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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

December 23rd 2015

**Honourable Hunter Tootoo
Minister of Fisheries,
Oceans and the Canadian
Coast Guard
Government of Canada**

**Honourable Johnny Mike
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut**

Cathy Towtongie
President
Nunavut Tunngavik
Incorporated

James Qillaq
Chairperson
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Manasie Naullaq
Chairperson
Hall Beach Hunters and
Trappers Organization

David Aqqiaruq
Chairperson
Igloodik Hunters and
Trappers Organization

Dear colleagues:

Re: Fisheries and Oceans Canada's request to cancel the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's public hearing to consider the establishment of a management unit and total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus

Background

On April 9th 2015, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) sent a letter notifying you of the adjournment of the NWMB's public hearing to consider the establishment of a management unit and total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus. This adjournment was in response to a request from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, delivered to the Board on April 1st 2015, and was based on the discovery of scientific information that could influence the Department's sustainable harvest level recommendations for Foxe Basin walrus.

Request to cancel the NWMB public hearing

On December 18th 2015, after a teleconference with representatives from the NWMB, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Igloodik and Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada sent a letter (attached) to the NWMB rescinding its Proposal for Decision to establish a management unit and total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus. Preliminary analysis of the newly identified scientific information indicated that there does not appear to be a conservation concern with the current level of walrus harvesting in Foxe Basin. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has also indicated that it intends to submit the final draft of the *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Walrus* to the NWMB for decision in March 2016.

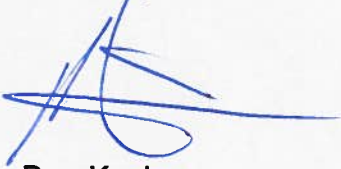
Invitation and instructions to provide written submissions

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions concerning Fisheries and Oceans Canada's December 18th 2015 letter requesting the cancellation of the NWMB's public hearing to establish a management unit and total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin walrus. Written submissions and supporting documentation must be filed with the NWMB, in Inuktitut and English, by no later than 5:00 pm (Iqaluit time) on January 15th 2016.

After the January 15th 2016 deadline, the NWMB will decide on the most appropriate way forward.

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

Sincerely,



Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Enclosures (1)

- c.c. Larry Dow, Director, Northern Operations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Scott Gilbert, Regional Director, Ecosystems and Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Allison McPhee, Regional Senior Officer, Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Chris Lewis, Fisheries Management Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Paul Inngaut, Director, Wildlife and Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;
Janelle Kennedy, A/Director, 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, Coordinator, Research and Planning, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.



ՈՐԿԱՆ 23, 2015

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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

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