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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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

June 28th 2013

Honourable James Arreak
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

Cathy Towtongie
President of Nunavut Tunngavik
Incorporated

Yves-François Blanchet
Minister of Sustainable
Development, Environment
Wildlife and Parks
Government of Quebec

Ross Tatty
Chairperson of the Kivalliq
Wildlife Board

James Qillaq
Chairperson of the Qikiqtaaluk
Wildlife Board

Jobie Tukkiapik
President of Makivik
Corporation

Robbie Tookalak
A/Chairperson of the Nunavik
Marine Region Wildlife Board

Mikidjuk Kolola
Chairperson of the Mayukalik
Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Quvianaqtuliaq Tapaungai
Chairperson of the Aiviq Hunters
and Trappers Organization

Manasie Naullaq
Chairperson of the Hall Beach
Hunters and Trappers
Organization

David Irgaut
Chairperson of the Igloodik
Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Noah Kadlak
Chairperson of the Coral
Harbour Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Michel Akkuardjuk
Chairperson of the Arviq
Hunters and Trappers
Organization

Barney Aggark
Chairperson of the Aqigiq
Hunters and Trappers
Organization

David Lee/Marsha Branigan
Chairperson of the Polar Bear
Technical Committee

Drikus Gissing
Chairperson of the Polar Bear
Administrative Committee

Dag Vongraven
Chairperson of the IUCN Polar
Bear Specialist Group

Monte Hummel
President Emeritus of the World
Wildlife Fund Canada

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population in the Nunavut Settlement Area

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population in the Nunavut Settlement Area. The Government of Nunavut conducted aerial surveys of the sub-population in 2009 and 2010, and carried out community consultations in June and July of 2012. Following those consultations, in August of 2012, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment recommended to the NWMB that no change be made to the current regional total allowable harvest of 106 bears. After the Department of Environment undertook further consultations with the communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik in February of 2013, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board wrote to the NWMB on May 3rd to request that the total allowable harvest for the sub-population be increased.

After due consideration, the Board decided to hold a public hearing to determine whether a modification to the level of regional total allowable harvest for the sub-population in the Nunavut Settlement Area is justified under the terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA), and – if so – what that level of regional total allowable harvest should be.

The NWMB notes that four Nunavik communities - Akulivik, Ivujivik, Puvirnituq and Salluit - are located within the boundaries of the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population. In considering the level of regional total allowable harvest for this polar bear sub-population in the Nunavut Settlement Area, both the Board and the Department of Environment Minister are required by NLCA Section 5.3.4 to take account of Foxe Basin polar bear harvesting activities outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The hearing will take place on September 10th and 11th 2013, in Iqaluit at the Koojesse Room of the Frobisher Inn. The hearing will be conducted each day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The NWMB may also hold one or more evening sessions from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to four (4) Distinguished Elders and four (4) Regional Wildlife Organization/Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives (eight (8) delegates in total). Selection of those representatives will be decided by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. If other representatives of Inuit harvesters wish to attend, the NWMB has no further funding available, but will – if requested, and to the extent reasonably possible – make arrangements for electronic attendance at the hearing.

The hearing rules and a number of documents comprising the best available information to date are available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Phone: (867) 975-7300

Fax: (867) 975-7320

E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear sub-population in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Written submissions and supporting documentation must be filed with the NWMB, in English and Inuktitut, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on **July 24th 2013**.

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions will be placed on the NWMB's website, and will be available for download, within one business day after the submission deadline.

Please take careful note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the Board will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

Initial submissions and their supporting documentation may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Hearing for Foxe Basin Polar Bear*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB - prior to the filing deadline - that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive submissions and supporting documentation are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

Yours sincerely,



Manasie Audlakiak,
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.,
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment,
Siu-Ling Han, Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service,
Janet Dionne, Acting Executive Director, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat,
Stas Olpinski, Science and Policy Advisor, Makivik Corporation, and
Mark O'Connor, Director of Wildlife Management, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board