



JUN 21 2012

Mr. Jim Noble
Chief Operating Officer
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Noble,

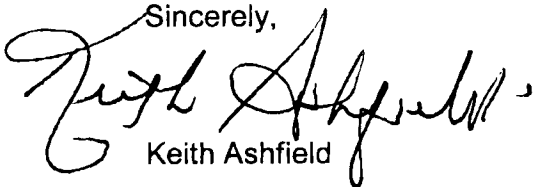
Thank you for your letter dated May 2, 2012 conveying the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) decision concerning the existing Total Allowable Harvest for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead whale population in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

This letter confirms that I accept the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision "...based upon its review of the current Total Allowable Harvest for bowhead whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area, maintain the present total allowable harvest of three, since it is fully compliant with the principles of conservation and neither Government nor Inuit has proposed a change to that TAH." I note the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's conclusion to maintain this level of Total Allowable Harvest for bowhead whales until such time as circumstances require a modification to the level of Total Allowable Harvest.

With respect to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's suggestion that the Department make it a priority to establish discussions with Greenland on a sharing arrangement for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead population, there is not currently an appropriate forum to have these discussions since Canada is not a member of the International Whaling Commission. However, should an alternate forum be created between Canada and Greenland, these discussions could then commence.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to you and the members of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for your effective review and decision regarding the Total Allowable Harvest for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead whale population in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Sincerely,



Keith Ashfield