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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaajitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuaniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

April 1st, 2016

Honourable Johnny Mike
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Honourable Wally Schumann
Minister of Environment and Natural
Resources
Government of Northwest Territories

Simon Qingnaqtuq
Chairperson
Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board

Larry Adjun
Chairperson
Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate
Change
Government of Canada

Cathy Towtongie
President
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Sam Kapolak
Chairperson
Bathurst Inlet Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Peter Kapolak
Chairperson
Bay Chimo Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to consider a regional total allowable harvest for the Bluenose East caribou herd

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled an in-person public hearing to consider harvest management of the Bluenose East caribou herd. The Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment has submitted a *Proposal for Decision* (Proposal) to establish a total allowable harvest for the Bluenose East caribou herd.

Background

The Bluenose East caribou herd was estimated to be approximately 104,000 in 2000, but had declined to 68,000 by 2013. The results of the Department of Environment's June 2015 aerial survey provided a total population estimate of 38,592 caribou, suggesting a continued decline at an estimated rate of 21% per year when compared with the 2013 population estimate. The herd crosses the Nunavut-Northwest Territories border and is also harvested by several groups in the Northwest Territories. In light of the declining herd size, the Government of Nunavut - Department of Environment submitted the Proposal to recommend a bulls-only total allowable harvest of 340 caribou for the Bluenose East caribou herd.

In-person public hearing details

The hearing will take place on June 15th and 16th, 2016 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, at a location to be determined. The hearing will be conducted on each day from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In addition, the NWMB may hold evening sessions from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by one (1) Qaujimaniliit and one (1) Hunters and Trappers Organization representative (two (2) delegates in total) from each of the affected communities. The affected communities include: Kugluktuk, Bathurst Inlet (Burnside), and Bay Chimo (Umingmaktok). Selection of those delegates will be decided by the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board. If other representatives or Inuit harvesters wish to attend, the NWMB has no further funding available, but will, if requested and to the extent reasonably possible, make arrangements for attendance by teleconference at the hearing.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment's Proposal and the Rules for the NWMB hearing. These, along with a number of documents comprising the best available information to date, are available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
3rd Floor, Ikaluktuutiak Drive
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 975-7300
Fax: (888) 421-9832
Email: receptionist@nwmb.com

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation in response to the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment's Proposal, or otherwise concerning the harvest management of the Bluenose East caribou herd. Written submissions and supporting documentation must be filed with the NWMB, in Inuktitut/Innuinaqtun and English, by no later than 5:00 PM EDT on May 13th, 2016. The requirement for translation at time of filing is mandatory.

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions will be placed on the NWMB's website and will be available for download shortly after the submission deadline.

Please take careful note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the Board will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

Initial submissions and their supporting documentation may be filed in person by courier or mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Public Hearing for Bluenose East Caribou*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB, prior to the filing deadline, that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB. Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable, and persuasive submissions and supporting documentation are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require any further information, please visit the NWMB website or contact the Board directly.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

C.C. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Management, Government of Nunavut –
Department of Environment

Andrew Maher, Resource Conservation Manager, Parks Canada Agency

Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife, Government of Northwest Territories –
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife and Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik
Incorporated

Ema Qaggutaq, Kitikmeot Regional Coordinator, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife
Secretariat