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Building Nunavut Together
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Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Department of Environment
Avatiliqiyikkut
Ministère de l'Environnement

7 April 2020

James Qillaq
Chairman
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

RE: REQUEST FROM SANIKILUAQ HTA TO UTILIZE 29 CREDITS (16 MALE, 13 FEMALE) FOR USE IN THE 2019/2020 POLAR BEAR HARVEST SEASON IN THE SOUTHERN HUDSON BAY SUBPOPULATION.

Dear Mr. Qillaq,

Thank you for forwarding the letters and motion papers to the Polar Bear Harvest Lab, which we received on March 3, 2020. We are now fully aware that the Sanikiluaq HTA would like to utilize 29 polar bear credits (16 male and 13 female) for use during the 2019/2020 polar bear harvest season. The Polar Bear Lab received an email sent January 14th, 2020 from Sanikiluaq HTA to Polar Bear Biologist II, Markus Dyck requesting the number of credits available. The Polar Bear Lab responded to that request and provided available credits on January 14th, 2020 via email.

To reiterate, Sanikiluaq currently has 16.03 male and 14.97 female polar bear credits. Currently, the total allowable harvest (TAH) for Sanikiluaq is: 13 males and 12 females.

The Government of Nunavut (GN) supports the use of polar bear credits. The request to utilize an additional 13 female and 16 male credits for the current harvest year would represent more than double the annual TAH for Sanikiluaq. This requested harvest level represents a conservation concern for the Southern Hudson Bay (SH) subpopulation. The GN would recommend using a smaller number of credits for a single year to reduce the potential population-level effects on SH.

If the Sanikiliuaq HTA would like to reconsider this request, my department will be available to discuss what level of request are less likely to represent a conservation concern, such as spreading the request for this amount of credits over 2-3 harvest years, rather than harvesting 29 extra bears in 1 season.

If the Sanikiluaq HTA and QWB would like to stay the request at 13 female and 16 male bears for the 2019-2020 harvest season, my department will submit this request regarding the use of 29 credits in one harvest season to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for decision.

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If you require any additional information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact myself (867 934 2184) or Markus Dyck (Polar Bear Biologist II: 867 934 2181).

Sincerely,

Jasmine Ware – Polar Bear Biologist I

CC: Wildlife Advisor, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Mike Ferguson
Manager, Sanikiluaq HTA, Lucassie Arragutainaq
Chairperson, Sanikiluaq HTA, Eli Qavvik
Conservation Officer, Sanikiluaq, Daniel Qavvik
Manager, Wildlife Research, Department of Environment, Kate England
Director, Wildlife Research, Department of Environment, Drikus Gissing
Polar Bear Biologist II, Department of Environment, M. Dyck
Regional Wildlife Manager, Department of Environment, Jonathan Pynn
Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Denis Ndeloh

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