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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

October 6th 2017

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Hon. Catherine
McKenna
Minister of Environment
and Climate Change
Canada

Aluki Kotierk
President
Nunavut Tunngavik
Incorporated

Stanley Adjuk
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board and
Issatik Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Nick Arnalukjuak
Chairperson of the
Arviat Hunters and
Trappers Organization

Richard Aksawnee
Chairperson of the
Baker Lake Hunters and
Trappers Organization

Harry Aggark
Chairperson of the Agigiq
Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Brian Sigardson
Vice-Chairperson of the
Kangiqliniq Hunters and
Trappers Organization

Robert Enuapik
Chairperson
Issatik Hunters and
Trappers Organization

Christine Cleghorn and
Stas Olpinski
Chairpersons of the Polar
Bear Administrative
Committee

Dag Vongraven and
Nick Lunn
Co-Chairs of the IUCN
Polar Bear
Specialist Group

David Miller
President and CEO
World Wildlife Fund

Gregor Gilbert and Aaron Dale
Co-chairs, Polar Bear Technical
Committee

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Summary Minutes of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board pre-hearing teleconference concerning the total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation

On September 25th 2017, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) sent out a letter inviting you to attend a pre-hearing teleconference concerning the total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation on October 3rd 2017, at 2:30 pm Eastern Time.

The conference call was held at the NWMB boardroom in Iqaluit, started at 2:34 pm and was led by Jason Akearok, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) Executive Director. The following is a summary of the discussions:

1. The proposed location and dates of the in-person public hearing concerning the total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation

The Executive Director stated that, considering the logistical challenges of holding an in-person public hearing, the NWMB has tentatively booked The Siniktarvik Hotel and Conference Centre located in Rankin Inlet on the 9th and 10th of January 2018, for the Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear In-Person Public Hearing. There was no disagreement expressed on the proposed dates and location of the hearing.

2. The adequacy of consultations carried out by the Nunavut Department of Environment concerning its Proposal

All parties acknowledged that the timing of, and community attendance at, the consultations were not ideal. Consultations for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation took place in July and were poorly attended, most likely because this is a time when many community members are out on the land. However, the GN-DOE considered that due to community requests for an urgent decision to implement a new Total Allowable Harvest, that the GN-DOE considered it best to submit its Proposal to the Board in order to begin the decision-making process as soon as practicable. Notwithstanding the timing and attendance concerns – none of the participants on the teleconference were of the view that the consultations were inadequate.

3. Participant funding to attend the hearing

The NWMB Executive Director stated that the NWMB will be able to fund travel, accommodation and per diem costs but no honoraria for up to 10 community participants to the public hearing. It will be up to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board to choose those participants. No concerns were raised about this at the teleconference.

4. Other issues

The NWMB Executive Director informed the participants that the NWMB did make a decision on Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest levels, increasing the number to 34 bears. Drikus Gissing (GN-DOE) stated that the Minister has accepted and will implement the Board's decision. Mr. Gissing also stated that the decision is not an interim decision from the Minister's perspective as it is going to go into Regulations and can only be changed if the NWMB submits a

new decision to the Minister for consideration. The NWMB is in agreement with the position of the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment in that once the new TAH is implemented, it will remain the legal harvesting limit for Western Hudson Bay Polar Bears until such time as the next *Nunavut Agreement* Article 5 decision-making process is completed.

The conference call ended at 3:25 pm.

If you have any concerns about the issues discussed at the meeting, the content of this letter, or if there is something that we failed to record in the attached pre-hearing teleconference minutes, please let us know by contacting the NWMB on or before **Friday October 13th 2017 at 5 pm Eastern Time.**

Yours sincerely,



Dan Shewchuk,
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments 3:

1. Teleconference minutes
2. Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment Letter: NWMB Total allowable harvest for the WH Polar Bear subpopulation
3. Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Letter: NWMB decisions concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation

c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment;
Paul Irrngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
Lisa Jones, Secretary Manager of the Issatik HTO;
Mary Issumatardjuaq, Secretary Manager of the Arviat HTO;
Hugh Nateela, Secretary Manager of the Baker Lake HTO;
Janice Aggark, Secretary Manager of the Agigik HTO;
Nigel Kubluitok, Secretary Manager of the Kangiqliniq HTO;
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Head of Eastern Arctic, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada; and
Paul Crowley, Vice-President Arctic, World Wildlife Fund Canada.