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Ċσρ' শ\" Δ<sup>1</sup>/4ρC<sup>1</sup>, Δ<sup>2</sup>/- ÞL/- λ<sup>1</sup>/- <sup>1</sup>/- <sup>1</sup>/-

**ਦੰ** 22, 2020

Λ'≺∩⊂י: Dolphin ላ┖ጔ Union ጋΌΔ' - 2018 'b▷ት\ʔ∩Γċ ' ⟨▷∟\ʔσਾਂ⊃

<sub>ح</sub>نرهاد,

PY40~CD% 1647eapn-2012 01204. P2040#2FJN16421 2128AP161C%6C 41L2 

᠈ᢀᢤᡃᠺᠬᠲᢧ᠂ᢗ᠘ᡩᠣ ᢂᠺᠫᡥᢣ᠘ᠳᢣᠦ ᡩᠴᡄᡶ᠅ ᡩ᠋᠘ᡓᢉ᠒ᠻᠰᢕ᠔ᢗ᠂ᡠᠻᢣ᠌᠌᠌ᡔᢐᡥᡳ )いくい Cpdaプレ ۵۲۲٬۶۱۲٬۰۰۵ م. بر مردر ۱۳۵۲ م. بر مردر **トみに。。UDトトトイ。** <ייףילילסיילר שת הילחסי. יששלר ארסילוטיילרלי שליטי שת היש סישליטרת אישי ᢣᠫᡷ᠘ᠿᢕᡥᡳᢗᡕ <u> ۹</u>۵ ۵۶٬۲۵۳ م ᢦ᠋ᢐᡆᢣᠬᠬᡳ᠈ᠪᡃᢗᠣᡃᠬᠦ᠈᠑ᠫᠣᡃ, ᠙᠈ᡏᠣ᠂ᢐᡃᡳᢇᡈ᠌ᡓᢐᡰᢅᠸᡃᠸᡥᢣ᠘ᢣ᠘᠒ᡐ᠘ᠳᡥᡥᠦᠥ  $\mathsf{LC}(\mathsf{CDL}\mathsf{AC}^{\mathsf{p}}\mathsf{C})$  $P^{*}J^{\otimes} \supset Q^{\infty}P^{\circ}G^{\circ}UG$ 

^~~&'^°~ )\~4'&'b'b'C?L~D'\*)\\_4' 2020 P^\%\U\U\ 4')\\*CP\L\\\ \_ \\_C^\\\ ᡃᠪᡃ᠘ᠵᡥᢗ᠃ᢧᠻᡊ᠙ᡎᢗᢦ᠋᠘ᢎᡆᡳ᠘ᠻᢐᢛ᠘ᠸᢇ᠐ᡓ᠘᠘ᢗᡧ᠘ᢛ᠘᠘᠘᠘ᡧ᠙᠙᠙ᡬ᠙ᡬ᠙᠘᠙᠘  $\Delta DC_1QV_1 = \Delta CP \nabla_0 = \Delta CP \nabla_$  $\Delta$  $^{\prime}$ L $^{\prime}$  $\Delta$  $^{\prime}$  $\Delta$  $^{\prime}$  $\Delta$  $^{\prime}$  $\Delta$  $^{\prime}$ DOCOP OPADC ለሮሲልናበ°σ 4ነት▷‰ቦናጋካታ $\Delta$  \%PPL&▷σናበ $^{4}$ ውና,  $\Delta$ ጋ $\Delta$ %C▷ፖLጚ% LCናC▷ጋ $\sigma$   $\Delta$  $\dot{c}$  $\dot{d}$ %D% 5.3.24CLDL [4] POPOLO 0.75 | CLDL [4] CLDL [4] POPOLO OCOLO | CLDL [4] POPOLO OCOLO 2020.

صĊŒه ᠑ᠺᠫᡲᢕᢐ᠍᠌ᠸᢐ してくてくいしてら  $40\Delta^{\circ}$   $C^{\circ}$   $C^$ ےĊ۲ ᡃᠪᢗ᠘᠌᠌ᠵᠼᠾᢛᠳ ᠵ᠋ᢐᡝᢐᢕᡤᢐ᠘ᠾᡠ᠘ᡓ \_00\_&rL  $a = a \Delta^{\circ} \wedge U \wedge d^{\circ} = a \wedge U \wedge d^{\circ} = a$  $^{\circ}P \cap ^{\circ}P \cap ^{\circ}$  $\mathcal{D}^{\circ}$ ᡃᠪᡃᡝᢞ᠋ᡆ᠌᠌ᢇᢗ᠊᠆ᢗ᠘᠘ᠸᢐᡳ ᠫᢗᠫ᠘ᠵ, ᠘ᢗ᠋ᠮᢛ᠂ᡠᠻ᠘ᡔᢨᡥᠣᢛ᠘ᢣ᠘᠘ᡄᢡ᠑ᠺ 2021-ᠮ. ᢗᠲᡆ 

 $APC^{1}$   $APC^$ 'bΥને'a?ti<cdσr( 4L)/pre> ውህር'dal' Διγί Dolphin 4L) Union ጋሃጋrí. 7440P/dcp 4<sup>6</sup>6664Δ¬∪ρ ار ۵۲۵ و د ۵ ᠘ᡥᡳ᠐ᡧ᠆ᢗᡆᠸ᠋ᡃ ᡏ᠋᠘᠘ᡩ᠙᠘ᠾ᠘ᡧ᠘ᠾ᠘ᡥ᠘ᢥᠾ᠘ᢤ᠘ᢤᡳ᠘ᢤᡳ᠘ᡧ᠘ᢢ᠘ᡧ᠘᠘᠘ᡧ᠘ᢢ᠙᠘᠘᠘ᡧ ᠈᠘ᡱᠲᢞᠣ᠙ᡩᡠ᠁᠘ᠸ᠆ᢧᠻᡀᡲᢓᢗ᠁ᢣᡏ᠐ᠫᠺᡅ᠘ᠳᡠ᠁ᠳᢥ᠙ᡭᡗ᠈ᠫ᠅᠘ᡧ 

'ぱ∿ሁላ'Γ▷С፫ጐС▷ላLጚ' ጋናጋΔና ጋናፅሙፅና ለቦዻዖበናቴንጔበ'ے  $\Box$ Ċσቴ 'ቴናላ▷σቴ'ቦቴσቴ  $\Box$ ላ $\Box$ σናΓቴ  $\Box$ ላ'ላና $\Box$ ቴ 19 ለ'ے  $\Box$   $\Delta$ ላሮናርናል▷በር▷ጚና ለታሲቴላLሮቴቴር.

 $MOS^{5}$ 

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Minister of Environment
Ministaat Avatiliqiyitkut
Ministre de l'Environnement

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk Chairperson, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board PO Box 1379 Igaluit, NU XOA 0H0

June 22, 2020

Re: Dolphin and Union Caribou - 2018 Survey Results and Management

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

In October 2018, the Government of Nunavut (GN) Department of Environment (DOE) conducted an aerial survey of the Dolphin and Union caribou herd using the fall shoreline methodology established and used since 1997. Additional survey analysis was completed to include new genetic information, and to ensure the results included all available information following some external concerns with methodology. The additional analysis delayed the completion of the final report, but the results and the final report are now completed and have been shared with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), co-management partners, and with management authorities in the Northwest Territories.

The results of the 2018 population survey and a recent Traditional Knowledge study (report in progress) have indicated the Dolphin and Union caribou herd is experiencing a drastic decline, which represents a serious conservation concern for the future recovery of this herd. The current population estimate is 4,105 caribou, which is a continued decline from the estimate of 18,413 caribou in 2015 and 34,558 caribou in 1997. Traditional knowledge studies conducted in 2003 and 2018-2020 also indicate that there have been significant declines in the herd around the communities of Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk since peaks around the 1980's to 2019. There has also been substantial harvest from the Dolphin and Union caribou herd since the 2018 survey as a response to the declines of neighbouring Bluenose East and Bathurst caribou herds. Concerning demographic indicators of this herd such as low calf to cow ratios, lower pregnancy rates in harvested animals, and a low bull to cow ratio, have also shown a need to take action for the protection of this herd. The current decline is not due solely to harvest but with very few animals, the risk posed by harvest is significant and could result in continued population decline and/or extirpation on some parts of the traditional herd range.

It is more important than ever that we work together to conserve this herd for future generations of users in both jurisdictions by doing everything we can to help facilitate recovery. The communities that harvest from this herd have been leaders in the stewardship of their wildlife populations. There have been some measures taken by HTOs in Nunavut that should be commended, such as cancelling sport hunting on the herd, but given the drastic decline of this herd, additional measures are needed to support recovery before it is too late.

My Department had intended to consult in the spring of 2020 with the affected HTOs, comanagement partners, and relevant users and management authorities in the Northwest Territories, but the travel restrictions in place due to COVID-19 have delayed this process. Due to the seriousness of the herd status and given the possible delays in completing a fulsome consultation process, my Department is recommending an interim decision for urgent and unusual circumstances, as outlined in section 5.3.24 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. I request that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) make a decision on this matter in time for implementation prior to the start of harvesting in the Fall of 2020.

The recommendation is for a 1% harvest limit (42 caribou) herd-wide while the consultation process is being completed and until new information is available, including results from a new population survey. Maintaining a small harvest would help to preserve cultural practices and traditions. As this is a shared herd with users in the Northwest Territories (NWT), we are initiating discussions within Nunavut and the NWT to determine how to appropriately share the suggested harvest of 42 caribou. The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board would be the responsible agency for the allocation of the harvest to the relevant Nunavut Communities. Given the seriousness of the decline in this herd, a new population survey is tentatively planned for 2021. This recommendation is also in line with the Management Plan that was approved by the NWMB.

Management actions should be enacted as soon as possible in order to reduce the risk of further significant declines and/or extirpation from some parts of the Dolphin and Union caribou herd range. There will need to be an expedited process to develop a plan forward for a fair shared allocation of the harvest between the jurisdictions and users. An adaptive management approach is recommended including regular monitoring to advise changes to harvest restrictions so that actions reflect population size and trajectory. The DOE will work to ensure they replace lost collared animals due to mortalities and start the planning of the new population survey as soon as COVID-19 restrictions permit these activities.

DOE believes the above noted recommendation is the best balance based on the current available scientific information and Traditional Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to ensure harvest is set to a sustainable level and could help support a recovery of Dolphin and Union caribou.

I know the NWMB members and staff are committed to ensuring the valuable resources of Nunavut, such as this important caribou herd, are managed successfully for future generations. I look forward to working together to ensure this herd's recovery and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Hon. Joe Savikataaq Minister of Environment

Cc: Jimmy Noble Jr., Deputy Minister of Environment

Steve Pinksen, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment

Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Research