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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Statement

Premier Taptuna commends U.S. decision to not upgrade polar bears on endangered list

April 29, 2016
Iqaluit, NU

Premier Peter Taptuna released the following statement today:

“The Government of Nunavut welcomes the decision by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to not pursue increased trade restrictions for polar bears under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

The decision by the U.S. reflects what we have known in Nunavut and Canada all along. Our co-management system for polar bears is robust and effective, and the trade in polar bear parts does not pose a threat to the species.

The carefully managed harvest of polar bears provides a vital source of sustenance, income and traditional culture to communities across Nunavut.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the Government of Canada, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and organizations from across all Inuit regions for their tireless work to promote effective polar bear management systems. Their efforts to educate the value of polar bears to both the ecosystem and the people of the Arctic have been invaluable in this process. I look forward to our continued work together.”

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Media Contact:
Catriona Macleod
Director of Communications
Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
867-975-6049
cmacleod@gov.nu.ca

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