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 Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaajitkut Katimajiat  
 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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 Tammaqtailinahuarnirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin  
 Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

Honourable Johnny Mike  
 Minister of Environment  
 Government of Nunavut

Cathy Towtongie  
 President of Nunavut  
 Tunngavik Incorporated

Ross Tatty  
 Chairperson of the Kivalliq  
 Wildlife Board

James Qillaq  
 Chairperson of the  
 Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Noah Kadlak  
 Chairperson of the Coral  
 Harbour Hunters and Trappers  
 Organization

Quvanaqtuliaq Tapaungai  
 Chairperson of the Aiviq  
 Hunters and Trappers  
 Organization

Michel Akkuardjuk  
 Chairperson of the Arviq  
 Hunters and Trappers  
 Organization

Barney Aggark  
 Chairperson of Aqigiq  
 Hunters and Trappers  
 Organization

Paul Kanayok  
 Chairperson of Kangiqliniq  
 Hunters and Trappers  
 Organization

Dear Colleagues:

**Re: Invitation to file further written submissions for the continuing Southampton Island Caribou Public Hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

**1. NWMB decision to continue - through adjournment - its December 2013 Southampton Island Caribou Public Hearing**

On December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2013, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) organized and held an in-person public hearing in Iqaluit to receive and consider submissions concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest (TAH), the regional basic needs level (BNL), and two non-quota limitations (NQLs)<sup>1</sup> for the caribou population on Southampton Island, including White Island. During the course of the hearing, it became clear that further submissions were needed for reasons of fairness, and in order for the NWMB to make better informed decisions – particularly with respect to the Board’s eventual determination of the regional BNL.

Accordingly, on December 11<sup>th</sup> the NWMB decided to adjourn, rather than to close, the hearing, in order to allow further time and opportunity for existing parties wishing to file additional written submissions to do so – and for new parties, if any, to also file written submissions.

<sup>1</sup> In the course of the hearing, the Government of Nunavut (GN) withdrew one of the proposed NQLs – a prohibition on the harvest of mature bulls. The other GN-recommended NQL – a prohibition on the harvest of any cow- calf pair (when the calf is physically at heal) – remains a proposed harvesting limitation.

Because those submissions are likely to include new information, the NWMB is setting aside additional time for any party to also file reply submissions.

Following receipt and NWMB consideration of the two sets of submissions, the Board intends to reconvene the in-person public hearing. The NWMB will provide all parties with reasonable notice of the location, date(s) and time(s) of the reconvened hearing.

## **2. The content of additional submissions**

While the Board welcomes any additional submissions relevant to the hearing issues, particularly the three main ones (the level of regional TAH, the regional BNL and the NQL prohibition on cow-calf pairs), the NWMB is specifically seeking submissions with respect to the following:

1. From the Government of Nunavut (GN), its considered position, with reasons, concerning what types of harvests must be included in the calculation of the regional BNL (e.g. subsistence, subsistence and commercial, etc.);
2. From the GN, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Regional Wildlife Organizations, and Hunters and Trappers Organizations, proposed (approximate) harvest numbers, with reasons, to be used in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) calculation(s) of the regional BNL,<sup>2</sup> and
3. Reply submissions, with reasons, from the hearing parties to the submissions outlined in points 1 and 2 above.

## **3. The value of providing reliable and persuasive reasons in support of submission positions**

All three points above emphasize the requirement to provide reasons which support the position(s) that a hearing party puts forward. The NWMB appreciates, and will take into account, the practical difficulties encountered in arriving at reasonably accurate subsistence and commercial harvest numbers from:

- (i) the five years prior to the imposition of a TAH (2007 to 2011 – see NLCA S.5.6.24), and
- (ii) the considerably more distant Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study years (1996 to 2001 – see NLCA S.5.6.23).

Notwithstanding such difficulties, the Board is required to make its BNL decision (as well as other decisions) on the “*best evidence available*”. Accordingly, the more reliable and persuasive a party’s reasons/supporting documentation are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the NLCA decision-making process.

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<sup>2</sup> See NLCA Sections 5.6.23 and 5.6.24.

#### **4. Where to access the best available Southampton Island Caribou Public Hearing information**

The hearing rules and a number of additional documents comprising the best available hearing information to date – including a new submission filed by NTI on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2013, a summary of the key issues discussed during the first part of the hearing and revised harvest numbers for the Southampton caribou population during the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study - are available for download from the NWMB's website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)) or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ikaluktuutiak Drive  
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0  
Phone: (867) 975-7300  
Fax: (888) 421-9832  
E-Mail: [receptionist@nwmb.com](mailto:receptionist@nwmb.com)

The NWMB has also prepared a transcript of the December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> oral submissions at the in-person hearing, available upon request to the Board.

#### **5. Instructions with respect to filing written submissions**

**As indicated above, through this letter the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide up to two (2) sets of written submissions and supporting documentation/reasons concerning any or all of the following: the proposed regional TAH, the proposed regional BNL, and the proposed cow-calf NQL for the Southampton Island caribou population.**

The first set of written submissions and supporting documentation/reasons (**initial submissions**) must be filed with the NWMB, in English and Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

The second set of written submissions and supporting documentation/reasons (**reply submissions**) – provided in response to submissions filed as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 - must be filed with the NWMB, in English and Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions will be placed on the NWMB's website, and will be available for download, shortly after the submission deadline.

**Please take careful note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the Board will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.**

Initial and reply submissions, and their supporting reasons/documentation may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Public Hearing for Southampton Island Caribou*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB - prior to each filing deadline - that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Kovic,  
Chairperson of the  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment;  
Lynda Orman, Manager of Research, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment;  
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;  
Bert Dean, Senior Policy Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;  
Janet Dionne, Acting Executive Director, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat;  
Leah Muchpah, Kivalliq Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat;  
Jackie Price, South Baffin Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat; and  
Jason Mikki, North Baffin Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat