February 7, 2022

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

Re: NWMB Decision on the Request for Approval of the Polar Bear Harvest Administration and Credit Calculation System

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your decision sent on February 1, 2022 concerning the Polar Bear Harvest administration and Credit Calculation System.

To reiterate the decision of the NWMB:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Board's authority under Section 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement*, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approves the Government of Nunavut's Polar bear Harvest Administration and Credit Calculation System.*

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board recommends that:
• The Government of Nunavut and co-management partners work together towards a fair and acceptable accounting system for polar bears killed in defense of life and property (DLPK);
• The Government of Nunavut and co-management partners work together towards a fair and acceptable alternative to resetting harvest credits to zero when a new sub-population Total Allowable Harvest is set;
• The Government of Nunavut explore options to improve public access to polar bear harvest administration and increase involvement of Regional Wildlife Organizations in the management and allocation of community harvest credits.

As per section 5.3.9(a) of the *Nunavut Agreement*, I hereby accept your decision to approve the Polar bear Harvest Administration and Credit Calculation System (HACCS).

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P.O. Box 2410
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Titiqakuvia 2410
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

C. P. 2410
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

867-975-5026
867-975-5044

I hereby acknowledge your recommendations to work together with co-management partners, including Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWO), on aspects of the polar bear harvest management system including defense of life and property kills and credit management, while working to improve public access to harvest information.

The Department of Environment is committed to working with co-management partners as evidenced by the development of the HACCS based on feedback from these partners. My department is optimistic that after filling their technical advisor positions, the RWOs will fully realize their roles and responsibilities in polar bear harvest management.

We must strive to balance management using sound science, Indigenous knowledge, and conservation principles. To that end, the department recognizes that the increases in co-management organizations' capacity will likely allow the full utilization of the harvest management system, as it is designed. I believe active engagement with co-management partners will address concerns of credit usage and management as well as improve public access to harvest information.

The decision will be implemented forthwith. This decision will remain in place until I receive a new NWMB decision.

I am confident that we will continue to work collaboratively in the implementation of this management decision. I appreciate the efforts that have been put forth in its consideration.

Sincerely,

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Hon. David Akeeagok,
Minister of Environment

Cc. Jimmy Noble Jr., Deputy Minister of Environment
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Research
Jason Aliqatuqtuq, Director of Wildlife Operations

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P.O. Box 2410
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Titiqakuvia 2410
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

C. P. 2410
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

867-975-5026
867-975-5044