



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

April 8th 2014

Honourable Johnny Mike
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

Cathy Towtongie
President
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Attima Hadlari
Chairperson
Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife
Board

James Panioyak
Chairperson
Ekaluktutiak Hunters and
Trappers Organization

James Qitsualik
Chairperson
Gjoa Haven Hunters and
Trappers Organization

Peter Qayutinuak
Chairperson
Ikpinguak Hunters and
Trappers Organization

David Lee/Marsha Branigan
Chairpersons
Polar Bear Technical
Committee

Drikus Gissing
Chairperson
Polar Bear Administrative
Committee

Dag Vongraven
Chairperson
IUCN Polar Bear Specialist
Group

David Miller
President and CEO
World Wildlife Fund Canada

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the regional total allowable harvest level for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear sub-population

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear sub-population. The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board has submitted a request for NWMB decision on increasing the regional total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear sub-population from three (3) to eighteen (18) bears.

Background

The most recent abundance estimate for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear sub-population is based on results from a mark-recapture study completed in 2000, which estimated an abundance of 284 bears. Following the release of these survey results in 2000, the NWMB made a decision to reduce the total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear sub-population from 32 to 12 animals for the 2000/2001 harvest season. Shortly after this reduction in the total allowable harvest, the NWMB decided to implement a three year moratorium on harvesting. Following this moratorium a total allowable harvest of three bears for the Kitikmeot region was established for the 2004/2005 harvest season. This total allowable harvest remains in place today and is shared between the communities of Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven. Taloyoak is still under a moratorium.

In May 2013, the NWMB received a request for decision from the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board to increase the total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear subpopulation by fifteen (15) bears. After due consideration, the Board decided to hold a public hearing to determine whether an increase in the regional total allowable harvest is justified under the terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

In-person public hearing details

The hearing will take place on **June 17th and 18th 2014, in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut at the Arctic Island Lodge**. The hearing will be conducted each day from **9:00 am to 5:00 pm**. In addition the NWMB may also hold evening sessions from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to two (2) Qaujimaniliit and two (2) Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives (four (4) delegates in total). This includes: one (1) delegate from the Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Organization, one (1) Qaujimaniliit from Gjoa Haven, one (1) delegate from the Ikpinguak (Taloyoak) Hunters and Trappers Organization and one (1) Qaujimaniliit from Taloyoak. Selection of those delegates will be decided by the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Organization. If other representatives of 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 electronic attendance at the hearing.

The hearing rules and 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

E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

Invitation and instruction to provide written submissions

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear sub-population.

Written submissions and supporting documentation must be filed with the NWMB, in **Inuktitut and English**, by no later than **5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on May 26th, 2014.**

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 with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Public Hearing for M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear*. 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 further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

Sincerely,



Ben Kovic,
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Siu-Ling Han, Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
Ema Qaggutaq, Liaison Officer, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat

