

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. RM 003-2012

Iqaluit, September 10, 2012

Members and Staff Participating:

Manasie Audlakiak	Acting Chairperson
Raymond Ningeocheak	Member
Peter Kusugak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Collin Adjun	Member
Winston Fillatre	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dave Rogers	Director of Finance and Administration
Rebecca Jeppesen	Director of Wildlife Management
Sarah Spencer	Terrestrial Wildlife Management Biologist
Anna Magera	Fisheries Management Biologist
Tina Rose	Executive Assistant / Secretary to the Board
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter

Co-Management Partners Participating:

Lisa Pririe	Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service
Eric Kan	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Glenn Williams	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Sam Stephenson	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Sam Nuqingaq	Nattivak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization (Qikiqtarjuaq)
Janelle Kennedy	Government of Nunavut – Fisheries and Sealing

1. Opening Prayer

Manasie Audlakiak provided the opening prayer.

2. Opening Remarks and Introductions

All in attendance introduced themselves.

3. Agenda: Review and Approval

The Board decided to adopt the Regular Meeting No. 003-2012 as presented with the addition of the Declaration of Conflict of Interest (**RESOLUTION RM2012-___**).

4. Environment Canada – Issues / Decisions

An information briefing note was presented by Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service updating the Board on Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's ("the Committee") status assessment of buff-breasted sandpiper and grizzly bear.

Both species were assessed by in May 2012.

Environment Canada will send information packages to Nunavut communities within the ranges of the buff-breasted sandpiper and the grizzly bear to provide information about the assessment and give them an opportunity to provide information and ask questions in advance of working with them to decide whether in person meetings will also be required. The Board emphasized the importance of in-person consultations.

Under the Species at Risk Act, there are no requirements to restrict harvest or regulate habitat for species that are listed as Special Concern. There is a requirement to develop a management plan within 3 years of a species being listed.

Legal Counsel noted that the NWMB has twice looked into the issue of grizzly bears, including a full hearing in 2008. The general consensus in Nunavut to date has been not to approve the listing of grizzly bear as a species of special concern.

5. Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Issues/Decisions

Sam Stephenson of Fisheries and Oceans presented an information item to update the Board on the status of 12 species recently assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's ("the Committee") a. The Fisheries and Oceans representative provided an overview of the history of the listing process and the communications with Nunavut communities to date for each species.

It was noted that the listing process for a number of species has been put on hold until the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the federal government and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board. .

The Fisheries Management Biologist indicated that for five of the species listed, the NWMB wrote to the Minister in November 2011 requesting that Fisheries and Oceans communicate with industry, communities and Inuit organizations with respect to the abridged listing processes. It was noted that no written update on this topic has yet been provided to the NWMB.

Legal Counsel raised the issue that the Committee reviews its assessments every 10 years and that many species are slated for reassessment before 2015. It was noted that this should be considered when proceeding with the listing process following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Nunavik. Additionally, Legal Counsel reminded the Board that the MOU between the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada's Department of Environment will be reviewed and perhaps modified in the Spring of 2013 – five years after it was put in place.

6. Approval decision for Fin Whale Atlantic Plan

Sam Stephenson of Fisheries and Oceans presented a briefing note for decision on the Atlantic Fin Whale's management plan.

The Fin Whale (Atlantic population) was assessed by the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as a species of Special Concern in 2005 and added to the Wildlife Species at Risk List in 2006. The NWMB was notified of the assessment and asked to make a decision on listing in 2006. As a species of Special Concern, the requirement under the *Species at Risk Act* calls for the creation of a management plan.

The Board expressed concern regarding the short time frame proposed for approval of the management plan. The Fisheries and Oceans representative confirmed that deferring the item to allow a more in-depth review would not be a concern to the Department. The Board's decision took place during an in-camera session (IC007-2012).

