



2. Why has the NWMB abandoned its original interpretation of Article 5, supported by the legal opinion it secured from Mr. Meehan in 2009, that BNL calculations should be based on *all* Inuit harvests? The July 2024 Memo does not provide a clear answer.
3. Why does the NWMB intend to treat 2008-2012 as the five pre-TAH years under s. 5.6.23(b) of the *Nunavut Agreement* (NWMB April 7, 2025 letter to the Aiviit HTO at p. 1)? Given that there was an interim TAH on the SHI Caribou Herd in 2012, which presumably limited Inuit harvesting in that year, why would the NWMB not use the harvest data from 2007-2011 instead?
4. Why has the NWMB only asked the Coral Harbour for its SHI Caribou Herd harvest records, and not Rankin Inlet, Naujaat, and Chesterfield Inlet? Although the harvests by members of those communities might be relatively small, they are relevant to setting the herd's BNL.

### ***Opportunity for Co-Management Partners to Share Views***

NTI would welcome an in-person hearing to inform the NWMB's decision on the SHI Caribou Herd BNL. In addition to a hearing, or in the alternative, NTI proposes that the NWMB hold a meeting to discuss the general approach to BNL calculations with Nunavut's co-management partners: NTI, the Government of Nunavut, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (which is involved in setting the Kingnait Fiord char BNL).

### **Conclusion**

The SHI Caribou Herd BNL raises major questions about the interpretation of Article 5 that have essentially been dormant for years. Transparency by the NWMB with NTI and Nunavut's other co-management partners ahead of decision-making is critical. There is also real value in providing a forum for the co-management partners to share evidence, context, and interpretations of the relevant Article 5 provisions to help inform the NWMB's decision. A shared interpretation of the Article 5 provisions may still be achievable, thereby avoiding an unnecessary legal dispute, and in any event, dialogue between the co-management partners promotes collaboration and strong working relationships and, by extension, effective wildlife management.

NTI looks forward to your prompt response on this matter.

Sincerely,



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