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Minister of Environment  
Minista Avatilirijjutiut  
Ministre de l'Environnement

April 20, 2012

Noah Kadlak  
Chairman  
Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization  
P.O. Box 108  
Coral Harbour, Nunavut X0C 0C0

Dear Mr. Kadlak:

RE: Management of the Southampton Island Caribou Population

Thank you for your March 12, 2012 letter outlining your concerns with the Southampton Island (SHI) caribou population. I appreciate your concern, as I am aware that SHI caribou provide a critically important source of nutritious food for the residents of Coral Harbour. I understand that the scientific evidence and the observations of hunters are in agreement that the SHI caribou population has experienced a serious decline, and is projected to decline further if measures are not taken to control harvest levels.

To reiterate the request in your letter, you have asked that:

- A Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of 600 be established for the period until June 30, 2012;
- A TAH of 1000 be established for the 2012-2013 year;
- There be no commercial harvesting of caribou on SHI;
- Non Quota Limitations (NQLs) be established to restrict the harvesting of mature bulls and cow/calf pairs;
- An abundance survey be conducted in June 2012; and
- Department of Environment (DOE) investigate the feasibility of relocating mature bulls from other populations/herds to SHI.

In addition (once harvest limits are established), you have requested that:

- DOE initiate an information campaign to inform shipping companies of the conservation concerns with SHI caribou, and of the requirement for tags; and
- DOE inform other communities of the new limits, NQL's and tagging requirements.

DOE is taking your request, and the issue, very seriously. Our officials are reviewing your request and our options to manage the situation within the legislative framework set out by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and the *Wildlife Act* (Nunavut).

Considering the current situation, and the time it would take to implement an interim decision, I have decided to refer the management issue to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB). I am preparing to make a submission to the NWMB requesting that they review all relevant information on SHI caribou and consider establishing a TAH, and the relevant NQL's, effective July 1, 2012.

Given the urgency of the situation, if the NWMB does not provide us with a final decision within a reasonable timeframe, I will consider making an interim decision to implement conservation measures to ensure a sustainable harvest from this population.

Please note that DOE personnel will be in contact with you in the near future regarding the proposed survey and other non-regulatory matters addressed in your letter.

Thank you again for bringing this important issue to my attention, and please accept my commendations to you and your board for its positive initiative in support of sustainable wildlife management.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. James Arreak  
Minister

Cc. Acting Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



