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September 13, 2019

Honourable Joe Savikataaq Minister of Environment Government of Nunavut

Dear Minister Savikataaq:

Re: Government of Nunavut's Revisions to the Polar Bear Harvest Administration System: The Flexible Quota System

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) meeting (RM003-2019) on September 11, 2019, the Government of Nunavut provided information about revisions to the *Polar Bear Flexible Quota System* (FQS). The FQS is used in Nunavut to administer the portion of the total allowable harvest (quota) allocated to a given community. The system, which was negotiated into regional memoranda of understanding between Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Regional Wildlife Organizations, and the Government of Nunavut in 2005, allows for credits to be accumulated when the annual allocation is under-harvested and for overharvested allocations to be subtracted from the next year's base allocation.

The Government of Nunavut made these revisions to match recent changes to the polar bear harvest sex ratio, from two males for every female (2:1) to one male for every female (1:1).

At the Board's meeting, the Government of Nunavut staff informed the Board that it would be difficult to effectively implement the changes to the harvest sex ratio without revisions to the FQS.

During the NWMB's Special Meeting (SP003-2019) on September 12, 2019, the Board considered the proposed revisions to the FQS and made the following decisions:

Resolved that, pursuant to section 5.6.48 of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB approve—on an interim basis for the 2019/2020 harvest season—the Government of Nunavut's proposed revisions to the polar bear flexible quota system used in the administration of the harvest of polar bears within the Nunavut Settlement Area to allow for a harvest ratio of up to one female for every male harvested, pending the completion of consultations with relevant co-management partners.

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Further resolved that, following the completion of consultations with relevant comanagement partners, the matter be brought back to the NWMB for review and approval."

In reaching these decisions, the NWMB considered the following:

- The FQS is required to implement the decision of the NWMB and the minister to change from a 2:1 to 1:1 harvest sex ratio for polar bears in the *Nunavut Settlement Area*.
- The FQS is an integral part of the polar bear harvest non-quota limitation and must be approved by the NWMB according to section 5.6.48 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.
- The Government of Nunavut has committed to share the revised flexible quota system with co-management partners for their review and feedback.

The NWMB looks forward to your reply and prompt 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,

Dovid Hulhul

Daniel Shewchuk Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments: Interim Flexible Quota System

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



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

Translation To follow

October 4, 2019

Re: Government of Nunavut's Revisions to the Polar Bear Harvest Administration System: The Flexible Quota System

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

Thank you very much for your decision concerning the revisions to the Polar Bear Flexible Quota System (FQS).

To reiterate the decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB):

- RESOLVED that, pursuant to section 5.6.48 of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB approve – on an interim basis for the 2019/2020 harvest season – the Government of Nunavut's proposed revisions to the polar bear flexible quota system used in the administration of the harvest of polar bears within the Nunavut Settlement Area to allow for a harvest ratio of up to one female for every male harvested, pending the completion of consultations with relevant co-management partners.
- FURTHER RESOLVED that, following the completion of consultations with relevant co-management partners, the matter be brought back to the NWMB for review and approval.

I hereby accept your decision to approve the revisions to the FQS on an interim basis for the 2019/2020 harvest season. My Department will engage co-management partners through consultation on the revisions and prepare a submission to the NWMB for approval once that consultation process is complete. I want to thank the Board members and staff for their consideration of this matter and for their collaboration on the approved FQS which the Department of Environment will work to implement immediately.

Sincerely,

K

Joe Savikataaq, Minister of Environment

Cc. Jimmy Noble Jr., Deputy Minister of Environment Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife