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#### Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

February 16, 2016

Peter Kydd Director of Wildlife Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Iqaluit, Nu Sent by Email to: pkydd@nwmb.com

Re: Letter of Support for Polar Bear Credit Utilization

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) Executive received three request from HTOs to utilize their polar bear credits for the 2015-2016 harvest season. Upon review by QWB Executive during their February 16, 2016 call, which included information provided by DoE's Polar Bear Technician, the following decisions have been made;

- 1. Aiviq HTO (Cape Dorset) request for 5 male tags from their Foxe Basin credits: Supported
- 2. Hall Beach HTA request for 2 tags (1 male & 1 female) from their Gulf of Boothia credits: Supported
- 3. Pangnirtung HTO requested 11 tags (9 male & 2 female) from Davis Strait credits: GN informed the Executive that the Pangnirtung HTO didn't have any female credits, so Pangnirtung opted to request for only male credits of 9. Once Pangnirtung confirmed this on the call, QWB supported the request for 9 male tags under their Davis Strait population credits.

Accompanying this letter is all the information QWB received in making their decision for NWMB's review. QWB requests that once a final decision is made by the Minister of Environment, QWB receives correspondence outlining the final decision made. This will alleviate much waiting and questions from both the HTO and QWB itself.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our QWB staff; Jason Mikki, Regional Coordinator – 928-8430, email: nqwb@niws.ca or Jackie Price, 979-4631, email: jprice@niws.ca

Sincerely,

Jámes Qillaq, Çhairman Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board



16 February 2016

James Qillaq Chairman Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Hall Beach, Nunavut XOA 0K0

### RE: PANGNIRTUNG HTA REQUEST TO UTILIZE 11 POLAR BEAR CREDITS IN THE DAVIS STRAIT POLAR BEAR SUBPOPULATION FOR USE IN THE 2015/2016 HARVEST SEASON

Dear Chairman Qillaq,

According to the letters and motion papers forwarded to the Polar Bear Harvest Lab on February 12, 2016, we are now aware that Pangnirtung HTA would like to utilize 9 male and 2 female polar bear credits for the 2015/2016 polar bear harvest season. It is the responsibility of the Polar Bear Harvest Lab to keep track of credits and historical harvest data. This letter is intended to provide you with current credit information for Pangnirtung HTA (with respect to the Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation) and a brief summary of past harvest years.

Pangnirtung HTA currently has 25 male and 0 female polar bear credits available, which is not sufficient to cover the request. Only male polar bear credits are currently available for use.

In the 2014/2015 season, the community of Pangnirtung collectively harvested 11 males and 13 female polar bears. As one of the females was less than two years of age, it was counted as one half of a male tag for the purpose of total allowable harvest calculations. After this omission, an overharvest of 4 females was recorded and resulted in a TAH reduction of 16 bears (12 males and 4 females). Due to the under harvest of males and the large reduction in TAH, 17 male credits were deposited back into Pangnirtung HTA's credit bank for future use. 8 bears (4 males, 4 females) were allocated for the 2015/2016 polar bear harvest season.

In 2013/2014, the community of Pangnirtung harvested 11 male polar bears and 7 females (after DNA sexing results indicated one female to be male). Harvesting under a reduced TAH (12:7) from previous overharvest of females this resulted in 2 male credits being deposited in the credit bank and female credits remained at 0.

In 2012/2013, the community of Pangnirtung harvested under a new TAH of 24 bears (16:8). This new TAH was based on a 2012 population estimate. A harvest of 14 males and 9 females resulted in a TAH reduction for 2013/2014.



During the 2011/2012 harvest season, the community of Pangnirtung overharvested 6 females. This would have resulted in a drastically reduced TAH for 2012/2013, however; the new population estimate and subsequent zeroing of credits prevented the reduction from being implemented.

If you require any additional information to aid your decision please do not hesitate to contact myself (867 934 2184) or Markus Dyck (Polar Bear Biologist II 867 934 2181). Thank you and we look forward to hearing your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Harte - Polar Bear Harvest Technician

CC: Chairman, Pangnirtung HTA, N. Mosesee
Manager, Wildlife Research, Department of Environment L. Orman
Wildlife Biologist, Nunavut Wildlife management Board, E. Keenan
Polar Bear Biologist II, Department of Environment, M. Dyck
Director, Wildlife, Department of Environment, D. Gissing



12 February 2016

Jason Mikki Qikiqtaaluk Regional Coordinator Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat Hall Beach, Nunavut X0A 0K0

## RE: REQUEST FOR HALL BEACH HTA TO DRAW TWO POLAR BEAR CREDITS FOR THE GULF OF BOOTHIA POLAR BEAR SUBPOPULATION TO BE USED IN THE 2015/2016 POLAR BEAR HARVEST SEASON

Dear Jason Mikki,

According to the letters and motion papers you forwarded to the Polar Bear Harvest Lab on February 11, 2016, we are now aware that Hall Beach HTA would like to draw 1 male and 1 female polar bear credit to be used during the 2015/2016 polar bear harvest season. It is the responsibility of the Polar Bear Harvest Lab to keep track of credits and historical harvest data. This letter is intended to provide you with current credit information for Hall Beach HTA (with respect to the Gulf of Boothia polar bear subpopulation) and a brief summary of past harvest years.

Hall Beach HTA currently has 2.42 male and 2.54 female polar bear credits available which are sufficient to cover the request.

