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April 9th 2015

Honourable Gail Shea Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Government of Canada

Honourable Johnny Mike Minister of Environment Government of Nunavut Cathy Towtongie
President
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

James Qillaq Chairperson Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Manasie Naullaq Chairperson Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization David Aqqiaruq Chairperson Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Organization

Dear colleagues:

Re: Adjournment of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board public hearing to consider the establishment of a management unit and total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus

Background

On October 24th 2014, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) sent you a letter notifying you of a public hearing to consider the establishment of a management unit and total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus, to be conducted in Igloolik on January 14th and 15th 2015. On January 9th 2015, in response to written submissions filed with it, the NWMB provided notice that the hearing would be postponed to provide hearing parties and the public with the opportunity to provide arguments and evidence regarding the adequacy of the consultation process in this matter. On February 6th 2015, the Board sent you a letter providing details for the rescheduled public hearing, to be conducted on April 15th and 16th 2015.

Adjournment of the NWMB public hearing

On April 1st 2015, the NWMB received a letter from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (attached) requesting an adjournment of the public hearing. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has identified new scientific information that may influence the recommended sustainable harvest levels for Foxe Basin walrus and is requesting a postponement of the public hearing to allow Fisheries and Oceans Canada to review this newly available information.

In response to this request, the NWMB has decided to adjourn its in-person public hearing to consider the establishment of a management unit and total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus for an indefinite period of time. The NWMB is committed to making its decisions based on careful consideration of the best available information and, therefore,

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feels that an indefinite adjournment of the public hearing is the best available option to allow a reasonable opportunity for Fisheries and Oceans Canada to review the new information and provide scientific advice that does not propose unnecessary restrictions on Inuit harvesting.

The NWMB intends to reconvene this hearing at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once the new information becomes publicly available and relevant communities have been consulted. The NWMB will be issuing a public notice of adjournment of the public hearing on April 10th 2015. Please be advised that, until such time as the NWMB establishes a total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus, the individual quota of 4 walrus per Inuk per year established by the *Marine Mammal Regulations* will remain in place.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, or any other aspect of the NWMB's public hearing concerning Foxe Basin walrus, please do not hesitate to contact the Board at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Kovic

Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (1)

c.c. Larry Dow, Director of Northern Operations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Scott Gilbert, Regional Director, Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;

Allison McPhee, Regional Senior Officer, Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Co-Chair of the Walrus Working Group;

Stefan Romberg, Senior Resource Management Officer, Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

Michelle Wheatley, Regional Director, Science, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;

Rob Young, Division Manager, Science, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;

Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;

Glenn Williams, Senior Wildlife Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;

Devin Imrie, Director of Fisheries and Sealing, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment;

Maha Ghazal, Marine Mammal Advisor, Fisheries and Sealing, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment;

Jason Mikki, Qikiqtaaluk Regional Coordinator, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board; and Jackie Price, Research Planning Coordinator, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.