

Feb 22 2011

Tom Ethier  
Director – Fish, Wildlife and Habitat  
PO Box 9391  
STN PTOV GOVT  
Victoria BC  
V8W 9M8

Michael Langedger  
Northwest Fish & Wildlife  
Conservation Association  
35 Carlson St.  
Kitimat BC,  
V8C-1A9

Re: Big Game Harvest Allocation policy & Procedures 2012

Dear Tom,

The Northwest Fish and Wildlife Conservation Association (NFWCA), the Skeena Region Branch of the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF), respectfully request confirmation from the Ministry of Natural Resources Operations of their continued commitment towards full implementation of the agreed to Big Game Harvest Allocation Policy and Procedures in 2012.

As you are aware the current Implementation Phase and Harvest Allocation Policy and Procedures were born from 3 years of consultation and negotiations between the BCWF, GOABC and Ministry of Environment. This effort took an exhaustive amount of time, expense and compromise from all parties involved. The final result being today's Allocation Policy and procedures that were fully supported and agreed to by the groups involved and signed off by the MoE as the accepted provincial Harvest Allocation Policy.

I've received a number of complaints and expressions of critical concern from resident hunters who are now asking if full implementation of the Big Game Harvest Allocation Policy as agreed will be implemented in 2012 by your ministry.

From the many comments I've received, it has been expressed that the GOABC may now be reneging on their agreement of the Big Game Harvest Allocation Policy, and is now

lobbying government to extend, review and or re-negotiate aspects of it. If such steps are being taken we consider this a direct action of bad faith bargaining. The onus then falls on the MoNRO to ensure that the allocation policy agreement in place is respected and implemented as intended by 2012.

I wish to share with you an answer provided from the ministry's Allocation Policy Q & A document. The question presented, "*Can allocation decisions still be negotiated under the new policy*"? The answer provided by the Ministry of Environment. "*No. Allocation decisions in all Regions will follow the new Harvest Allocation Procedures, rather than be the result of negotiation processes. The purpose of this policy review was, in part, to improve consistency in decision-making province wide, which would not be possible if some regions strayed from the Procedures. The factors that have guided past allocation negotiations, at least informally, are now explicitly measured and considered in the new Harvest Allocation Procedure*".

The BCWF representing resident hunters has bargained in good faith, respecting the terms of the Allocation Policy and Procedures committed to. As the Skeena Region Wildlife Committee representative for this respected organization and being involved in the development of the current Allocation Policy, our position is clear and been stated to ministry biologist, Regional managers and our members. We will ask no more or no less of the Allocation Policy and Procedures simply that it's followed as agreed to and implemented as intended.

It is important for the MoNRO to follow through and ensure this agreed upon Allocation Policy and procedures are respected and full implementation occurs in 2012. For the ministry to also renege on the Allocation Policy agreement will be a nuclear issue for our members and the resident hunting community in British Columbia.

We very much look forward to your response, remaining positive that the MoNRO stands behind good faith bargaining that resulted in today's Big Game Harvest Allocation Policy and Procedures. Our members are supportive of moving forward with the Allocation Policy and their expectation is full implementation in 2012.

In conservation,  
Michael Langedger  
NF&WCA – Skeena Region Wildlife Chair

Steve Thomson – Minister of Natural Resource Operations  
Robin Austin – MLA Skeena  
Gary Coons – MLA North Coast  
Doug Donaldson – MLA Stikine  
Rod Wiebe – BCWF President



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
The Best Place on Earth

Reference: 175894

MAR 22 2011

Michael Langedger  
Northwest Fish and Wildlife Conservation Association  
35 Carlson St  
Kitimat BC V8C 1A9

Dear Mr. Langedger:

Thank you for your letter dated February 22, 2011, in which you, on behalf of the Northwest Fish and Wildlife Conservation Association and the Skeena Region Branch of the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF), requested confirmation that the Harvest Allocation policy would be fully implemented for the 2012 hunting season.

A number of principles guided the Harvest Allocation policy review that commenced in 2004, including that the policy would:

- be practical, deliverable and measureable;
- be fair to all parties involved – BC hunters, guide outfitters and trappers; and
- foster a healthy business environment that is supportive of businesses and local economies.

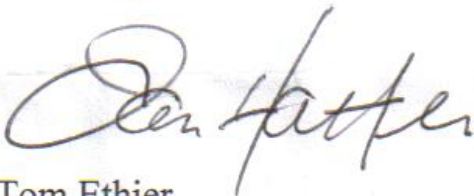
Representatives of the guide outfitting industry have expressed concerns that aspects of the policy do not meet the principle of “fairness” and that full implementation of the policy will result in severe losses in business viability for many guides in the province. These concerns stem, in large part, from aspects of the policy’s implementation that were not fully contemplated when the policy was signed off in 2007.

Before a wide-reaching piece of policy such as the Harvest Allocation policy is fully implemented, it is important for the Ministry to explore all of its potential ramifications, in order to make an informed decision on how best to proceed. As such, the Ministry has hired an independent contractor to review the concerns raised by guide outfitters on potential impacts of

the policy to their industry. This review is expected to be completed in April 2011 and recommendations contained therein will be used to inform decisions on how best to proceed with the Harvest Allocation policy's implementation. Please be assured that the contractor has been in communication with members of the executives of the BCWF to gain their perspectives on the policy, and any recommendations coming from the contractor's final report will be consulted on with the BCWF.

Thank you for your continued support of the Harvest Allocation policy, and for expressing your concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Ethier  
Director  
Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch