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**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NT XQA QHD

2000-001-05842

17 July, 2000

File Number: 1600 SEBBMC

Honourable Herb Dhaliwal
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

FM

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CABINET DU MINISTRE
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
JUL 18 9 25 AM '00

Alex
Steven
Andrij

Dear Mr. Dhaliwal:

see 2000-061-03644

This is in response to your letter of June 23, 2000 wherein you rejected the decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) to accept and implement the recommendations of the Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee (SEBBMC) regarding the harvest of beluga whales by the community of Pangnirtung. The NWMB has considered the concerns you raised and has consulted with DFO scientists to examine the quota change and sustainable harvest levels, based on current knowledge of this stock.

In accordance with Article 5.3.21 I am forwarding to you the following final decision of the NWMB with regards to the community-based management system for beluga whales harvested by Pangnirtung hunters:

- i. That the Pangnirtung community quota for belugas be increased to 41 animals per year, subject to the conditions outlined below and an annual review as described in ix below;
- ii. That DFO conduct another beluga population survey in Cumberland Sound in 2002 to verify the population estimate;
- iii. That DFO work with the Pangnirtung HTO to develop a monitoring system and kits to monitor the number of animals landed; struck and lost; and wounded and escaped and information on sex and length;
- iv. That DFO have a greater presence in Pangnirtung during the hunts and throughout the year;
- v. That the HTO, DFO and NWMB work closely with residents of Pangnirtung to ensure that the new quota is understood, respected and followed;

- vi. That the HTO in Pangnirtung develop beluga harvesting rules a) to ensure the effective management and conservation of beluga; b) to encourage the education and proper training of beluga hunters; c) to minimize the loss and wastage of beluga; d) to encourage humane and effective hunting practices; and e) to maximize the safety of beluga hunters;
- vii. That the new quota will take effect once the rules noted in vi are in place;
- viii. That the Pangnirtung HTO develop a plan to deal with entrapped beluga;
- ix. That the Pangnirtung HTO meet with representatives of DFO and NWMB to review the new quota, harvest levels, struck and lost information and new research information after each beluga harvesting season, to discuss and address any concerns.

Based on the information provided by DFO – Science, the increase in the beluga quota to 41 animals from the present quota of 35 animals will result in an approximately 90% probability that the population will continue to increase at this harvest level (the probability was 95% at a harvest level of 35). This is based on a number of assumptions, including the assumption that the struck and lost rate for this population will be 20% of the harvest level. At present we have no information on the struck and lost rate for the Pangnirtung beluga harvest. As part of the requirements of the increased quota, this information will be required from all beluga hunters. The addition of this information will be important for evaluating the actual removal from the Cumberland Sound beluga stock.

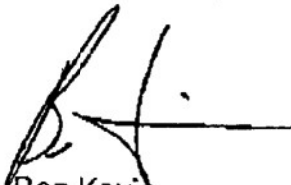
The annual review referred to in our original letter and above, is not intended to imply that there will be an annual population survey. Rather, it is an annual review of harvest levels to assess whether the assumptions used in setting the quota are appropriate, whether the quota is being observed, whether the total removal from the stock is sustainable and any other concerns relating to implementation. However, DFO – Science has agreed that another survey should be conducted in 2002, in order to verify the numbers found in the 1999 survey. After that survey, the Pangnirtung HTO, DFO and NWMB can again re-evaluate the quota, based on both the hunters' information and research data.

The NWMB will work with DFO and the HTO to monitor the new quota, and is prepared to act if conservation concerns do arise. The NWMB is committed to the co-management process for beluga in the southeast Baffin area. I hope that as co-management partners we can work together to ensure that this system is implemented within the principles of conservation outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This is best achieved by keeping the lines of communication open and including your Iqaluit Area Office in all discussions regarding this process. If you have any concerns about the content of this final decision, I would ask that you contact me immediately so that we can work together as co-management partners to resolve those issues.

In summary, while the new quota does result in a slightly elevated risk of the population no longer continuing to increase in size, this probability is based on a number of assumptions about the population and harvesting effects. In the opinion of the NWMB, the additional information and community participation in the harvest management is worth this slight increase in risk.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ben Kovic', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Ben Kovic

Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Burt Hunt, Area Director, DFO - Iqaluit

Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

~~28~~ 28 2000

Mr. Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut Territory
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Kovic:

Thank you for your letters dated July 17, 2000 regarding the three final decisions of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) on the management of the Southeast Baffin beluga.

First, I wish to express my appreciation of the hard work displayed by the NWMB in making the community-based management, as envisioned by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, work for the communities of Pangnirtung, Kimmirut and Iqaluit. The issue of the Southeast Baffin beluga has both challenged and strengthened fisheries' co-management between the NWMB and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

I am satisfied that the NWMB's three final decisions have addressed my previous concerns over the unnecessary conservation risk in adopting the Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee's (SEBBMC) resolutions without modifications. I am writing to confirm my acceptance of the NWMB's three decisions on the Southeast Baffin beluga as outlined in your above-mentioned letters, dated July 17, 2000.

Again, thank you for bringing this important matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, P.C., M.P.

Canada¹³¹

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**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NT X0A 0H0

FAXED
2 Aug/00

31 July, 2000

File Number: 5022-3 Beluga

Mosesee Qappik
Chairperson
Pangnirtung HTO
Box 2
Pangnirtung, Nunavut
X0A 0R0

Dear Mosesee:

As you are aware, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) has been reviewing the quota for Belugas in Pangnirtung. I am pleased to inform you that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has accepted the NWMB's decision with respect to the management of the beluga harvest in Pangnirtung.

