

06, 2020

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[illegible]

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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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[illegible][illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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[illegible]



1867-975-5050
867-975-5051



July 06, 2020

Dear Minister Savikataaq:

NWMB Decision

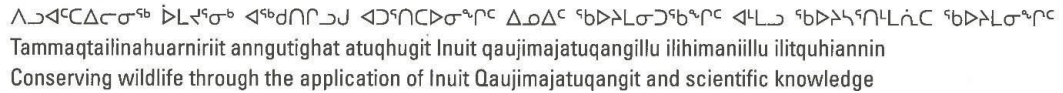
¹ The revisions to the Flexible Quota System included the renaming of the *Flexible Quota System* to the *Harvest Administration and Credit Calculation System*.



FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board recommend that the relevant Inuit Organizations—Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs, in consultation with their communities' HTOs)—provide feedback to the Government of Nunavut on the Flexible Quota System, and work with the Government of Nunavut to promptly resolve any disagreements regarding the Flexible Quota System, constructively.

The FQS is integral to the implementation of two management frameworks: (1) the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*, and (2) the change in the NQL sex-selective harvest ratio from 2:1 to 1:1. Under the current FQS, communities can accumulate large numbers of credits and then request and use these credits at any time. In September 2019, the NWMB approved the FQS for the 1:1 system for implementation by the Minister on an interim basis for the 2019/2020 harvest season, pending further consultation with co-management partners.

In October 2019, the Government of Nunavut sent the 2019 *Interim* FQS to the RWOs and NTI for comment. The Government of Nunavut did not provide any evidence of a follow-up engagement with the parties. The Government of Nunavut then proceeded to revise the 2019 FQS based on "internal and external" feedback. These revisions, which were not part of the October 2019 letter, were not shared with co-management partners before they were submitted to the NWMB for decision. As per the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB considers the consultation process on the new FQS as incomplete as Inuit have not yet provided direct feedback on the FQS nor had an opportunity to review the latest FQS (the *Harvest Administration and Credit Calculation System*) proposed by your department. The Board requests that the Government of Nunavut invite further contributions from co-management partners and provide evidence of engagement. At the Board's Regular Meeting (RM002-2020), Inuit organizations consistently asserted that the Government of Nunavut has an obligation to conduct consultation and they suggested in-person consultations were required. The Inuit organizations also suggested that the October 2019 written letter format was insufficient in seeking feedback on such an



The Board understands that instances where a request is made to use a high number of available credits, could pose a conservation issue, however, the Board also recognizes that the limited disbursements of the available tags is not inline with the terms of the current FQS. The Board therefore encourages the Government of Nunavut to work directly with the RWOs and HTOs as necessary, to resolve issues facing communities regarding polar bear harvest management under the current FQS. Presumably, a collaborative approach with co-management partners will also inform revisions to the FQS.



Conclusion

David Schubert

c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Research and Management, Government of Nunavut
Jason Aliqatuqtuq, Director of Wildlife Operations, Government of Nunavut

