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Minister of Environment
Minista Avatiliritjutinut
Ministre de l'Environnement

May 24, 2012

Peter Kusugak
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
PO Box 1379
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0

Re: Request for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on the Total Allowable Harvest for the Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Population

Dear Mr. Kusugak;

Attached please find a request for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for the management of the Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Population (WH).

This request for a decision of the NWMB is being submitted as a Ministerial Management Initiative as per Article 5.3.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Pursuant to the NWMB decision I accepted and implemented in 2011/2012, the TAH for the current year is 21, but reverts back to 8 on July 1, 2012. Should the NWMB choose to establish a TAH other than 8, it would be highly desirable to receive this decision in time for it to be implemented on July 1, 2012. Therefore I respectfully request that the NWMB deal with this matter expediently and make a decision on this request in time for any change to be implemented by July 1, 2011

In the attached request for decision, the Department recommends a Nunavut total harvest of 24 bears from WH for the 2012/13 harvest season, to be allocated by the Regional Wildlife Organization amongst the Nunavut communities that harvest from WH. This recommendation takes into account the fact that Manitoba is expected to destroy about 3 bears as part of their problem bear management program, and that there was an overharvest of 3 of bears in WH by Nunavut communities in 2011/2012.

If your staff has any question about this request or require additional information, they are asked to contact Drikus Gissing, Director, Wildlife Management Division.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. James Arreak
Minister

Box 2410, Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0, Canada

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