



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #18 12-14 MAY 1998

BROUGHTON ISLAND

1. This was the eighteenth regular meeting of the NWMB, and the first meeting conducted in Broughton Island.



2. The Board was advised that there has still been no positive response to date from DIAND regarding the Board's efforts to have between them a revised funding agreement, compatible with the NLCA and the Implementation Contract.
3. The Board heard an update from the Canadian Wildlife Service on the status of snow goose populations. Some populations have increased greatly over the past 20 or more years, and the geese are destroying some of the coastal lowland habitat on which they and some other wildlife populations depend. The Scientific Working Group established under the Arctic Goose Joint Venture Management Board suggests that the central arctic population should be reduced by 65%. Consultations are ongoing with interested parties to determine the most appropriate way to reduce snow goose populations.
4. The Board was advised that negotiations between the US and Mexican Governments with regard to amending the Migratory Birds Convention are still ongoing. It is now expected that the Convention will be signed in the fall of 1998. Canadian Wildlife Service is undertaking an internal review of its legislation and regulations pursuant to the Migratory Birds Convention and will be consulting with all parties on proposed changes.




5. The Board was advised by Canadian Wildlife Service that Canadian Wildlife Ministers have renewed their commitment to protecting species at risk. The Federal Minister of the Environment plans to reintroduce to Parliament the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act in the fall of 1998.
6. The Board was advised by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that the Department has begun a review of its regulatory regime with a view to making amendments to ensure consistency with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.
7. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans proposed that amendments to the Walrus Hunting Regulations in respect to sport hunting will be included in the overall DFO regulatory review.
8. The Board was advised by DFO that the draft Walrus Management Plan for Hudson Bay-Davis Strait is nearing completion, and is

expected to be available for NWMB review by early June.

9. The Board reviewed requests from Igloolik, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset and Salluit, Northern Quebec for walrus sport hunts. The following hunts were approved by the NWMB :

- Igloolik: approved for eight (8).
- Cape Dorset: approved for one (1).
- Coral Harbour: approved for fifteen (15).
- Salluit (Northern Quebec): approved for four (4).



10. The Board reviewed minutes of two 1998 Bowhead Hunt Planning Committee meetings conducted in Pangnirtung, along with a draft "Hunt Plan" for the 1998 bowhead hunt. All parties to the planning process have agreed that a bomb-type weapon will be used in the hunt.
11. The Board was advised that the first meeting of the Narwhal Management Planning Committee will be conducted in Iqaluit, May 26-28. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will participate and will provide two discussions papers.
12. The Board was advised of the status of the NTI turbot court cases. It was noted that Makivik was successful in its application to intervene in DFO's appeal of Justice Campbell's decision, and had filed its main documents on April 28. The Federal Court of Appeal is expected to hear the appeal on July 2 in Ottawa.
13. The Board heard an update from the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (DRWED) on Peary caribou research and planning. The Department plans a survey of the Eastern Queen Elizabeth Islands (QEI) in March of 1999 and will continue to monitor the status of Western QEI animals. Development of a co-management plan is also proceeding with extensive consultations with resource users, wildlife boards and government.
14. The Board was advised that data pertaining to the use of tranquilizers and collars for the study of polar bears have been checked for errors and are ready to be put through a series of analyses. It is expected that the study will be completed by the end of August. A communications plan for distribution of the results to organizations and the public is being developed.
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15. The Board heard from DRWED that increasing development activities on or near caribou calving and post-calving areas have made the establishment of well considered and supported recommendations to the land managers a necessity. A workshop is tentatively scheduled for the week on November 16, 1998 in Inuvik. The purpose of the workshop will be "to make recommendations to land managers concerning management of calving and post-calving caribou, and their habitat, which would allow healthy caribou herds to continue by managing human activity of all kinds."
16. The Board was advised that the Arviat HTA plans to conduct an organized subsistence harvest of 1000 lesser snow geese this spring near Arviat. The Board endorsed this harvest of up to 1000 geese and calls on the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to issue a permit for the hunt. Vicky Johnston of CWS noted that Aiviq (Cape Dorset) HTA would like to conduct a similar harvest of 1000 snow geese near Cape Dorset. The Board also endorsed this hunt. Vicky Johnston further noted that the Aiviq HTA is requesting authority to conduct a feasibility study for down collection in the Dewey Soper Bird Sanctuary. The Board supported this study.
17. The Board received a paper from DRWED on "Brucellosis in Baffin Island Caribou" as an information item.

18. The Board was provided an update on DRWED's review of territorial wildlife legislation. Phase 2 of the review is now underway, and will consist of two main parts:

- Development of a comprehensive list of proposed amendments to the NWT Wildlife Act.
- Development of a consultation plan.



19. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development requested that the NWMB consider a simplified arrangement for dealing with uncontroversial regulatory changes of a local nature. One example would be a community quota reallocation. The Board decided that this issue required review and further consideration.

