

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

Translation
To follow

January 6, 2020

Re: Proposal to Approve the Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

Thank you very much for your letter dated October 8, 2019 concerning the Department of Environment's (DOE) request for approval of the Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan (BICMP). Regarding the concerns raised by yourself and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), I would like to provide some context and responses to your specific points.

The Board indicated that there was a *“lack of specific management actions to address current threats to Baffin Island caribou”*. Specific management recommendations such as Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) levels, which are based on scientific information, traditional knowledge, and consultation with co-management partners, were indeed not included in the management plan. This is because the wildlife management system in Nunavut requires that the NWMB and co-management partners have an opportunity to comment on management recommendations. It is our position that if specific management actions were provided within the management plan, this would be overly prescriptive and create a redundancy, or even a conflict, with the NWMB’s existing approval process.

Your letter indicated, *“the management plan has not been updated to include recent changes to Baffin Island harvest non-quota limitations”*. Due to the short timeframe between the decision on the Baffin Island TAH and Non-Quota Limitation, it was overlooked as an addition to the BICMP before the submission deadline for the NWMB regular meeting in September 2019. Changes to the non-quota limitations will be added to the Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan before it is re-submitted to the NWMB.

