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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavut iluqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Minister of Environment
Ministat Avatiliqiyitkut
Ministre de l'Environnement

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

NOV 04 2016

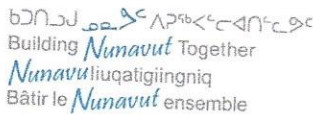
Dear Mr. Shewchuk;

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decisions concerning Bluenose East caribou harvest management

Thank you for your letter of October 7, 2016 outlining the decisions of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) concerning Bathurst caribou harvest management following the NWMB in-person public hearing on June 16 -17, 2016 in Cambridge Bay.

The NWMB submitted the following decisions:

- 1) *Establish an interim total allowable harvest of three hundred and forty (340) Bluenose East caribou in the Nunavut Settlement Area until such time as either (i) circumstances require a revision to that number, or (ii) the integrated Community Caribou Management Plan for the Bluenose East caribou in the Kitikmeot Region (Bluenose East Caribou Management Plan) is approved and implemented pursuant to Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Sections 5.2.34 (d)(i) and 5.3.7 to 5.3.15;*
- 2) *Direct that the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board – pursuant to Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Subsection 5.7.6(d), in compliance with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Section 5.1.5 principles of conservation, and in consultation with the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment and affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations, with assistance from relevant Qaujimaniliit – promptly determine, on the same interim basis as for the total allowable harvest, the sex ratio of the harvest;*



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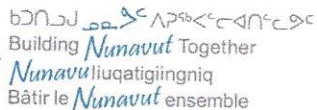
- 3) Recommend that the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment and affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations, with assistance – as deemed necessary or advisable – from other qualified organizations and/or relevant Qaujimaniliit, complete the development of the draft Bluenose East Caribou Management Plan – including careful consideration of a potential predator control program – by no later than the end of September 2017; and
- 4) Upon submission of the completed draft Bluenose East Caribou Management Plan for approval by the NWMB pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Sections 5.2.34(d)(i) and 5.3.3, promptly hold a public hearing in the Kitikmeot Region – ideally in the community of Kugluktuk - in order to make a decision or decisions concerning the ongoing harvest management regime for the Bluenose East caribou herd in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

I thank the board for its consideration and decision on this important matter. I hereby accept this decision of the NWMB to establish a TAH of 340 for the Bluenose East Caribou Herd, and will proceed to implement it promptly.

While the original recommendation from my department was for the harvest to be directed at male caribou only, I have accepted your decision without sex-selectivity as a requirement at this time. While we do have some minor concerns with sustainability, given the following factors I am of the opinion that a non-sex selective harvest can be successfully implemented at this time:

- 1) This is the first time a restriction of this nature has been applied to these Nunavut communities.
- 2) The harvest of Bluenose East caribou is almost entirely (if not entirely) a local subsistence harvest, and local harvesting practices do not select for male-only caribou.

My department will engage the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board and the affected communities on the issue of sex-selectivity, and we will consider options for future years, including adding sex-selectivity to the management approach, and a reduced TAH to mitigate the anticipated conservation impacts of a non-sex- selective approach.



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Department officials are reviewing your additional recommendations and will be in contact with NWMB staff to discuss them further.

As always, I wish to thank the Board for their hard work and careful consideration of this important conservation and management issue of inter-jurisdictional importance.

Sincerely,

Joe Savikataaq
Minister