

**SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR**

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: The Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan (Plan) was developed by the Government of Nunavut (GN) in coordination with co-management partners and was intended to guide polar bear harvest and management practices across Nunavut. However, the management system remains overly complex with the introduction of the Harvest Administration and Credit Calculation System (HACCS). Although the system was intended to advance management objectives, both the Plan and HACCS are not completely aligned with Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Some components of the Plan and HACCS relinquished RWO and HTO decision-making authority that are protected under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Background:

Prior to the approval and adoption of HACCS, harvest credit management was conducted through Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) between the Government of Nunavut and RWOs. RWOs have ceded elements of their authority to allow GN to administer credits on their behalf.

HACCS received interim approval in 2019 and was granted Ministerial approval in February 2022. Although Nunavut Tunngavik generally supports the use of Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs), HACCS extends beyond the authority of RWOs and HTOs under Article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement. In particular, the allocation and enforcement of regional basic needs levels (BNL) and adjusted basic needs levels (adjusted BNL) among HTOs in the region, is a power and function of the RWOs, as laid out under section 5.7.6 (b) of the Agreement.

Consultation:

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) staff have engaged extensively on this topic, including formal presentations and discussions at the Annual General Meetings of all 3 regional wildlife organizations. Additionally, this has been discussed and supported by NTI's Wildlife Advisory Committee - Qiviutaq, which consists of members from the 3 RWOs and 3 Regional Inuit Associations.

Recommendation:

Nunavut Tunngavik recommends that the NWMB and the Government of Nunavut collaborate with NTI and the RWOs to replace HACCS with RWO by-laws that govern allocation, as prescribed under Article 5.7.6 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Nunavut Tunngavik also recommends that the authority of harvest of family groups should be devolved to the RWOs.

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