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March 21, 2025

Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
c/o Iola Metuq
P.O. Box 433
Inukjuak, QC, J0M 1M0

Re: Extension request for the EHB Beluga Management Plan

To the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board,

We are writing to you today to request an extension to the current beluga management plan initially planned for the period of February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2026.

We have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming renewal of the beluga management plan. We have been consulting communities on their Community Beluga By-Laws, planning trainings for the Anguvigait, and reviewing past beluga management approaches. We also hired a new Executive Director this month and created a new position of Director of Wildlife Policy and Research in order to better focus on public hearing preparations. Most importantly, we have been conducting extensive Inuit knowledge interviews on belugas, which includes documenting Inuit knowledge and creating reports as well as short themed videos. The videos in particular will hopefully encourage community engagement in the process and ensure up-to-date Inuit knowledge is provided in the information gathering phase of the hearing. We have so far completed interviews in three communities and completed the report, which is under review, and interviews have very recently been conducted in an additional three communities with analysis currently underway. We hope to be able to continue this Inuit knowledge gathering project for the additional nine communities in the coming year, if we can secure the funding.

We also believe that an extension of the current Beluga Management Plan would allow for communities and co-management partners to get more familiar with the new scientific information that has been made or will be made available soon, such as the latest survey results and the population model. As you know, community preparedness is essential to ensure meaningful participation in a public hearing and this additional time would allow the Anguvigaq to make the best possible contribution to the Public Hearing which would ultimately strengthen this important decision-making process.

Thank you for your consideration,

James May
President, Anguvigaq