



September 22, 2017

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Re: *Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decisions concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay (WH) polar bear subpopulation*

Thank you very much for your decision concerning the new Total Allowable Harvest decision for the WHB sub-population.

To reiterate the decision of the NWMB:

RESOLVE that the NWMB approve, pursuant to Section 5.6.16, 5.6.17(b) , 5.3.3 (a) and 5.3.3(c) of the Nunavut Agreement and as an interim decision due to urgent circumstances, an increase of six (6) bears to the regional total allowable harvest in the Nunavut settlement area for the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation, resulting in an overall regional total allowable harvest of 34 bears for the 2017-2018 harvests season.

FUTHER RESOLVE that the NWMB hold an in-person public hearing at the earliest possible opportunity concerning the future (2018-2019) and subsequent harvest seasons level of the regional total allowable harvesting in the Nunavut Settlement Area for the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation.



I hereby accept your decision to increase the TAH for the regional total allowable harvest in the Nunavut settlement area of the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation with 6 bears, resulting in an overall regional total allowable harvest of 34 bears under the agreed sex selective harvest system outlined in the Nunavut Polar Bear MOU's.

I will implement this decision forthwith and the TAH will be put in regulation and be implemented as a final decision. If the board want to adjust or make a new decision after you conduct public hearings, based on new information acquired during the public hearing process, the board can submit this as a new TAH decision and will be considered at that time. This decision will thus be in place until I receive a new NWMB decision.

On-going communication, meetings, and the recent NWMB regular meeting have shown that we all share concerns regarding the WB polar bear subpopulation. I hope that our collaborative work will continue in implementing this TAH and other management actions needed to ensure sustainability of WH polar bear subpopulation.

Sincerely,

Joe Savikataaq,
Minister

Cc. David Akeeagok - Deputy Minister, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut (GN)

