



Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin  
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

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**Re: The potential establishment of a Total Allowable Harvest and Basic Needs Level for Peary Caribou in the Queen Elizabeth Islands**

This letter concerns the potential establishment of a total allowable harvest (TAH) and basic needs level (BNL) for Peary Caribou in the Queen Elizabeth Islands (QEI). The letter includes an invitation from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) to the Government of Nunavut (GN), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) to provide further written and translated submissions and responses with respect to sustainable levels of harvesting for QEI Peary Caribou.

At the December 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2006 confidential decision-making session for Special Meeting No. 12 of the NWMB, the Board made two decisions with respect to Peary Caribou – one dealing with the number of Peary Caribou populations in Nunavut, and another addressing the harvesting of the Somerset/Prince of Wales population. Pursuant to the terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA), both of those decisions must remain confidential for the time being.

The NWMB declined, at that time, to make a further decision addressing the level of harvesting of Peary Caribou in the Queen Elizabeth Islands (consisting of Ellesmere Island, Axel Heiberg Island, the Bathurst Island Archipelago, Devon Island and all other Queen Elizabeth Islands within Nunavut). Instead, the Board decided to consult once

more with Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord prior to making its decision. You have been copied with the NWMB's resulting January 19<sup>th</sup> 2007 letter to those communities.

The GN has proposed - in its written and oral submissions - an overall level of harvesting of 66 for QEI Peary Caribou, divided into five separate TAH levels. NTI has provided a comprehensive response to the GN's proposals in its written and oral submissions. The NWMB has taken into careful account all of the submissions to date, and is considering the establishment of a regional TAH.

Should the NWMB decide to proceed with the establishment of a regional TAH, the Board is also required by the NLCA to determine a regional basic needs level (BNL). As you are aware, BNLs are calculated by formulas set out in the NLCA. In the case of QEI Peary Caribou, the relevant formula is found in NLCA S.5.6.23(b):<sup>1</sup>

- The NWMB shall calculate the BNL as the aggregate of the greatest regional amount harvested in any one year during the five years prior to the imposition of a TAH (2002-2006), and the average regional annual amount taken over the five years (1996-2001) of the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study (Harvest Study), which aggregate is then divided by two.

Using the relevant numbers from the Harvest Study for 1996-2001 and the best available evidence received to date by the NWMB for 2002-2006 (see the two attached documents entitled, "*Queen Elizabeth Islands Peary Caribou Harvest Estimates, 2002 – 2006*" and "*NWMB BNL Calculation Document, January 19<sup>th</sup> 2007*", as well as "*The Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study August 2004*"), the BNL calculation is as follows:

- Greatest amount harvested in one year between 2002 and 2006 (2003): 84
- Average annual amount taken over the five years of the Harvest Study: 42.8
- 126.8 divided by two – the BNL is: 63.4

Please note that, subject to certain conditions, the NWMB is permitted by the NLCA to adjust the BNL up to the entire TAH (see NLCA S.5.6.26 to 5.6.30).

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending the following two invitations to the GN, NTI and the RWOs:

1. Should you wish to prepare submissions regarding what constitutes an appropriate (adjusted) regional BNL for QEI Peary Caribou, provide those written submissions - along with supporting evidence and justifications, including any relevant Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit - to the NWMB, in Inuktitut and English, by no later than 5:00 PM on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007.
2. Should you wish to prepare responses to any submissions received by the NWMB on or before February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007, including submissions from the Resolute

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<sup>1</sup> See also NLCA S.5.6.23(a).



Bay or Iviq Hunters and Trappers Organizations, provide those written responses - along with supporting evidence and justifications, including any relevant Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit - to the NWMB, in Inuktitut and English, by no later than 5:00 PM on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007.

Written materials may be filed in person, by courier, by mail, by fax or by e-mail to the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Parnaivik Building  
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
Fax: (867) 975-7320  
E-mail: aaningmiuq@nwmb.com

Please ensure that all documents submitted are clearly marked as pertaining to *NWMB Special Meeting No. 12 – Queen Elizabeth Islands Peary Caribou*.

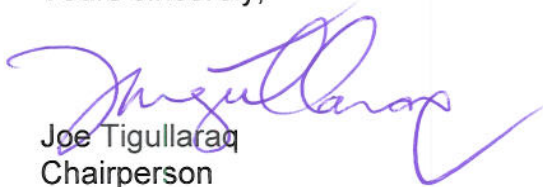
Except for the revised filing dates set out in this letter, all relevant provisions of the *Revised Ad Hoc Procedures for NWMB Special Meeting Number 12* (June 26, 2006) apply to materials filed pursuant to the above invitation from the Board.

Please also keep in mind the following two essential points:

- The more reliable and persuasive your supporting evidence and justifications are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the NLCA decision-making process; and
- The NWMB is permitted by the NLCA to review TAHs and BNLs from time to time and as circumstances require. If new or updated evidence arises, the NWMB can promptly review and consider adjustments to existing harvest levels.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Tigullaraq  
Chairperson

c.c. Chairpersons, Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Organizations