



APR 29 2009

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

Dear Mr. Flaherty,

Thank you for your letter dated March 11, 2009 conveying the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) decision concerning the level of total allowable harvest (TAH) for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead whale population in the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

At your public hearing of February 10, 2009, the NWMB was presented with opposing views on whether or not a TAH for bowhead whales should be established for the NSA. The effort of the NWMB in providing a detailed explanation on how it derived its decision and recommendations is most helpful.

This letter confirms that I accept the NWMB's decision to "*establish an annual total allowable harvest of three bowhead whales for the Nunavut Settlement Area – to be reviewed following the 2011 harvesting season...*"

It should be clearly understood that the three recommendations set out in the NWMB's letter are not solely directed at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). My Department will, with the involvement of Nunavut and Nunavik interests, begin discussions with Greenland concerning the management of this shared bowhead population and continue its efforts to finalize the historic, pre-commercial whaling abundance estimates and to reconcile its current population estimates for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead population with those of the International Whaling Commission.

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Once again I would like to express my appreciation to you and the members of the NWMB for your effective management of the very challenging issue of setting a TAH for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead whale population in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Shea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.

c.c. The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.