

ューシィ トレイーへト・イベ トリア・レー・ Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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October 19th, 2011

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk Minister of Environment Government of Nunavut

Re: Request for Decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning 2011-2012 level of regional total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation

Dear Minister Shewchuk:

On August 18th, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received a Request for Decision (RFD) from you to modify the 2011/2012 total allowable harvest (TAH) level for the Western Hudson Bay (WHB) polar bear subpopulation as a Ministerial Management Initiative per Article 5.3.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). That initiative directed the NWMB to take appropriate measures to make a prompt decision, applying to the 2011/2012 harvesting season on an appropriate level of TAH. Considering that hunting of this population generally beings in October of each year, and taking into account your request for a decision by October 10th, the NWMB decided to inform you of the Board's decision at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

As you are aware, the NWMB decided to hold a written hearing, and provided public notice on September 9th 2011. The Board subsequently received response submissions from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB), Environment Canada (EC), Parks Canada (PC), the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the IUCN-Polar Bear Specialist Group (IUCN-PBSG), the Chairperson of the Federal-Provincial Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC) and the World Wildlife Fund-Canada (WWF). All of the response submissions can be viewed or downloaded from the NWMB's website.

The NWMB held a decision-making session on October 18th 2011 to consider the RFD and the response submissions and – after carefully considering all of the available evidence and arguments - made the following resolution:

"RESOLVED that the NWMB increase the regional total allowable harvest to 38 for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation for the 2011-2012 harvest season only and that the overharvests from 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 harvest seasons be reconciled"

Because the NWMB is currently in the midst of its fall quarterly meeting in Kugluktuk, it is only preliminarily informing you of its decision at this point in time. However, the Board will provide full justifications and reasons for its decision as soon as reasonably possible following the completion of the quarterly meeting.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Yours sincerely

Mikidjuk Akavak Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board