



July 31, 2006

RE: Letter of July 13 regarding Finalizing the Total Allowable Harvest (TAHs) and Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) in the draft Regulations and Orders made pursuant to the Wildlife Act

Thank you for your July 13 letter regarding the finalization of Total Allowable Harvest (TAHs) and Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) in the draft Regulations and Orders made pursuant to the Wildlife Act.

As you are aware, there are in many cases gaps in the available information on some of our species and populations of wildlife. I therefore appreciate your acknowledgement that in some cases we may not have the information available to provide the NWMB with the complete suite of requested information and evidence in support of the proposed limitations on harvesting. I can, however, confirm that we will provide, to the extent possible, a justification for each of the proposed limitations, and that following review of submissions from other parties, we will follow up by the September 8 deadline with any additional comments, challenges, or responses.

With regard to information concerning harvesting by Article 40 groups of a population of wildlife for which there is a proposed TAH, we are aware of no harvesting of any of the proposed TAH species by any of these groups. However, I will have my staff make additional direct contact with both the groups themselves, and with the wildlife management departments of the relevant provincial/territorial jurisdictions, and enquire further about this. My department will provide you with the results of these additional enquiries as

soon as possible. We may not have this information for August 11, but there should be no difficulty providing it to you by September 8.

I recognize that the three polar bear harvesting NQLs set out in Section 11 of the Harvesting Regulations have already been established by the NWMB. These NQLs of course came directly from the Polar Bear Memoranda of Understanding which underwent extensive consultation prior to being supported by all Nunavut HTOs, and supported by the NWMB. These NQLs operate in conjunction with a number of other components to form our polar bear management regimes. I can confirm that we are not proposing any changes to these specific NQLs, and that you are correct in your assumption that they only require implementation through regulation.

I agree that a commitment by all parties to seek mutually acceptable solutions to areas of disagreement would be beneficial. The willingness of my department to compromise in recognition of the positions of other parties has been amply demonstrated throughout this project, and I can certainly confirm that my department will continue to be willing to find compromises where doing so will not jeopardize the integrity of our wildlife management system.

Lastly, I recognize that the number of documents and volume of material involved in this process is quite extensive, and to ease access and review of this material, I will direct my staff to label and date documents appropriately.

Again, I look forward to this process and to furthering progress on this important legislation project.

Sincerely,



Patterk Netser

Cc Paul Okalik, Premier of Nunavut
Paul Kaludjak, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Philip Kadlun, Chairperson, Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association
David Aksawnee, Chairperson, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Jayco Aooloo, Vice-chairperson, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Chairpersons, Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Associations