



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

JAN 24 2012

Mr. Johnny Oovaut
Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
P.O. Box 433
Inukjuak, QC
J0M 1M0

Dear Mr. Oovaut,

Thank you for your letter dated December 14, 2011 (received December 18, 2011) conveying the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board's decision to establish a basic needs level and a Total Allowable Take for 2012 for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead whale population in the Nunavik Marine Region.

Pursuant to the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, I accept the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board's decision to establish a basic needs level of two bowhead whales per year and that there shall be a Total Allowable Take of one bowhead whale for the Nunavik Marine Region for 2012. The Total Allowable Take will permit the hunting and killing of one or the striking of two bowhead whales, whichever comes first, in 2012.

In preparing for the hunt, I hope that the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board and the Local Nunavimmi Umajulivijitt Katujiqatigininga (LNUK) continue to work closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada officials. I will forward your letter to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada regional office in Quebec City for processing. Once the regional office in Quebec City office has received all the information to complete the licence, departmental officials will be able to finalize the licence for the 2012 hunt. As has been done in the past, the Fishery Officer on site at the hunt will issue the licence to the whaling captain prior to the commencement of the hunt.

Please extend my best wishes to the community selected to host the hunt for a safe and successful hunt.

Sincerely,


Keith Ashfield