20. The Board was advised that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is interested in establishing a Communications Officer position funded jointly between RWED and the NWMB. The Board requested that its Executive Committee review the draft job description and provide a recommendation to the Board.

21. The Board revisited the Suvaq proposal to obtain access to local genetic material in order to develop a superior strain of arctic char for use in aquaculture. More specifically, the Board considered a supplementary review of the impacts of farmed char on the market for wild caught fish completed by Co-Pro Limited. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has reviewed these reports and endorses both. The Department proposed that a workshop on this topic may be beneficial in helping communities to better understand the aquaculture industry. The Department agreed to organize a workshop for this purpose.



22. The Board reviewed a request from the Aiviq HTA of Cape Dorset for a reallocation of 28 commercial caribou tags to their Non-resident Sport Hunt quota. The Board deferred this item pending receipt of biological advice from the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

23. The Board received a request from the Keewatin Wildlife Federation (KWF) to lengthen the muskox hunting season in Muskox Management Zones MX/18, MX20, and MX 21 to cover the period July 01 to April 15. The Board has forwarded its decision on the matter to the Minister.

24. An update was provided to the Board by staff, concerning the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Draft Management Plan. The Board Chairman of the Akiliniq Planning Committee had originally submitted the Plan to the NWMB with a request that consideration be given to it by September 15, 1997. However, because KIA and NTI had indicated that they were not satisfied with some aspects of the plan and would be seeking changes, and because NWMB staff in their review had also identified several concerns, the NWMB had delayed consideration of the Plan until such time as these matters could be properly dealt with.



The Board was informed by RWED that it feels the Plan is complete, and that the various concerns raised can be addressed through implementation. The Board nevertheless decided to request the Minister of RWED to consider reconstituting the Akiliniq Planning Committee and revisiting the Thelon Wildlife Management Plan as it requires major revisions.

25. The Board revisited the request of Noah Kadlak of Coral Harbour to harvest a polar bear in the traditional Inuit manner (that is; using dogs, harpoons and/or spears). The Board forwarded its decision on the matter to the Minister of RWED.


26. The Board heard a report from the Harvest Study Coordinator on the progress of the Study. A newly formed NWMB Harvest Study

Committee met for the first time in March. A request from DRWED for access to the Harvest Study Database was complied with, but with conditions agreed to in advance of releasing the information. The Board approved a recommendation from the Harvest Study Committee to convert two half-time Data Entry Clerks to full-time positions.



27. The Board heard that the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study requires more time for completion, and an adjustment to its budget. The final report is now expected to be completed by December 1998.
28. The Board's Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee has completed and published a report on a Traditional Knowledge Study of Southeast Baffin Beluga. This report contains recommendations for the Committee and ultimately for the NWMB.
29. The Board heard an update on progress in establishing an NWMB Resource Centre. A coalition of four agencies has been set up, a contractor has developed a database and a person has been hired jointly to set up the system in each of the four offices. Eventually the database will be accessible via the Internet. Work on a joint stock database system, being developed by DRWED, is moving along less quickly.
30. The Board reviewed and accepted a revised set of By-laws for the NWMB.
31. The Board received a progress report on establishing a set of procedures for Public Hearings. The Board provided further guidance to the Legal Advisor for completion of a re-draft for the Board's August meeting.



32. The Board heard a consultant's progress report on developing "Qualifications for Big Game Hunting Guides." It is expected that this report will be completed near the end of June and circulated to Board members for review.
 33. The Board heard a report from staff members on development of a Nunavut Marine Council. A meeting of staff members of the Institutions of Public Government (IPGs) was conducted in Yellowknife at the end of April. The Board decided to suggest to its fellow IPGs that they plan a joint workshop in the fall.
 34. The Board was presented with a Draft NWMB Training Policy for review and consideration.
 35. The Board received a summary of the 1998/99 Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust approved projects in the total amount of \$765,400. A deferred request for increased funding for the CWS study of Distribution and Abundance of the Northern Common Eider off Southern Baffin Island was denied.
 36. The Board was advised that five proposals for NWMB (internal) research funding were received too late for the meeting, and will be considered at a later date.
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37. The Board approved donation funding requests to develop a Field Guide to Arctic Marine Fishes, and a book on Beluga Behaviour Studied by Satellite Telemetry. Donation requests to develop a book on Arctic Seals, and two requests to support fishing derbies were denied.
 38. The Board directed staff to look into the possibility of having the Inuvialuit (or other individuals) provide training on use of appropriate hunting equipment for the upcoming 1998 bowhead hunt.

39. The Board scheduled its next regular meeting for the week of 24 August 1998 in Baker Lake.

40. The Board members and staff participated in a productive public meeting the evening of May 13th, and in a community feast and get-together the evening of May 14th.

For further information please contact:

Ben Kovic, Chairperson

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

(867) 979-6962

