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<p>በዚህ ምዕራፍ ውስጥ የሚገኙት ስራዎች የሚፈጸሙት በሰላምና በብሔራዊ አቅም መሰረት ነው።</p>	<p>የሰላም ስራዎች የሚፈጸሙት በሰላምና በብሔራዊ አቅም መሰረት ነው።</p>	<p>የሰላም ስራዎች የሚፈጸሙት በሰላምና በብሔራዊ አቅም መሰረት ነው።</p>	<p>የሰላም ስራዎች የሚፈጸሙት በሰላምና በብሔራዊ አቅም መሰረት ነው።</p>
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Tammaqtailinahuarinirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin
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September 17, 2019

Dear Minister Savikataaq:

Re: NWMB final decisions on the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) In-Camera Meeting in Iqaluit on September 12, 2019 (IC003-2019), the Board reconsidered its initial decision on the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* in light of your reasons for disallowance in a letter to the Board dated May 17, 2019.

Taking into account the above, the NWMB made additional technical and non-technical revisions to the management plan and based on those revisions, made the following decisions:

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, pursuant to Sections 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, technical changes to the revised “Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan” within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

- the NWMB's initial decision;
- your reasons for disallowance;

1 At the hearing, the NWMB received oral submissions from the Government of Nunavut, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) and Kivalliq Region's Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) and Kitikmeot Region's HTOs, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) and Qikiqtaaluk Region's HTOs, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), ECCC, Parks Canada Agency (PCA), World Wildlife Fund – Canada (WWF), distinguished Elders/Qaujimaniliit (persons recognized by their communities as possessing in-depth Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit), and members of the public. In addition to the oral submissions presented at the hearing, the NWMB received written submissions from NTI, KRWB, KWB, QWB, Aiviti HTO, Arviat HTO, Hall Beach HTO, Issatik HTO, Kangiqliniq HTO, Mayukalik HTO, Mittimatalik HTO, Nattivak HTO, Naujaat HTO, Sanikiluaq HTO, ECCC, PCA, Makivik Corporation, and WWF.



- written and oral arguments provided at the in-person public hearing;
- submission from ECCC in response to the NWMB's initial decision and the minister's reasons for disallowance.

As per Section 5.3.12 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB is now forwarding its final decision on the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* to you.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments:

Appendix 2: The *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* as approved by the NWMB



Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin
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NWMB's initial revisions	Minister's reply and reasons	NWMB's approved revisions	Justification
<p>Section 1, Line 184-187</p> <p>The focus of the polar bear management now shifts to maintaining or reducing numbers in areas where populations are not in decline, and public safety is a concern and/or where there are detrimental effects on the ecosystem due to an increase in the number of polar bears.</p>	<p>The addition of the words "where populations are not in decline" is problematic. In the future, there may be cases where science and/or IQ indicate a subpopulation is declining, but the Minister may want to increase the TAH to reduce the population further due to public safety concerns (e.g. Western Hudson Bay). A public safety concern may arise from bears spending more time on land (and around communities) due to changes to sea ice conditions, even if the population is declining overall.</p>	<p>Moving forward, the focus will be to manage polar bears sustainably, while allowing for flexibility to reduce numbers in areas where public safety is a concern and/or where there are detrimental effects on the ecosystem due to an increase in the number of polar bears.</p>	<p>The NWMB considers the minister's reasons to be reasonable. This revision provides flexibility to sustainably manage subpopulations for a decrease where necessary.</p>
<p>S 7.1.4, Line 604–607</p> <p>Inuit believe that tourism and research related to polar bear handling and habituation in</p>	<p>Tourism/research in Manitoba cannot account for all problem bear behaviour in Nunavut, which this added statement seems to imply. We recommend changing the wording to "Some Inuit have expressed concern that tourism and research related</p>	<p>Some Inuit have expressed concerns that tourism and research related to polar bear handling and habituation, such as in Churchill, Manitoba, is the</p>	<p>NWMB agrees with the minister's reasons and has adopted the suggested text.</p>



