

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Regular Meeting (RM 003-2020) Highlights Online Meeting (Zoom Videoconference)

Regular Meeting (RM 003-2020)

On September 2, 2020, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) held its Regular Meeting (RM 003-2020) online using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

The Board received submissions from the Government of Nunavut, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The complete set of the RM003-2020 submissions is available for download at <https://buff.ly/33ZiqCg>

Below is a summary of the submissions for the RM 003-2020 meeting:

Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment

The Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment (Department of Environment) provided one submission to the Board for decision:

1. Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest

The Department of Environment presented a letter that the Government of Nunavut, Government of Québec, and Environment and Climate Change Canada submitted to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board, the Eeyou Marine Regional Wildlife Board, and the Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Coordinating Committee, requesting a coordinated decision-making process to review the Total Allowable Harvest/Take for the Southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation. In the letter, the Governments provided Total Allowable Harvest/Take options for consideration ranging between 36 and 50 at a 2:1 male to female harvest ratio, or between 24 and 32 bears per year at a 1:1 male to female harvest ratio.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada provided three submissions to the Board. One item was for recommendations and two were to provide information to the Board:

1. Total Allowable Catch Levels and Distribution for Greenland Halibut in Subarea 0 for 2021 and 2022 Fishing Seasons

Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a Proposal for Recommendations regarding Greenland halibut Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and distribution of the TAC in NAFO Subarea 0, for the 2021 and 2022 fishing seasons.

The proposal was in response to a qualitative assessment of Greenland halibut by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Science Council.

2. Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Operational Updates

Fisheries and Oceans Canada provided an operational update to the Board for information. They outlined research being conducted, staffing changes, and actions they have taken to manage marine mammals, Arctic char, and Greenland halibut.

3. Update on the Status of Northern Fisheries under the United States Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions

Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note for information to provide the Board with an update on the status of Northern fisheries under the United States *Marine Mammal Protection Act* Import Provisions. Under the Import Provisions, starting in 2022, the United States will only accept fish and fish products from countries that have taken precautions to limit marine mammal bycatch in commercial fisheries. Fisheries and Oceans Canada informed the Board that they had submitted a progress report to the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), but that their proposal to categorize Arctic char gillnet fisheries as 'exempt', as marine mammal bycatch can be considered an incidental subsistence harvest opportunity in Nunavut, was not approved by NOAA. NOAA indicated that they currently consider logbook keeping acceptable, but expect increased reporting in the future.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada provided one submission to the Board for information:

1. Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation

Environment and Climate Change Canada provided an update on the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada. They provided a briefing note and presentation describing the new approach to species at risk conservation with a focus on collaboration and six priority species, of which barren-ground caribou and Peary caribou are in Nunavut.

Regular Meeting 004-2020

The Board's fourth quarterly Regular Meeting (RM 004-2020) is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The submission deadline (English and Inuktitut) for the RM 004-2020 meeting is **November 6, 2020**. To find more information about the Regular Meetings or about the NWMB, please go to our website: www.NWMB.com.

Update: Appointment to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Noah Kadlak was appointed as a Board Member on August 13, 2020, by the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment. Mr. Kadlak lives in Coral Harbour, Nunavut. He is the former chairman of the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization. He is currently the chairman of Irniurviit Area Co-Management Committee, the chairman for the Marine Protected Areas for

the Southampton Island Area of Interest, and the deputy mayor for the Hamlet of Coral Harbour. The experience Mr. Kadlak brings to the NWMB will be invaluable for wildlife co-management in Nunavut.

For more information, please contact:

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