



Fisheries and Oceans
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Senior Assistant
Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre
adjoint principal

DEC 09 2011

Mr. Terry Audla
Chief Executive Officer
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
P.O. Box 638
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Dear Mr. Audla:

This letter is a follow-up to our discussion on December 5, 2011 concerning section 5.6.25 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

As you are aware, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) have been collaborating to address the need for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) to implement section 5.6.25 of the NLCA. Consistent with commitments made by both DFO and NTI at the Narwhal Governance Strategy Workshop held in July 2011 in Iqaluit, I would like to confirm that DFO supports Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) serving as the Basic Needs Level (BNL).

In addition to the TAH, other conservation measures for the sustainable management of the narwhal harvest were also discussed during the July workshop. DFO would like to reiterate that, as with all marine species, setting of a TAH for narwhal should be based on the principle of conservation. The regulatory management system should also reflect sustainable harvest practices so that we can demonstrate, domestically and internationally that narwhal are being managed in a sustainable fashion. The ongoing cooperation amongst co-management partners in the development of an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, will provide further direction and structure for the sustainable harvest of narwhal.

We reiterate how pleased we are with the commitment from all parties to work together towards establishing a sustainable narwhal management system that meets both domestic and international obligations and moving us towards the ultimate goal of having an approved Management Plan by January 2013.

Sincerely,

David Balfour
Ecosystems and Fisheries Management

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