



January 10, 2020

Salamiva Weetaltuk
Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
P.O. Box 433, Inukjuak, QC
JOM 1M0

Gordon Blackned
Chairperson
Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board
P.O. Box 580, 4, Chief Isaiah Salt Road
Waskaganish, QC,
JOM 1R0

Dear Salamiva and Gordon,

RE: Nunavik Beluga Public Hearing

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) thanks both the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) for the opportunity to participate in this process.

General comments:

- The Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement recognize Inuit harvesting rights, and rights to participate in wildlife management decisions.
- As an advocate of Inuit harvesting rights, NTI supports the needs of Inuit and the principles of conservation. Inuit have always understood that a sustainable harvest depends on the maintenance of vital, and healthy wildlife populations.
- NTI also considers it important to ensure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ) is adequately considered. The inclusion of IQ is an essential part of all decision making with respect to wildlife management. Meaningful inclusion of IQ in co-management is essential to ensure that Inuit harvesting rights are respected and conservation goals are met.

Specific comments:

- The Sanikiluaq Hunter's and Trapper's Organization have implemented a management system to minimize the take of beluga from the Eastern Hudson Bay Beluga (EHB) stock.
- Hunters avoid the take of beluga from the EHB stock by focusing their effort on beluga considered to be from the Western Hudson Bay (WH) beluga stock.
- The WH stock is considered healthy and numbers approximately 54,500 animals (DFO 2017).
- For beluga harvested near Sanikiluaq, beluga from the EHB stock is considered to represent about 4.4% from the spring hunt conducted during April 1 to July 14 (DFO 2018).
- Samples for genetic analysis are provided to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans by hunters.

Summary:

The community of Sanikiluaq has implemented a management plan with seasonal closures. This minimizes the take of beluga from the EHB stock. For the period of 2010 to 2018, the estimated annual number of beluga landed from the EHB stock is 2 (see Appendix 1).

Prepared by: Department of Wildlife and Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.