Written Hearing Rules

Extension of the 2021-2026 Beluga Management System for 1 year

THE PURPOSE: The Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) (collectively the "Boards") are holding a Public Hearing to consider the extension of the current beluga management system (set to expire on January 31 2026) by one year in accordance with their authority under Article 5 and 28 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA) and Chapter 13 and 30 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement (EMRLCA).

These rules have been developed and adopted by both Boards to ensure a timely and effective process and to ensure the Boards have the best available information before issuing their decisions on the matter, and so that parties can meaningfully participate in the process.

HEARING RULES:

1) The Rules herein are in application for the duration of this hearing.

2) The Boards may at any time suspend or amend these Rules in order to ensure procedural fairness and the efficient and just fulfillment of their mandates.

3) This Written Public Hearing shall include a period to provide comments in writing to the boards.

4) Hearing Registry and the Hearing Record:

a) The Boards shall ensure that all materials filed with it or produced by it are made publicly available, subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy obligations.

5) Participants with Full Party Status have the right to participate, as outlined in these Rules.

6) Applications for Party Status:

a) Organizations or individuals not already recognized as a Party, but who wish to participate in this Public Hearing as a Party can apply for Party status by completing the FORM 1 (attached by email and/or available on the hearing web page).

b) The decision to grant additional organizations or individuals Party status is the sole discretion of the Boards, as is the level and scope of participation permitted to additional Parties.

7) Parties will have an opportunity to provide the Boards with a summary of their position and their opinion on what they think the Boards should decide on the issue during the comment period.

8) The Boards will not accept late filing of applications, documents, or comments unless the Party provides persuasive written reasons explaining the late filing to the Boards and the Boards deem the reasons for late filing to be acceptable.

i) For greater clarity, the Boards will not accept any additional information or material following the closing of the Public Hearing.

b) **Translation:** Parties may provide material in English, French, Inuktitut, or Cree. For material filed in French, Inuktitut or Cree, an English translation is required. For material filed in French, Cree, or English, an Inuktitut translation is required.

i) The requirement for translation does not apply in the following circumstances:

- For material filed by individual Nunavik Inuk or an individual Cree of Eeyou Istchee;
- For material exclusively relevant to the EMR areas Inuktitut translations are not required.

ii) For all other Parties who file documentation with the Boards, the requirement for translation does not apply to such documents over ten (10) pages in length as long as each document that is not translated is accompanied by a concise, translated summary (English and Inuktitut) at least two (2) pages in length.

9) The Boards will conduct all decision-making meetings and deliberations on the matter following the close of the hearing. The initial decisions of the Boards are not to be made public until the relevant Ministers have responded. Therefore, decision-making meetings are to be conducted by way of an *in-camera* meeting and are not open to the public. However, in accordance with s. 5.2.2 of the NILCA and 13.1.2 of the EMRLCA, Makivvik, the Cree Nation Government and the Governments of Canada and Nunavut have the right to have technical advisors attend decision-making meetings as non-voting observers.