The decision accepted by the Minister was:

- i. That the Pangnirtung community quota for belugas be increased to 41 animals per year, subject to the conditions outlined below and an annual review as described in ix below;
- ii. That DFO conduct another beluga population survey in Cumberland Sound in 2002 to verify the population estimate;
- iii. That DFO work with the Pangnirtung HTO to develop a monitoring system and kits to monitor the number of animals landed; struck and lost; and wounded and escaped and information on sex and length;
- iv. That DFO have a greater presence in Pangnirtung during the hunts and throughout the year;
- v. That the HTO, DFO and NWMB work closely with residents of Pangnirtung to ensure that the new quota is understood, respected and followed;
- vi. That the HTO in Pangnirtung develop beluga harvesting rules a) to ensure the effective management and conservation of beluga; b) to encourage the education and proper training of beluga hunters; c) to minimize the loss and wastage of beluga; d) to encourage humane and effective hunting practices; and e) to maximize the safety of beluga hunters;
- vii. That the new quota will take effect once the rules noted in vi are in place;
- viii. That the Pangnirtung HTO develop a plan to deal with entrapped beluga;

- ix. That the Pangnirtung HTO meet with representatives of DFO and NWMB to review the new quota, harvest levels, struck and lost information and new research information after each beluga harvesting season, to discuss and address any concerns.

It is possible for this new quota to take effect this year. However, the old quota of 35 belugas will continue to apply until such time as the HTO has developed and approved the rules outlined in vi above. It is therefore very important that you send a copy of your approved rules to the NWMB as soon as possible. Those rules must include the requirements to report all harvested, wounded and escaped and struck and lost belugas. If you require assistance to develop these rules, or examples of the rules, please contact NWMB or DFO and we would be happy to assist you.

This community-based management system places the emphasis on the HTO in managing the beluga harvest. It is important that the members of the HTO follow the rules that have been established by the HTO and make the required reports on their harvests and the struck and lost animals. This is the responsibility that is passed to the HTO and the hunters in exchange for the increase in the quota.

At the end of the season, the NWMB and DFO will meet with your HTO to review the new management system and to address any concerns that arise. However, the NWMB and DFO are also available to assist you at any time in the implementation of this new system. As co-management partners we must work together to ensure that the beluga stock in Cumberland Sound continues to be healthy and provide for the needs of the community both now and in the future through sustainable harvest practices.

I look forward to seeing a copy of your approved rules in the near future. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns or if you require any assistance in the development of the rules.

Yours sincerely,

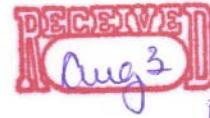


BK Ben Kovic
Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Burt Hunt, Area Director, DFO
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Fisheries and Oceans
CanadaPêches et Océans
CanadaP.O. BOX 358
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

August 3, 2000

Moseseq Qappik
Chairperson
Pangnirtung HTO
P.O. Box 2
Pangnirtung, Nunavut
X0A 0R0

F# 5025-3

Dear Moseseq Qappik:

As you certainly know, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans agreed with the NWMB decisions/recommendations on the management of the beluga harvest in Pangnirtung.

An increase of the beluga quota from 35 to 41 was approved. This is conditional to meeting a list of requirements as explained in the letter of July 31 from the NWMB to you. **Those conditions have to be met before the new quota can be implemented.** At the moment, Pangnirtung's beluga quota is still 35.

We would be available to assist you implementing these conditions. Please contact me so that we can arrange a meeting at your convenience. Our staff can work with you to make sure that all the conditions are met.

We look forward to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jean Guy Duchesne
Fisheries management Technician
Fisheries & Oceans

cc: ✓ NWMB, Chairperson

4 March, 2002

File Number: 5022-3 Quotas and Regs

Honourable Robert G. Thibault
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Mr. Thibault:

In July, 2000, your predecessor approved a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) to increase the beluga quota for Pangnirtung from 35 to 41 belugas per year. The increase in quota was conditional on the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization developing appropriate rules to regulate the hunt. The new quota was to come into effect only after these rules were in place.

I am pleased to inform you that we have now been informed by the Pangnirtung HTO that their Beluga Hunting Rules were approved at their recent AGM and are therefore now in effect. Accordingly, I am writing to you today to notify you that the required conditions have been met and that the new quota may now be put in place. I ask that you direct your staff to take the appropriate steps to implement this change.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Kovic
Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Chairman, Pangnirtung HTO
Burt Hunt, Area Director, DFO – Nunavut
Joannie Ikkidluak, Chairperson, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

4 March, 2002

File Number: 5022-3 Quotas and Regs

Mathewsie Maniapik
Vice-Chairman, Pangnirtung HTO
Box 2
Pangnirtung, NU
X0A 0R0

Dear Mathewsie:

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 2002, notifying the NWMB that the Pangnirtung Beluga Hunting Rules had been approved at your recent AGM. As this was the final action needed to bring the rules into effect, I am please to inform you that you have now met the required conditions to have the Pangnirtung beluga quota increased from 35 to 41 beluga per year. I have written to DFO to notify them of this and asked that they take the necessary steps to implement the new quota for the coming harvesting season.

The community-based management system that you will now be participating in requires some commitments from both your HTO and your members in order to ensure accurate reporting of landed and struck and lost animals. This information will be important for all co-management partners as we monitor the hunt in the coming seasons. It is also important that the harvesting rules dealing with conservation and wastage be followed and enforced by your HTO. We look forward to working with your HTO and DFO to implement the new quota and community-based management in Pangnirtung.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Kovic
Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Joannie Ikkidluak, Chairperson, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Burt Hunt, Area Director, DFO - Nunavut