

Jim Noble
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit
NU, X0A 0H0

June 29, 2012

Dear Jim,

This late initial submission is in response to the NWMB's public notice on 1 May 2012, reinstating a public hearing process to set a basic needs level for beluga, narwhal, and walrus under s5.6.25 of the NLCA. The Government of Nunavut (GN) understands that submission is later than the initial submission deadline of May 31, when the GN submitted an incomplete document including some of the information contained herein. That document was incomplete since our staff was unfamiliar with the NWMB submission process, and our marine mammal staff person was on vacation until two days before the submission deadline. NWMB staff have since familiarized GN staff with the submission requirements, and the GN therefore hopes that the NWMB will still consider this late submission during the NLCA s5.6.25 public hearings.

Although the GN does not have jurisdiction over the management of marine mammals, the GN remains committed to involvement in management discussions for beluga, narwhal, and walrus, given their nutritional, socio-cultural, and economic importance to Nunavummiut. In particular, the GN is the only co-management partner to currently be collecting local knowledge of beluga, narwhal, and walrus in a systematic and rigorous fashion, through our Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory (NCRI). The NCRI interviews hunters in each community to create a snapshot of the current knowledge of the coastal species in the areas travelled near that community. To date we have completed inventories in Igloodik, Kugluktuk, Arctic Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Gjoa Haven, and Repulse Bay.

The GN here submits for the NWMBs consideration during the s5.6.25 public hearing process, data that has been analyzed from the inventories. In addition, we submit notes taken by GN staff during the community consultation tours that were conducted in 2011 and 2012 on narwhal science and management, as hunters and HTO members described some of their excellent knowledge of narwhal during these meetings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne Lynch
Director, Fisheries and Sealing Division

On behalf of.
Janelle Kennedy