

**SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD (NWMB)**

Regular Meeting No. RM 002- 2018

FOR

Information:

Decision:

Issue: ***Amendment of the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for Baffin Island Caribou (BIC)***

Background:

Since 2014, there has been at first a TAH of 0 caribou and later a TAH of 250 male-only caribou for Baffin Island. The QWB, the HTOs and Inuit in general have not fully supported or accepted this TAH.

IQ teaches that the social behaviour and welfare of caribou is greatly affected when only one sex of caribou is harvested for several years. A natural balance between sexes of caribou is needed for every aspect of their complex lives throughout the year and over their long-term cycles. It is not a simplistic matter of having enough males to mate with females during breeding. If science does not have enough information to corroborate this IQ, it does not mean that IQ is wrong, but rather that scientific information is inadequate.

The prohibition of Inuit from harvesting female caribou has been harming maintenance of Inuit culture values surrounding the hunting and use of female caribou.

At the QWB AGM in November 2017, a biologist for Nunavut's Department of Environment (DoE) presented information indicating that there are good proportions of females and calves among observed caribou on Baffin Island. This information is supported by Inuit harvesters.

HTO representatives explored several options for restructuring harvesting of BIC, and passed a resolution for the QWB Executive to consider the options. As a result, the Executive is requesting that the NWMB consider the recommendation below, and that it should be implemented by DoE in July 2018.

The NWMB should recognize that this recommendation from the QWB Executive is a very modest request to improve the highly biased male-only harvest of caribou on Baffin Island. It does not fully reflect how caribou should be harvested based on IQ, even with a very restrictive TAH.

Consultation:

The QWB, the HTOs and local Inuit have all raised this issue on numerous occasions for years, not only at the QWB AGM in November 2017. Inuit elders and hunters were the first to recognize the need to limit harvesting in the early 2000s while developing a draft management plan. The DoE did not take action for years. Inuit and IQ should be fully recognized for their leadership about 15 years ago and should be recognized for their leadership today.

Recommendation:

The QWB recommends that the TAH for harvesting of caribou on Baffin Island beginning in July 2018 should be 245 males and 35 females for a total of 280 caribou.

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Date:

May 3, 2018