7. Information on Possible Addition of Thorny Skate to SARA

Sam Stephenson of Fisheries and Oceans presented a briefing note on the recent assessment results for the Thorny Skate from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. In Nunavut, the Thorny Skate may occasionally be found in small numbers in Davis Strait. Fisheries and Oceans suggested that as this species is not fished for subsistence purposes, adding it to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk Act* would appear to have little direct impact on most Nunavut residents; although, the species is sometimes taken by the commercial fisheries in Nunavut waters. A designation of Special Concern requires the development of a SARA management plan, but does not include any automatic prohibitions against the killing, harming or harassing of these animals. Fisheries and Oceans was seeking input from the NWMB regarding the need for consultations with Nunavummiut.

8. Nattivak HTA – 2012 Exploratory Fishery

Samuel Nuqingaq, Chair of Nattivak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization (Nattivak) in Qikiqtarjuaq presented a briefing note requesting for a decision regarding the 2011 turbot fishery and plans for the 2012 fishery.

Nattivak requested that NWMB and Fisheries and Oceans permit them to conduct the 100 metric tonne exploratory turbot fishery for 2012 both inside and outside the Nunavut Settlement Area in the waters adjacent to Broughton Island.

The 100 tonne allocation was designated in 2006 as a Qikiqtaaluk regional exploratory allocation to be fished within the Nunavut Settlement Area. It is allocated to Baffin communities on an annual basis by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and is not transferable to the offshore.

In 2011, Nattivak received 70 metric tonnes from this allocation. The exploratory fishery ended October 4th as there were insufficient catches of turbot.

In 2012, Nattivak received the entire 100 metric tonne allocation. Based on the 2011 exploratory fishery, Nattivak would like to focus on the area immediately outside the Nunavut Settlement Area that is part of a deep-water channel to investigate the viability of developing a local fishery adjacent to Qikiqtarjuaq.

There was general discussion by the Board regarding the Board's mandate in regard to this requested decision. The decision was deferred to an in-camera session (IC007-2012).

9. Results for 2009-2010 Aerial Surveys of the Foxe Basin Polar Bear

Peter Hale, Manager of the Research Division of the Government of Nunavut, gave a presentation on the methods and results of the 2009-2010 Foxe Basin polar bear surveys.

The boundaries of Foxe Basin encompass the northern part of Hudson Bay, the western end of Hudson Strait and Foxe Basin proper. The survey estimated the overall abundance at about 2,580 bears (range 2,093 to 3,180). Anecdotally, Polar bears observed during the aerial surveys generally appeared to be in good body condition, suggesting that Foxe Basin is a healthy subpopulation. The Government of Nunavut's recommendation was that the Regional Total Allowable Harvest should stay at the current level of 106 bears a year.

There was general discussion by the Board regarding the methods and location of the survey, and the potential impact of Baffinland's iron ore mine on the Foxe Basin polar bear population. The Board expressed the desire to see Elders included on the polar bear survey trips and the inclusion of more Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit into polar bear population studies.

10. Ikajutiit Hunters and Trappers Association - Request for use of Polar Bear Credits

The Terrestrial Mammal Wildlife Biologist presented a briefing note on behalf of Arctic Bay's Ikajutiit Hunters and Trappers Organizations (Ikajutiit) requesting +5 accumulated polar bear credits to be used in the 2012-2013 harvesting season.

The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board wrote to the NWMB on August 27, 2012 supported Arctic Bay's request to receive 30 tags (25 tags + 5 unused tags from previous season).

The Government of Nunavut replied to Arctic Bay's HTO's letter, explaining that there were only 3 tags left over from 2011/2012. The Government of Nunavut also noted that the last population estimate was in 1998, and that the subpopulation is currently considered data deficient.

The decision took place during an in-camera session (IC007-2012).

9. Date and location of next meeting

The Board identified the first week of December for the next Regular Meeting to take place in Iqaluit.

10. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Raymond Ningeocheak provided the closing prayer.

Regular Meeting No. 003-2012 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution RM2012_____: RESOLVED that the Board accept the agenda with the addition of an item on conflict of interest.

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by:
Date

Winston Fillatre
Sept. 10, 2012