

June 28, 2024

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier  
Minister's Office  
200 Kent St.  
Station 15N100  
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6



**Subject: Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board Decision in regards to the reconsideration of the northernmost boundary of the Eastern Hudson Bay Arc Region for beluga management**

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Dear Honourable Minister Lebouthillier,

On December 11, 2023, the Anguvigaq sent a Request for Decision to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) to reconsider the northern boundary of the Eastern Hudson Bay Arc in the current NMRWB beluga management plan, affecting the communities of Kuujjuarapik, Umiujaq, and Inukjuak. Their reasoning behind the request is that the current boundary location, along the 59th parallel, is disputed by local knowledge holders who feel that it does not reflect the true summering distribution of the Eastern Hudson Bay beluga stock. Their concerns included the effects on food security, cultural practices, the risks associated with traveling long distances to harvest beluga outside the boundary area and knowledge sharing between generations. The Anguvigaq recommended moving the boundary further south based on scientific research and Inuit knowledge.

As a result, the NMRWB launched a Written and Virtual Public Hearing on March 6, 2024 to reconsider the northern boundary of the current Eastern Hudson Bay Arc Region seasonal Total Allowable Take in accordance with their authority under s. 5.2.3(a), 5.2.10 and 5.2.11 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA). The hearing closed on May 28, 2024. Deliberation and decisions based on the hearing record were made during an in-camera meeting held on June 13, 2024 with NILCA-designated observers present. All supporting documents relevant to this Public Hearing, the hearing rules and schedules are available on the hearing registry from the NMRWB's website.

(<https://nmrwb.ca/beluga-northern-boundary-of-east-hudson-bay-tat-region-hearing/>)

In accordance with 5.5.7 of the NILCA, we forward to you, our decision. Thank you for your diligent participation in and compliance with the NILCA and its processes. Further, we acknowledge your departmental staff who continue to participate in our meetings and hearings

as the Board fulfills their mandates under the NILCA.

Sincerely,



**Iola Metuq**

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

Cc. Amy Amos, Regional Director General, DFO Arctic Region  
Sylvain Vézina, Directeur général régional,  
Michael Hale, Indigenous Fisheries Coordinator, DFO Arctic Region  
Patt Hall, Regional Senior Fisheries Management Officer, DFO Arctic Region  
Martine Giangioppi, Senior Advisor, Liaison with Nunavik, Eeyou Istchee, and  
Mushkegowuk Territory, DFO Arctic Region  
Caroline Sauvé, Aquatic Sciences Biologist, DFO Région du Québec

Attachments:

1. Request for decision from Anguvigaq: *"20231207\_EHB Arc line\_final.pdf"*
2. NMRWB Resolution #2024-06-03: *"NMRWB Resolution #2024-06-03 HB arc boundary.pdf"*
3. Appendix B of NMRWB Resolution #2024-06-03: *"Reasons for Decision of the NMRWB in relation to the reconsideration of the Northern Boundary of the Eastern Hudson Bay Arc Region Seasonal Total Allowable Take.pdf"*
4. Appendix F of NMRWB Resolution #2024-06-03: *"20240509-EHB-line-Inukjuak-voluntary-closure\_EN-IN\_signed.pdf"*