

### ュロター ドレイー いっぷくく ちつしきゃう Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

March 18, 2014

Honourable Gail Shea Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Government of Canada	Honourable Johnny Mike Minister of the Environment Government of Nunavut	Cathy Towtongie President Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Ross Tatty – Chairperson Kivalliq Wildlife Board	James Qillaq – Chairperson Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board	Attima Hadlari – Chairperson Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
Robbie Tookalak – A/Chairperson Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board	Jobie Tukkiapik – President Makivik Corporation	Chairpersons of all Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Organizations
Paulasi Novalinga		

Paulasi Novalinga President Nunavik Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Association

Dear Colleagues:

## Re: Written public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to consider a proposed increase in the total allowable harvest for bowhead whales.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a written public hearing to consider a proposed increase in the total allowable harvest for bowhead whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board has submitted a *Proposal for NWMB Decision* to increase the total allowable harvest by one whale for the Qikiqtaaluk region.

A written public hearing is one in which all submissions are filed in writing, and the hearing does not have an oral component.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's proposal (Proposal) for NWMB Decision, as well as a copy of the *Rules for the NWMB's Written Public Hearing to consider a proposed increase in the total allowable harvest of bowhead whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area.* These - along with other documents comprising the best available information to date - are available for review or download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD 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 Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's Proposal, or otherwise regarding concerns with the harvest of bowhead whales. All written materials must be filed with the NWMB – in English and Inuktitut by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on April 23, 2014. The requirement for translation at the time of filing is mandatory.

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

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

Materials may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the NWMB hearing for the consideration of the total allowable harvest for bowhead whales. Delivery of materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on April 23, 2014 – 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 supporting evidence and justifications put forward in your submissions, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process. After the deadline for delivery of the written submissions, the NWMB will consider all of the relevant evidence and arguments filed, and will make a decision whether or not to approve the request for an increase in the total allowable harvest for bowhead whales.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or contact the Board directly.

Your's sincerely.

Ben Kovic Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (2)

c.c. Mark O'Connor, Director of Wildlife Management, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board; Larry Dow, Director of Northern Operations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Richard Nadeau, Regional Director General (Quebec Region), Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Leah Muckpah, Kivalliq Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat; Jackie Price, South Baffin Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat; Jason Mikki, North Baffin Regional Liaison, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat;

Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitkmeot Regional Wildlife Board; and Glann Wildlife Advisor, Nunevut Tunngavik, Incomposited

Glenn Williams, Wildlife Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik, Incorporated.

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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

February 5, 2014

Mr. Ben Kovic Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board P.O Box 1379 Iqaluit, NU XOA 0H0

Fax: (867) 975 7320

Dear Mr. Kovic,

# Re: Request to Increase the Total Allowable Harvest of Bowhead Whale for the Qikiqaaluk Region to two.

The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) is requesting to increase the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for Bowhead Whale for the Qikiqaaluk to two. If approved, this would result in a Nunavut TAH of four Bowhead Whales per year.

This request comes at the direction of a resolution passed at QWB's 2013 AGM. The AGM was held in Iqaluit in November 2013 and a copy of the resolution is attached to this submission. The discussion that preceded this resolution was engaging. Communities across the region expressed their interest in supporting additional Bowhead Whale hunts. Some communities expressed their interest in holding yearly hunts.

Multiple organizations are involved in supporting successful Bowhead Whale hunts in Nunavut. In 2009, NWMB approved a TAH of three Bowhead Whales in Nunavut, with each region having a single hunt. This decision was an increase from the 2008 decision to hold two hunts in the territory. Each RWO is responsible for selecting the host community of its own region. QWB is responsible for selecting the community from the Qikiqtani region, a decision made at our AGM by vote of the entire QWB delegation. Once a community is selected, its HTO is responsible for developing a hunt plan that includes assigning various roles to its community members. HTOs must also develop a budget for the hunt, including fundraising plans. QWB is explicit in stating that Bowhead Whale hunts cannot be funded by HTO operational funds. HTOs submit final hunt plans and budget to QWB for final approval by its executive. Upon approval, DFO issues a license for the Bowhead Whale. NTI has been integral in supporting a safe and successful hunt by providing safety and SPPSOCONT DLYCRPOS NOGAS



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

equipment training to hunt committees, and being involved in recording information from the hunt. Also, NTI has been working with a veterinarian from the University of Prince Edward Island to collect samples from the landed whale.

Current research on Bowhead Whale suggests the Baffin population is stable and growing. In 2009, the Committed on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) upgraded the status of Bowhead Whale to "special concern" from "endangered", a classification that was in place since 1986. In the summer of 2013, DFO conducted a survey focusing on Baffin Bay Narwhal, but also recorded observations of Bowhead Whale. Results of this survey are not expected till later this year. In its draft Integrative Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP), a plan led by DFO and involving Nunavut co-management partners, it cites the best available information, and suggests a yearly Potential Biological Removal (PBR) of 90 whales from the Eastern Canada – Western Greenland population. Even when considering whales designated for Greenland and Nunavik, we believe the impact of an additional Bowhead whale hunt on this population to be minimal.

As stated earlier, our delegation was adamant in supporting an increase in the number of hunts for this region. We appreciate that our request for one additional whale is conservative. Matters of administration direct our rationale. QWB is committed to working with our member HTOs to ensure financial accountability, particularly for special projects, which the Bowhead whale hunt is classified. We wish to support HTOs in developing experience in successfully completing the reporting process for Bowhead Whale hunts. While QWB is responsible for receiving and approving Bowhead whale hunts plans and the appropriate budget, we also request a final budget and report once the hunt is complete. We believe that with focused support, our HTOs can improve the quality of its reporting back.

