.17(a) of the Nunavut Agreement the Proposal to maintain the total allowable harvest in the Nunavut Settlement Area for the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation at five (5) bears/year allocated to the community of Grise Fiord.

2. RATIONALE FOR THE NWMB's DECISIONS

In arriving at this decision, the NWMB carefully considered the recommendations from the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment and new information from a two-year (2013-2014) Kane Basin polar bear study: *Re-Assessment of the Baffin Bay and Kane Basin Polar Bear Subpopulations: Final Report to the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission on Polar Bear, 2016; and the Harvest Assessment for Baffin Bay and Kane Basin Polar Bear Subpopulations: Final Report to the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission on Polar Bear, 2017* completed by the Scientific Working Group of the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission on Polar Bear¹. The study estimated that there are 357 polar bears (95% Confidence Interval = 221–493) in the Kane Basin subpopulation,

¹ The five-member Scientific Working Group was established by the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission on Polar Bear (Joint Commission) to provide the Joint Commission with scientific advice and recommendations with respect to the conservation and management of polar bears. Membership is comprised of two representatives from each of the Canadian and Greenlandic research institutes/agencies, and a fifth member appointed by the Scientific Working Group co-chairs from a research institute that is independent of both Canada and Greenland.



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Nunavummi Anngutighatigut Aulapkajitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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

an abundance level that may be higher than estimated by the previous study from 1994 to 1997 (164 bears, 95% Confidence Interval = 94-234), but the two estimates cannot be directly compared due to differences in study methods and area coverage.

The NWMB's decision also considered the following:

- Grise Fiord is the only Nunavut community that harvests from the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation
- Since 1997, average annual harvest of Kane Basin polar bears by Grise Fiord harvesters was less than one bear, as such; the quota of five bears fulfills community needs
- The Grise Fiord HTO was extensively consulted by the Nunavut Department of Environment and the community supports the recommendation of five polar bears/year
- Greenland has implemented a total allowable harvest of nine (9) polar bears for the Greenland portion of the Kane Basin subpopulation
- Given the historic rate of removal from Grise Fiord, it is unlikely that the combined Nunavut and Greenland annual removal from the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation will exceed the Scientific Working Group's recommendation of 10 bears/year (2.8% of the subpopulation)

As per Section 5.3.8 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decisions concerning the harvest management of the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation.

The NWMB looks forward to your prompt reply and timely completion of the *Nunavut Agreement* Article 5 decision-making process.

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

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc – Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Management, Nunavut Department of Environment



April 19, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Re: *Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decisions concerning the total allowable harvest for the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation*

Thank you for your decision concerning a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation in Nunavut.

To reiterate the decision of the NWMB:

"RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, pursuant to Sections 5.5.3(a), 5.6.16, and 5.6.17(b) of the Nunavut Agreement, the Proposal to maintain the total allowable harvest in the Nunavut Settlement Area for the Kane Basin polar bear subpopulation at five (5) bears/year allocated to the community of Grise Fiord."

I hereby accept your decision to maintain the TAH for the regional total allowable harvest in the Nunavut settlement region of the Kane Basin subpopulation at five (5) polar bears to be allocated to the community of Grise Fiord.

Thank you again for your letter and I look forward to ongoing collaboration with the NWMB for effective wildlife management.



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Building **Nunavut** Together
Nunavut illiugatigiingniq
Bâtir le **Nunavut** ensemble

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Minister of Environment
Ministaat Avatiliqiyitkut
Ministre de l'Environnement

Sincerely,

Joe Savikataaq
Minister

Cc. Pauloosie Suvega - Deputy Minister, Department of Environment