



Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

North Slave Region  
Forestry Building  
BOX 2668  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2P9

2 Bretzlaff Drive  
Tel: (867) 920-6114  
Fax: (867) 873-6230  
E-Mail: tance\_schmidt@gov.nt.ca

Mr. Alfonz Nitsiza  
Chair, Wekeezhii Renewable Resource Board  
202-5103 51 Street  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P3

May 7, 2009

Dear Mr. Nitsiza,

### The Use of Bait in Outfitted Harvest of Black Bears

Thank you for your letter dated April 17, 2009 regarding the use of bait to harvest black bear. I believe we can address your concerns.

"Key issues related to the proposal and considered by WRRB include":

- The issue that needs to be reviewed is the baiting issue, not the harvesting of black bear. Outfitters are eligible to hunt black within unit "R". The usual method is "stock and spot".
- Discussions have been held with the outfitter in regards to the safety of the proposed baiting stations. We have agreed to have each bait station individually approved by a Renewable Resource Officer. Safety of each station will be addressed at this time. Fire arms are usually fired from a raised position and are fired towards the ground therefore public safety from fire arms should not be an issue.
- The proposal has suggested "any kind of bait". ENR has met with the outfitter and each bait will be assessed individually. ENR is willing to discuss with the outfitter and WRRB on what baits are considered acceptable.
- A consultant was hired by ENR to review conditioning / habituation of bears. The consultant found little evidence to confirm that bears become conditioned / habituated to "artificial food sources".
- ENR North Slave Staff reviewed the inspection from last year's operation. Some of the terms and conditions were not fully met. The Department did not consider charges as most were considered minor in nature. The Department felt that in the long term working with the outfitter in a positive nature would be more beneficial in the long term.
- ENR acknowledges the WRRB's comments in regards to the lack of scientific certainty.



I hope the above explanation will reduce or eliminate the concerns of the WRRB and addresses Motions (a) and (b). ENR is willing to discuss black bear research with all Parties.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 920-6114.



Lance Schmidt  
Superintendent, North Slave  
Environment and Natural Resources