Churchill, Manitoba is the reason polar bears have lost their fear of humans and tend to come into communities. The impacts of tourism can be limited by proper policies and management.	to polar bear handling and habituation, such as in Churchill, Manitoba, is the reason why polar bears have lost their fear of humans..." Many Nunavut communities encounter problem bears that have had no contact with Churchill, Manitoba.	reason polar bears have lost their fear of humans and tend to come into communities.	
S.8.1.2, Line 575–560 The two males for every female harvest ratio has been instrumental to the conservation management of polar bears in Nunavut. However, communities throughout Nunavut have expressed concerns about the difficulties in the administration of the sex-selective harvesting and the excessive penalizations that occur when females are over-harvested. Moving forward, this management plan adopts one male to one female harvest ratio for all	We require clarity on whether this co-management plan will give the GN legislative authority to change the regulation around polar bear harvest sex ratios or whether it will need to go through a separate decision process, specifically the GN submission for NWMB RM001-2019 on Polar Bear sex ratios. It is not clear from the proposed change whether communities will have the option to continue harvesting at a 2:1 sex ratio (2 males for every female). The statement "... showing that the removal of one male for every female has led to a decrease in the subpopulation's size or the survival of females" is problematic. A decrease in a	The current management system adopts one male to one female harvest ratio for all Nunavut subpopulations until there is new information from science or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit showing that there has been a decrease in a subpopulation's size or the survival of females, and there is a conservation concern.	During the NWMB's Internal In-Camera teleconference meeting (INT009-2019) on July 24, 2019, the NWMB approved the Government of Nunavut proposal and established a sex-selective harvest ratio of one female bear harvested for every male bear (1:1), applicable to all polar bear subpopulations in the Nunavut Settlement Area, until new science or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit information becomes available. On August 12, 2019, the NWMB provided its decision letter to the minister according to S.5.3.8 of the Nunavut Agreement. The



<p>Nunavut subpopulations, until such a time when there is new information from Science or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit showing that the removal of one male for every female has led to a decrease in a subpopulation's size or the survival of females. In this new system, the overharvest of males or females will be penalised by removing the same number of males or females from the following year's allocation.</p>	<p>subpopulation's size or female survival could be caused by factors other than the harvest sex ratio. We recommend changing the wording to "until such a time when there is new information from Science or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit showing that there has been a decrease in a subpopulation 's size or the survival of females and there is a conservation concern".</p>		<p>minister approved the NWMB's decision on August 26, 2019.</p> <p>This NWMB final revisions take into consideration this change in the polar bear sex-selective harvest ratio and the minister's reasons.</p>
<p>Appendix A, Line 1233–1235</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-assess management boundaries for the Foxe Basin, Western Hudson Bay, and Southern Hudson Bay subpopulations. - Increase Inuit involvement and the use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on 	<p>It is not clear in the revised Management plan where "Re-assess management boundaries for the Foxe Basin, Western Hudson Bay, and Southern Hudson Bay subpopulations" was added. In addition, it is not possible to re-assess management boundaries for polar bear without collar data, which is not supported by Inuit in Nunavut at this time.</p>	<p>- Explore the possibility to re-assess the management boundaries between Western Hudson Bay and Foxe Basin/Southern Hudson Bay subpopulations.</p>	<p>"Re-assess" has been revised to "Explore the possibility to re-assess," to accommodate the minister's concerns that it is not currently feasible to re-assess boundaries.</p> <p>The NWMB considers the minister's reason to be</p>



