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February 23rd 2016

James Qillaq Chairperson Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board David Burden
Regional Director General
Central and Arctic Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Proposal for NWMB Decision seeking approval of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area

On February 12th 2016, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received a Proposal for Decision (Proposal) from Fisheries and Oceans Canada seeking approval of the *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area* (Plan), for consideration at the Board's quarterly March 2016 meeting. On February 19th 2016, NWMB staff were copied on correspondence from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board to Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff expressing concerns with the application of the Plan to all of Nunavut (attached as Appendix A).

The NWMB understands that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as well as other co-management partners, have worked collaboratively through the Walrus Working Groups to develop the Plan. With this in mind, and in order to ensure timely consideration of the Plan by the NWMB, I would like to recommend that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and Fisheries and Oceans Canada attempt to reach a consensus on the concerns raised in the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's February 19th 2016 letter, prior to the NWMB's consideration of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Proposal at its upcoming quarterly meeting on March 15th 2016. If no consensus can be reached, I would further suggest that each organization formulate its own position regarding the application of the Plan to all of Nunavut in preparation for the NWMB's March 15th 2016 meeting.

Should you have any questions or concerns with respect to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB. The Board looks forward to continued collaboration among co-management partners in the sustainable management of walrus.

Sincerely,

Jason Akearok

Executive Director of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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(888) 421-9832

Attachments (1)

c.c. Larry Dow, Director, Northern Operations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Allison McPhee, Regional Senior Officer, Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;

Jason Mikki, Qikiqtaaluk Regional Coordinator, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board; Jackie Price, Coordinator, Research and Planning, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board; Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife and Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; and

Janelle Kennedy, A/Director of Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut.



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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

February 12, 2016

Allison McPhee Department of Fisheries & Oceans 501 University Crescent Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N6

Sent by email to: Allison.mcphee@dfo-mpo.qc.ca

Re: Walrus Management Plan

Hello Allison,

Thank you for presenting at the QWB's November 2015 AGM. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board appreciates the work you have done on the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, or the Walrus Management Plan. You have worked with North Baffin and Foxe Basin communities throughout the span of this plan, and have efficiently included QWB members and staff. This is an important plan and your commitment to inclusion is commendable.

Throughout the development of this management plan, delegates, members of our board, and the communities involved worked to develop an effective plan that reflected the specific experiences and history of their communities.

Recently the QWB Board was informed that this management plan is being brought forward as a Nunavut Wide Management Plan. This does not make sense, as the plan in its current form was developed with specific communities. Many other communities in the Qikiqtaaluk and the other regions in Nunavut, especially Kivalliq, also harvest walrus and were not involved in the development of this plan.

In discussions after your presentation at the AGM, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board adamantly stated that the communities in Qikiqtaaluk (other than Foxe Basin and Baffin Bay), Kivalliq communities and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board must be properly consulted before this plan can be presented as a Nunavut wide plan. Although you have stated what this will be the case, QWB recommends that this commitment be expressed explicitly in the plan.

For example, in the overview section of the plan, a paragraph could be included that states:

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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

"This plan was developed with specific Nunavut communities who harvested from subpopulations that have available scientific research. This plan will continue to develop and grow to involve more Nunavut communities as research on additional sub-population becomes available."

Another addition could be added to Section 6 "Access & Allocation", with the heading "new science and the inclusion of additional communities within this plan". This section would outline the process that DFO would initiate once new science on subpopulations was completed, namely, consultations with impacted communities, the formation of a new working group, and the sharing of traditional knowledge and harvesting practices.

QWB also understands that some communities and regions do not actively harvest walrus, and therefore, may not have any concerns with having their community represented under this plan. We respect those decisions, but we do require that all Hunter and Trapper Organizations be given the opportunity to engage with this plan if they wish.

Once the Department of Fisheries commits in writing to acknowledge these conditions then the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board will fully support the new Walrus Intergraded Fisheries Management Plan.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our staff members: Jason Mikki, Regional Coordinator: 928-8430, email: nqwb@niws.ca or Jackie Price, Research & Planning Coordinator: 979-6430, email: jprice@niws.ca

Sincerely,

James Qillaq, Chair

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

cc: Peter Kydd, Director of Wildlife NWMB

Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife & Environment NTI

Hunters & Trappers', Qikiqtaaluk region



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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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