



**LP<sup>ca</sup>**  
Société Makivik  
Makivik Corporation

Kuuujuaq, July 29, 2013

Manasie Audlakiak  
Acting Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Box 1379  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
XOA 0H0

**Re: Public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population in the Nunavut Settlement Area**

Dear Mr. Audlakiak:

On behalf of Makivik Corporation, I would like to thank you for providing us with an opportunity to participate in the planned public hearing concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population. By virtue of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) Section 5.3.4, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) must take into account harvesting activities outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA). As you are no doubt aware, the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population is shared with Nunavik, and is also harvested by Nunavik hunters; thus the level of harvest by Nunavik hunters must also be considered by the NWMB when making its decision on the total allowable harvest for the NSA. Equally, by virtue of NLCA Section 40.2.4 and the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA) Section 27.3.1, the Inuit of Nunavik also have harvesting rights within the NSA, as do Nunavut Inuit within the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR) in accordance with the NILCA Section 27.3.2.

Historical harvest levels by Nunavik Inuit hunters of the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population have varied substantially between years. Within the past 25 years, annual harvest rates have peaked at 17 polar bears, while there have also been several years where no polar bears have been harvested. With this high level of inter-annual variation and the difficulty in predicting the harvest level of any given year, while at the same time ensuring that the harvesting rights of Nunavik Inuit are not compromised, Makivik prefers to recommend a harvest level for Nunavik Inuit that will take into account the possibility of elevated annual harvest levels relative to the 5-year harvest mean. As such, Makivik would like to ensure that when the NWMB sets a total allowable harvest (TAH) for Foxe Basin polar bears for the NSA, it does so with the recognition that Nunavik Inuit hunters are considered to harvest a minimum of ten polar bears from the Foxe Basin sub-population. Additionally, so as to adequately take into account the Nunavik Inuit right to harvest Foxe Basin polar bears, Makivik highly recommends that Nunavik Inuit receive ten percent (10%) of the total number of polar bears

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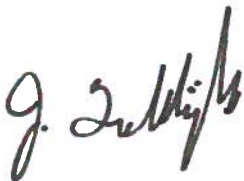
designated to be harvested in all jurisdictions (NSA, Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy, Nunavik Marine Region (NMR) & Québec) at such point in time when a TAH is established for all jurisdictions. Furthermore, Makivik would also like to see a flexible quota system adopted in both Québec and the NMR should the management authorities responsible for the management of polar bears in these two areas deem it necessary to implement a TAH. This would ensure that Nunavik Inuit hunters would not be overly constrained by the inter-annual variation in the numbers of polar bears that could potentially be harvested.

Makivik would also highly recommend that the NWMB enter into discussions with the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) so as to ensure that similar management measures are in place in adjacent jurisdictions that share the same sub-population. The NMRWB has been mandated by the federal Minister of the Environment to establish management plans for the three polar bear sub-populations in the NMR, including Foxe Basin polar bears, and coordination between the NWMB and NMRWB would allow for the establishment of common objectives in the management of the Foxe Basin sub-population. It is the understanding of Makivik that the NMRWB also plans to hold a public hearing on the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population, at a date yet to be determined, and it would be hoped that the NWMB would contribute to this.

Makivik equally believes that the Makivik appointed alternate members to the NWMB should be involved in the establishment of a TAH for the Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy as outlined in Section 40.2.14 of NLCA. Makivik anticipates that the alternate members will be contacted shortly by the NWMB so that they will be involved in the process.

Once again, Makivik would like to thank the NWMB for the opportunity to provide input, and we look forward to participating in the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population public hearings in Iqaluit.

Sincerely,



Jobie Tukkiapik,  
President  
Makivik Corporation

Cc: Robbie Tookalook, Acting Chair, NMWRB  
Yves-François Blanchet, Minister, MDDEFP  
Hon. Leona Aglukkak, Minister of the Environment, Government of Canada  
Cathy Towtongie, President, NTI  
Hon. James Arreak, Minister of the Environment, Government of Nunavut  
Paulusie Novalinga, President, RNUK