



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #16 17-20 NOVEMBER 1997

CORAL HARBOUR

1. This was the sixteenth regular meeting of the NWMB, and the first meeting conducted in Coral Harbour.



2. Prior to commencing its business agenda, the Board assembled on November 15 for the swearing-in of four new Board members:
 - o Ms. Joan Scottie, appointed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 - o Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, appointed by Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 - o Mr. David Tagoona, appointed by Kivalliq Inuit Association
 - o Mr. Makabe Nartok, appointed by Kitikmeot Inuit Association

3. Some time was spent orienting the new NWMB members to the mandate, history, and operations of the Board.



4. The Board heard a presentation from TAL Investment Counsel Limited, the Portfolio Managers for the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Fund. Mr. Labreque reported a year-to-date real return of 9.61% for the Trust portfolio, and a last-quarter (to 30 September) real return of 5.28%. The portfolio emerged in a slightly positive position for the month of October despite the down-turn in equity markets.

5. The Board established a Committee to supervise and monitor the Harvest Study, replacing the Harvest Study Steering Committee which helped to design and implement the Study. Two new members were appointed to the Executive Committee, to replace members whose Board appointments had expired.

6. The Board heard a presentation from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on plans to develop an Oceans Strategy pursuant to the new Oceans Act.



7. The Board heard a presentation from Mike Ferguson, Regional Biologist for RWED in the Baffin Region, on the status of Peary caribou in the High Arctic. Mr. Ferguson also reported on a workshop conducted in Grise Fiord to discuss options regarding the management of Peary caribou and to design a survey for the eastern Queen Elizabeth Islands.

8. The Board heard a presentation by Noah Kadlak of Arctic Bear, requesting approval to conduct and film a traditional polar bear hunt.

Board members acknowledged that this was an interesting but unique proposal that would require a great deal of careful consideration.

9. The Board approved a request from the Coral Harbour HTO to increase the 1998 commercial caribou quota for Southampton Island to 6,000 animals. Community representatives expressed considerable frustration about the uncertain access to adequate processing infrastructure to accommodate an increased harvest. The hunters and the Board are equally concerned that even the approved increase in level of harvest may not be adequate to prevent overpopulation.
10. The Board deferred, until its next meeting, final decisions on 1998 quotas for polar bears in Kane Basin and for striped pink shrimp in the Nunavut Settlement Area.
11. The Board heard that its Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study is progressing on schedule, for completion in July 1998 as per the terms of the NLCA. The Board's Harvest Study is proceeding reasonably well, albeit with problems in some communities as could reasonably be expected in such a wide-ranging project. Steps are being taken to alleviate problems as they occur.
12. Some continuing problems were identified in the area of financial management and accountability on the part of the RWOs. It was decided to conduct a workshop in an attempt to address these matters. This will be organized as an extension of the Board's annual workshop to establish research priorities, set for January in Iqaluit.
13. The Board accepted a draft set of •Rules of Practice for Public Hearings• prepared by the Board's Legal Counsel. The •Rules• embody an innovative approach to adapting the principles of administrative law to the culture of Inuit. If generally adopted, these •Rules could establish a milestone for ensuring meaningful input by Inuit people in matters which affect them. The draft •Rules• will be circulated to interested organizations for their input prior to finalization.
14. The Board Chairman, Ben Kovic, participated in an open-line community radio show the evening of November 17. A public meeting was also conducted on Wednesday November 19 at the Coral Harbour Community Centre. Hunters alerted the Board to the potential disruption of wildlife by cruise ships and possibly by tanker traffic in the vicinity of Coats Island. They indicated that they might like to review the earlier proposal by the Canadian Wildlife Service to designate this as a National Wildlife Area.
15. Mr. Raymond Ningeocheak, Second Vice President of NTI, addressed the Board on a number of matters in his portfolio. The Board alerted Mr. Ningeocheak to the inadequate administrative and financial management among some RWOs and HTOs, the need to establish a clear process for assigning harvesting rights, and the resistance by some hunters to participate in the Harvest Study if they are turned down for assistance under the Hunter Support Program.
16. The Board approved plans for beginning the implementation of its Communications Strategy.
17. The Board decided to defer setting Basic Needs Levels for narwhal, beluga and walrus pending comprehensive revisions of the management systems for these species.
18. The Board approved the revised Ecosystem Conservation Plan for Auyuittuq National Park Reserve.
19. The Board devoted considerable attention to the concept of creating a Nunavut Marine Council at this time. It was decided to defer

decision on how to be involved in this initiative pending further debate on the pros and cons.



20. The Board approved Terms of Reference for a contract to develop options for establishing qualifications for big-game hunting guides.

21. The next regular (quarterly) meeting of the Board is scheduled for the week of February 7- 13, 1998, in Gjoa Haven.

For additional information please contact:

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