research being conducted on the subpopulation in Manitoba.	It is not appropriate for Nunavut to dictate how other jurisdictions conduct research, especially not in a Management Plan.	- Encourage knowledge exchange between Inuit and researchers.	reasonable and have edited the text to accommodate the minister's concern.
Appendix A, Line 1366–1369 The low polar bear abundance is likely due to low ringed seal productivity in the central and western areas of Norwegian Bay; a result of prevailing multi-year ice.	The GN is not aware of any scientific studies or recorded IQ substantiating this statement. There may be IQ indicating that ring seal productivity has declined but there is no evidence to indicate that it has had a direct impact on polar bears. We recommend that it be removed.	Science research suggests that the low polar bear abundance may be due to low ringed seal productivity in the central and western areas of Norwegian Bay—a result of prevailing multi-year ice ² .	The NWMB has provided two references to substantiate this statement, which include a 2007 Government of Nunavut authored COSEWIC update status report on the polar bears.
Appendix B- Flexible quota system Previously, harvesting was considered sustainable when two males were harvested for every female.	A stated in row 3, we require clarity on whether this co- management plan will give the GN legislative authority to change the regulation around polar bear harvest sex ratios or whether it will need to go through a separate decision process,	Appendix B- Flexible quota system has been removed.	During the NWMB's Internal In-Camera teleconference meeting (INT009-2019) on July 24, 2019, the NWMB approved the Government of Nunavut proposal and established a sex-selective

McLoughlin, P. D., Taylor, M. K., Dowsley, M. 2007. Update, COSEWIC status report on the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) prepared for the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment, Status report: **32**, Iqaluit, pp 20.



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<p>This was based on simulation modelling showing that about twice as many males as females can be sustainably removed from a polar bear population while maximizing harvest. Moving forward, and as specified in section 8.1.2 of this management plan, polar bears in Nunavut will be harvested at a one male for every female ratio. It is important to note that the adoption of the one male to one female harvest ratio is the only change to the flexible quota system. All other provisions of the flexible quota system as outlined in this section (e.g. credit accumulation, transfer and reset; maximum sustainable yield, etc..) will continue to apply.</p>	<p>specifically the GN submission for NWMB RM001-2019 on Polar Bear sex ratios. It is not clear from the proposed change whether communities will have the option to continue harvesting at a 2:1 sex ratio (2 males for every female). The appendix for the Flexible Quota system will need significant revision once there are changes to the sex ratio of the harvest as there are multiple aspects that would need to be changed based on a 1:1 harvest. As this is an appendix to the Plan, it should not affect approval of the Plan itself. The appendices will change more frequently than the plan as they are based on the most recent scientific information and IQ. GN staff are open to working with NWMB staff to ensure that appendix best reflects changes to the harvest sex ratio.</p>		<p>harvest ratio of one female bear harvested for every male bear (1:1), and recommended that the Government of Nunavut revise the 'Flexible Quota System,' to reflect the 1:1 harvest sex ratio and provide the revised document to the NWMB for consideration. On August 12, 2019, the NWMB provided its decision letter to the minister according to S.5.3.8 of the Nunavut Agreement. The minister approved the NWMB's decision on August 26, 2019 and has suggested revisions to the Flexible Quota System.</p> <p>The NWMB has therefore, taken the Flexible Quota System (Appendix B) out of the management plan. When it is revised and approved, it will remain a stand-alone document that is referred to in the management plan but not part of it.</p>
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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Minister of Environment
Ministère de l'Environnement

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

Translation to follow

September 19, 2019

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Re: NWMB final decisions on the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan

Thank you very much for your final decision concerning the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan.

To reiterate the decision of the NWMB:

- *"RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, pursuant to Sections 5.2.34(d)(i), of the Nunavut Agreement, non-technical changes to the revised "Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan" within the Nunavut Settlement Area.*
- *FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, pursuant to Sections 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, technical changes to the revised "Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan" within the Nunavut Settlement Area.*

I hereby accept your decision to approve the technical and non-technical changes to the revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan; and I look forward to working with the board and all co-management partners in the full implementation of this plan.

Further, I want to thank the Board and Board staff for their hard work, attention to detail, and collaborative approach to ensuring this important document was finalized and reflective of Nunavummiut input.

Sincerely,

Joe Savikataaq,

Cc. Jimmy Noble Jr. - Deputy Minister, Department of Environment
Steve Pinksen - Assistant Minister, Department of Environment