QWB, like all RWOs, has been working to develop its organizational capacity. We currently have two staff members who work to support the day-to-day activities of HTOs, while also supporting the QWB executive in policy issues, developed through their work with our co-management partners. In recent years, there has been focused attention to support the financial capacities of our member HTOs, thanks in large part to the leadership of NIWS and NTI. The culmination of this work has resulted in a better structure of support for our HTOs. We feel this support will only continue to get stronger. In working with NIWS, we are working to bring our HTOs onto a centralized accounting process, which would greatly lift the financial responsibilities of our HTOs, and allow our HTOs to develop in other areas of

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wildlife management. Also, with the majority of the work related to the negotiation of a new 10 year Implementation Contract with the Federal Government now complete, and with suggested increases in financial and organizational support to all RWOs, we believe we are better situated to move confidently into the next stage of organizational development. Part of this development includes focused support to our member HTOs to ensure they are more directly engaged in the various process that make up Nunavut's wildlife management structure.

While saying this, QWB recognizes the importance of bowhead whale hunt to individual communities, to the entire region and the territory as a whole. We confidently support the development of the Bowhead Whale hunt in this region. In increasing the number of hunts in this region we are working to develop, and diversify, the experience of this region. In doing this, we believe we create the opportunity to develop more effective strategies to deal with a range of issues beyond ensuring a safe and successful hunt; issues like processing, distribution and utilization of the whale. By providing our HTOs with the opportunity to gain this experience, we allow our HTOs to be active participates in the science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on this whale population. The hunt is an important meeting point for these two ways of knowing.

In closing, I would like to state that QWB feels that we are in a better position to support our member HTOs in meeting the full spectrum responsibilities required for a safe and successful Bowhead Whale Hunt. We request this addition be effective for the 2014 hunt. At our 2013 AGM, 4 communities formally expressed their interest in hosting the 2014 Bowhead Whale hunt. If this request were approved, the site of the additional hunt would be chosen from the pool of initial interested communities. QWB believes in building the experience of supporting two hunts will led the way for future requests for additional whales, pending a continually healthy population.

Thank you,

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James Qillaq > Chair, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

**Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board** :: P.O. Box 219 :: Rankin Inlet, NU :: XOC 0G0 :: tel. 867.645.4860 :: fax. 867.645.4861 7

SPARICIAL DEFENSES UNSAG



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board **Annual General Meeting** November 12-14, 2013

WHEREAS the QWB is an organization recognized under Article 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and is responsible for wildlife management within Qikiqtaaluk, including the allocation of the regional Bowhead Whale hunt;

WHEREAS the current total allowable harvest of Bowhead Whales for Nunavut is three, and each region is allocated one whale;

WHEREAS the Qikiqtaaluk is the region with the most communities;

WHEREAS many Qikiqtaaluk communities are observing increasing Bowhead Whale numbers, and DFO scientific population estimates confirm this observation;

## THEREFORE be it resolved that

"QWB directs its staff to prepare a request to NWMB to increase the Bowhead Whale TAH for

Moved: David Irngaut

Seconded; Manasie Naulak

In Favor \_\_\_\_10\_\_\_\_

Against \_\_\_\_1 Abstained \_\_\_2\_\_\_

Passed X

Defeated

Resolution # QWB Nov-13-004 Date: November 14, 2013

Calles

Toshuakanco

### RULES FOR THE NWMB'S WRITTEN PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST OF BOWHEAD WHALES IN THE NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA

**THE PURPOSE** of this NWMB written public hearing is to consider a proposed increase in the total allowable harvest for bowhead whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board has filed a *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (Proposal), seeking a decision on increasing the total allowable harvest for bowhead whales in the Qikiqtaaluk Region by one whale. The Proposal, along with other documents comprising the best available information to date, is available for review or download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com).

#### **HEARING RULES:**

1. The NWMB shall provide notice to the public at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for filing hearing submissions.

2. Any interested person or body may file with the NWMB a written submission and supporting documentation<sup>1</sup> in response to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Proposal, or otherwise regarding concerns with the harvest of bowhead whales – duly translated into Inuktitut or English as the case may be – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on April 23, 2014.

3. Unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

4. The requirement for translation of submissions and supporting documentation filed with the NWMB does not apply to individual members of the public.

5. For all others who file supporting documentation with the NWMB, the requirement for translation does not apply to such documents over ten (10) pages in length, as long as each supporting document that is not translated is accompanied by a concise, translated summary (English and Inuktitut) at least two (2) pages in length.

6. The NWMB shall ensure that all materials filed with it or produced by it are made publicly available, subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns.

7. Any representative or agent of the Government of Canada or Government of Nunavut, any Hunters and Trappers Organization or Regional Wildlife Organization and any Inuk shall be accorded the status of party for the hearing.

8. Unless invited by the NWMB to be a party, any other person or body wishing to be named as a party by the NWMB shall make an appropriate request in writing to the NWMB.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Supporting documentation" refers to one or more studies, articles, opinions or other documents separate from a person's or organization's written submission, filed as additional evidence and/or argument in support of that person's or organization's submission.