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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Nunavut

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Department of Environment
Avatiliqiyikkut
Ministère de l'Environnement

January 22, 2015

Jason Akearok
Executive Director
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Box 379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Akearok

RE: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board reconsideration and final decision concerning the level of total allowable harvest for the M'Clintock Channel polar bear subpopulation.

Thank you for your November 27, 2014 letter requesting further input into the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) reconsideration and final decision concerning the level of regional Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for the M'Clintock Channel (MC) polar bear subpopulation.

To reiterate what Minister Mike stated in his letter of November 18, 2014, the Government of Nunavut would support a small increase of three [3] bears (2:1 female to male ratio) in the TAH, for a total TAH of six [6] bears, with an agreement to re-evaluate the TAH after the abundance and *Inuit Qauijamatuqangit (IQ)* studies, which are underway, are completed.

The management goal for this population, as stipulated in the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Management of the M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Population is to increase the population to approximately 750 bears. A TAH of 6 will slow the increase but continue to allow for the eventual recovery of the population. A larger TAH, while possibly sustainable, would be contrary to the stated goals of the MOU, and based on the available information would likely prevent further recovery.

Drikus Gissing
Director Wildlife Management
P.O. Box 1000, Stn. 360
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

(867) 975-7734
dgissing@gov.nu.ca

If the NWMB and communities that harvest from M'Clintock Channel wish to change the management objectives for this population, it is our position that discussion should take place prior to setting a TAH.

I appreciate the NWMB's dedication and commitment to Nunavut's polar bear conservation and co-management, and we look forward to receiving your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Drikus Gissing
Director of Wildlife

Drikus Gissing
Director Wildlife Management
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