



Dear Co-Management Partners,

The Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) are writing to inform you of corresponding procedural resolutions adopted by our respective Boards concerning the approach to upcoming beluga management decisions.

Previously, the Boards had intended to reconsider the current 5-year management system based on feedback and advice provided over the course of the management system, and to hold a hearing regarding some proposed changes based on the best available updated information. However, after developing several drafts of hearing approaches and timelines, and considering subsequent feedback from co-management partners, it has become clear that there are fundamental considerations at play which complicate the upcoming management decisions. These considerations include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The discovery of a genetically distinct Belcher Islands (BEL) stock which is assumed to occupy areas of both the Nunavik Marine Region and the Nunavut Settlement Area;
- The administrative complexities of ensuring a fair and transparent process coordinated with Nunavut organizations.

Both Boards have determined that comprehensive beluga management decisions will benefit from a co-developed management proposal prior to proceeding to a public hearing. As a result, the Boards do not intend to plan a public hearing on comprehensive beluga management decisions until a Request for Decision is submitted by one or more co-management partners, supported by a beluga management proposal.

The Boards wish to emphasize that such a proposal may be co-produced by co-management partners, may include options, areas of agreement, and areas of disagreement, and does not require consensus. Once a Request for Decision and supporting proposal are received, the Boards intend to consider the matter through a public hearing process in accordance with their respective mandates.

This procedural adjustment is intended to support fairness, transparency, and well-informed decision-making, and we look forward to continued collaboration with co-management partners as this work progresses.

Please find the respective Board resolutions attached for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iola Metuq', with a stylized, cursive script.

Iola Metuq  
Chairperson  
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Tomatuk', with a stylized, cursive script.

Fred Tomatuk  
Chairperson  
Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board