



Your department also referenced a Traditional Knowledge study conducted by the University of Calgary indicating that Inuit are observing fewer Dolphin and Union caribou around the communities of Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay. Further, your department stated that the decision to implement an interim Total Allowable Harvest was in line with management actions prescribed in the *Management Plan for Dolphin and Union Caribou (Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus) in Canada*, approved by the NWMB in 2017.

Lastly, your department stated that once results from a new, more extensive Dolphin and Union herd aerial abundance estimate survey completed in October 2020 become available, a new Total Allowable Harvest recommendation will be submitted to the Board for its consideration. The Board looks forward to reviewing this recommendation after the analysis and consultations are complete and, if necessary, accommodations are made with affected communities.

NWMB's Decision

At the NWMB's In-Camera Meeting on December 3, 2020 (IC004-2020), the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board establishes a Total Allowable Harvest for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd of 105 pursuant to Sections 5.6.16 and 5.3.3(a) of the Nunavut Agreement.

Reasons for the NWMB's Decision

In reaching its decision, the Board considered that the Dolphin and Union caribou herd is in a state of decline based on a time series of abundance estimates produced by your department and a Traditional Knowledge study conducted by the University of Calgary. Compared to the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Baffin Island caribou herds, the situation of the Dolphin and Union herd is unique because of its relatively lower abundance estimate, the accessibility of the herd to harvesters during migration, and its susceptibility to drowning mortalities as a result of poor ice conditions during the sea-ice crossing. Further, the herd is harvested in Nunavut and in the Northwest Territories (by the communities of Uluhaktok and Paulatuk) where there is currently no harvesting limitations for Indigenous harvesters. Based on these factors, the Board determined that a harvest restriction under the *Nunavut Agreement* Section 5.3.3(a) was justified.

In reaching its decision, the Board also took into consideration the fact that many of the affected Inuit organizations expressed that 1) they did not agree with methods and results of the 2018 aerial abundance survey and resulting abundance estimate; and 2)



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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijiktut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

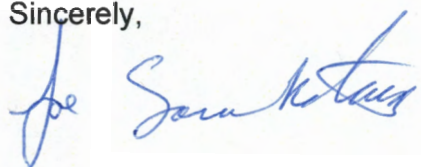
Cc: Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment.



Dolphin and Union caribou are a significant resource to several communities in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Collaboration to maintain the sustainability and management of this herd is of great importance given the seriousness of the herd status. The Board will need to consider the harvest from communities in the Northwest Territories when making a decision on the TAH, once new information and recommendations are provided.

I wish to thank the Board for their hard work and careful consideration of this significant conservation and management issue.

Sincerely,



Hon. Joe Savikataaq
Minister of Environment

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