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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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

February 8th 2017

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Canada

Honourable Joe Savikataaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Aluki Kotierk
President of Nunavut
Tunngavik Inc

Simon Qingnaqtuq
Chairperson of the
Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife
Board

James Qillaq
Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Stanley Adjuk
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

David Miller
President and CEO
World Wildlife Fund
Canada

Marsha Branigan and
Gregor Gilbert
Chairpersons of the Polar
Bear Technical Committee

Christine Cleghorn and
Caroline Ladanowski
Chairpersons of the Polar
Bear Administrative
Committee

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Notification of a Nunavut Wildlife Management Board pre-hearing teleconference concerning the Government of Nunavut's proposed Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a pre-hearing teleconference in response to a Request for NWMB decision (Proposal) regarding the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. The Proposal was submitted by the Government of Nunavut –Department of Environment on June 9th, 2015 (attached)

The NWMB reviewed the Proposal during its September 2015 quarterly meeting in Iqaluit and decided to hold a written public hearing on the matter. The NWMB received several submissions from hearing parties concerning the draft management plan.

During an In-Camera meeting (007-2015) on December 2nd, 2015, the Board reviewed the submissions received during the written hearing and passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the NWMB adjourn the written public hearing to consider the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment’s proposed Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWMB write to the Government of Nunavut Minister of Environment, indicating that – based upon an initial review of the submissions received – the draft Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan appears to require further development, and recommending that the Department of Environment carefully review the comments made by hearing parties, and decide whether changes are required to improve the draft plan prior to resuming the hearing and commencing the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Article 5 decision-making process.

On February 3rd, 2017, the NWMB received a new draft of the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan from the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment-for consideration (attached). The NWMB is organizing a pre-hearing teleconference with hearing parties. The pre-hearing teleconference will focus on the follow points:

- the positions of the parties with respect to the Proposal;
- the appropriate type and extent of the hearing given the circumstances (i.e. in-person hearing or written hearing); and
- timing/scheduling considerations of the NWMB and parties (e.g. submission deadlines, potential location of an in-person hearing).

The pre-hearing teleconference has been scheduled to take place on Wednesday, February 15th, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). For those representatives in Iqaluit, the NWMB will be hosting the teleconference in its Boardroom. The dial-in information is the following:

Teleconference number: 1-877-733-5390

Conference ID: 4231582642

The NWMB requests that you provide **confirmation of attendance** at the pre-hearing conference **by no later than Monday February 13th 2017 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).** Please also inform the Board at that time if you require translation services for the call. For logistical reasons, the Board recommends participation in the call by no more than two representatives from each agency.

The NWMB is hopeful that the outcome of the pre-hearing conference will be a consensus position on how to move forward. That position will then be put forth before the Board for their consideration.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment;
Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;
Lisa Pirie, Acting Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service;
Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot East Regional Wildlife Board
Eva Ayalik, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot West Regional Wildlife Board
Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Enclosures (2)