In the 2014/2015 season, Hall Beach HTA drew 1 male polar bear credit and failed to utilize the tag before the closing of the 2014/2015 season. Total harvest for the 14/15 season was 2 males and 0 females. 1.67 male credits and 1.33 female credits were deposited back into the credit bank after July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

In 2013/2014, Hall Beach HTA drew 2 male credits and1 female credit. Two credits were utilized (1 male, 1 female) for a total harvest of 6 bears (4 males, 2 females). Remaining credits were deposited into the credit bank.

In 2012/2013, Hall Beach HTA drew no credits and harvested in line with their base allocation of 4 bears (3 males, 2 females).

No instance of overharvest without available credits for the Gulf of Boothia polar bear subpopulation has been recorded in the past ten harvest seasons.



If you require any additional information to aid your decision please do not hesitate to contact myself (867 934 2184) or Markus Dyck (Polar Bear Biologist II 867 934 2181). Thank you and we look forward to hearing your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Harte - Polar Bear Harvest Technician

CC: Manager, Hall Beach HTA, L. Nangmalik

Manager, Wildlife Research, Department of Environment L. Orman Wildlife Biologist, Nunavut Wildlife management Board, E. Keenan Polar Bear Biologist II, Department of Environment, M. Dyck Director, Wildlife, Department of Environment, D. Gissing

## トーイトで へりゅんとう Hall Beach Hunters' and Trappers' Association

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Aiviq Hunters' and Trappers' Association P.O. Box 300 Cape Dorset, NU, X0A 0C0 Ph. (867) 897-8932

Fax: (867) 897-8214

Email: aiviq\_hunters@qiniq.com

October 7th 2015

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board PO Box 14 Hall Beach, NU, X0A 0KO P. 867-928-8430 F. 867-928-8431 Email: nqwb@niws.ca

Attn: Jason Mikki, Qikiqtaaluk Regional Coordinator

RE: Request to use Polar Bear Credits for 2015-2016 Harvest

The Aiviq Hunters' and Trappers' Organization (HTO) would like to request to use 5 male polar bear credits from the accumulated credits (male 9.07 and female 0 as of 2014-2015 season) for the 2015-2016 harvest season from the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation. The accumulated credits have been verified with the Department of Environment.

We stopped our harvest early last season due to 2 lost bears which were in turn were counted as females against our quota this season (see Table 1). We would appreciate it if you can assist us in getting the requested credits.

Table 1 outlines the 2014-2015 harvest and recommended 2015-2016 harvest for Cape Dorset.

Community	Pop.	Base Allocation	Allocation 2014-2015		Harvest 2014-2015		Recommended Harvest 2015-2016				
			Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	E
Cape Dorset	FB	12(8:4)	12	8	4				TOTAL	171	-
QWB Tag	FB	1 (1:0)	1	1	0						_
TOTAL	FB	13 (9:4)	13	9	4	11	5	6	5	3	2

Please let me know if further process we have to follow or for further information contact us at the above address or number.

All

Sincerely,

Adamie Nuna Aiviq HTO Chairperson

CC: Mike Harte - DOE

# Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Association ADA DL-4 G-4 Pl-6 ALL PPP 4 G-4 Pl-6 BD PPP Motion Paper ACA PP-1

Motion# <u>03-10-201</u> <u>a.h.b.n.k.</u>	5	Date: C	Oct 21, 2015
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FOR: 4 -74*)	AGAINST:	ABSTAIN:	
CHAIRMAN: JULIA		SECRETARY MANAGER:	Annie



26 November 2015

Jason Mikki Qikiqtaaluk Regional Coordinator Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat

RE: Request from Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Association to draw 5 male polar bear credits from the Foxe Basin subpopulation for use in the 2015/2016 polar bear harvest season

Dear Jason,

This letter is intended to provide information to the QWB regarding the Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Association's current polar bear credit status and a brief summary of the recent historical harvest within the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation. This letter will satisfy section 4.2 of the Foxe Basin Polar Bear Memorandum of Understanding and provide additional harvest information to aide your board in the decision making process.

The Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Association currently has 9.07 male polar bear credits available for use in the 2015/2016 harvest season. No female credits are currently retained by Aiviq HTA.

During the 2014/2015 harvest season, Aiviq HTA harvested 11 bears in their regular hunt. No harvested bears were reported outside of this category. The sex ratio of harvested bears was 5:4 (male to female) and 2 harvested bears of unknown sex. The two unverified bears were counted as female for the purposes of total allowable harvest calculations (flexible quota). These two unverified bears resulted in an overharvest of two females and further resulted in a TAH reduction of 7 bears (5 males, 2 females) in the current harvest season.

The 2013/2014 harvest season saw an overharvest of 1 male. Credits were in place to cover this over harvest, the TAH was not exceeded and no TAH reductions resulted.

2012/2013 saw an overharvest of 1 female. Credits were in place to cover this overharvest, the TAH was not exceeded and no TAH reductions resulted.

2011/2012 saw an overharvest of 1 male. The TAH was exceeded by one bear however; credits were in place to cover the over harvest and no TAH reductions resulted.

In 2010/2011 the TAH was met, the sex ratio was 2:1 and appropriate credits were allocated.



If you or your board require any additional harvest information, please feel free to contact the polar bear lab directly. The Polar Bear Biologist can answer any questions outside of harvest statistics.

I look forward to hearing from you again on this matter and hope this information will help provide Aiviq with a timely resolution to their request.

Sincerely,

Wildlife Technician II – Polar Bears Department of Environment

Government of Nunavut

CC: L. Orman, Manager Wildlife Research (G.N.)

M. Dyck, Polar Bear Biologist II (G.N.)

Karla Letto, Wildlife Management Biologist (N.W.M.B.) Jackie Price, Coordinator, Research and Planning (N.I.W.S.)