



## NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #20

5-6 DECEMBER 1998

### YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

1. This was the twentieth regular meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.
2. Just prior to and in conjunction with its own meetings, the Board participated in a workshop with the other Institutions of Public Government (IPGs) on December 3-4. The main focus of the workshop was to consider formation of a Nunavut Marine Council (NMC), as provided for in Article 15 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). The NWMB, along with the other IPGs, decided that whenever a situation warranted, they would join together as an NMC to provide a unified position or response.
3.  Board members were advised that the successful candidate to replace Dan Pike as Director of Wildlife Management is Dr. Michelle Wheatley. Dr. Wheatley has been employed by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, and will start work with the NWMB early in the new year.
4. The Board noted that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) has never provided a meaningful response to any of the Board's requests to have the Board's funding arrangement with DIAND modified to better reflect the terms and conditions of the NLCA. The Board identified this as a matter of growing concern, and decided to once again bring the matter to the attention of the appropriate authorities
5. The Board heard an update from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) on the status of the proposed Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act (CESPA). Environment Canada hosted a meeting with northern interests on December 2 in Yellowknife to provide a forum for consultation on the proposed legislation. A number of concerns were raised by northern participants, and departmental representatives at the meeting undertook to ensure that these concerns received due consideration.
6.  The Board was advised by CWS that the annual review of the Migratory Bird Regulations would need to include an amendment to extend the current (1998) seasons and bag limits to the Nunavut Territory for 1999. The Board approved the extension of the 1998 Migratory Birds Regulations for the 1999 season. CWS also advised that they are considering proposals to create a spring goose-hunting season for non-aboriginal hunters in certain areas and to legalize the use of electronic goose calls.
7. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) provided an update on their recent staffing of Nunavut positions. Patrice Simon has been hired as the new Fisheries Management Biologist. Joanne Rose will be the new Administrative Clerk/Office Manager. Winston

Fillatre was recently hired as the new Field Supervisor for Conservation and Protection. Blaine Rawles and David Qirqqut have been hired as Fishery Officer Trainees. DFO Science Division is also looking to enlarge its presence in Nunavut.



8. DFO advised that they will be providing a fourth draft of the Walrus Management Plan in the coming weeks. DFO also advised that the communities of Salluit, Hall Beach and Cape Dorset did not conduct walrus sport hunts in 1998 although the NWMB had provided quotas.
9. The Board was advised that the Minister of DFO had accepted the decision by the NWMB to revise the management system for narwhal. The new system will give communities more control over the number of narwhals harvested and how narwhals are hunted, this in return for better reporting of strikes and kills by the hunters. The Board approved funding support for community consultations.
10. The Board was also advised that the Minister of DFO had accepted the decision of the NWMB to approve the recommendations of the Board's Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee regarding management of the stocks of beluga whales hunted by Pangnirtung, Iqaluit and Kimmirut.



11. The Board reviewed its August decision to defer establishing a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for a bowhead whale for 1999. With notice from DFO that a stock status report cannot be completed before August 1999, and with the Board's own Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study still not finished, the Board reconfirmed that there will be no bowhead hunt in 1999.
12. The Board heard a report on a meeting conducted in Iqaluit on October 16-17 to discuss the turbot fishery. The exploratory fishery in Division OA has been providing good information on stock trends, and the Board decided to recommend that this work be continued as well as extended to Division OB. The Board also heard that DFO is considering a Research Survey in Subarea O in 1999, and that the NWMB will likely be approached for funding assistance.
13. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (DRWED) reported that the study on handling effects on polar bears is now scheduled for completion in January of 1999.



14. DRWED advised that a workshop is planned for sometime prior to the end of March to discuss "Co-existence: Ensuring the health of caribou herds". It is expected that various wildlife and land management agencies will participate.
15. DRWED noted that two meetings were recently held in Clyde River and Coral Harbour to discuss Polar Bear Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Both these communities face reduced polar bear quotas due to over-harvesting of females. Coral Harbour acknowledged the value of having the participation of American sport hunters, and thus the need to comply with importation guidelines in respect to polar bear management as enunciated by authorities in the United States.
16. DRWED reported on studies underway or completed to address the concerns of COSEWIC regarding the population status of wolves in the High Arctic. With the decline of the Peary caribou, COSEWIC fears that the wolves will also decline. DRWED researchers suspect the occurrence of more than one wolf population. They are in the process of collecting harvest data and other information through fur-sale records, community harvest studies and community consultations.



17. DRWED advised that the intention remains to conduct a three- or four-year study of Peary caribou. After consultations with Resolute and Grise Fiord HTOs, the Department hopes to design a research plan by February 1999.

18. DRWED provided a progress report on their efforts to prepare legislation pertinent to the new incoming Nunavut Government. Of greatest interest to the NWMB will be the development of a Nunavut Wildlife Act. For the interim, the NWT Wildlife Act will be transferred to the Nunavut Government and the provisions of that Act will remain in effect until such time as the new government makes changes.
19. The NWMB and DRWED are continuing to work on developing and staffing a shared position for a Conservation Education officer for Nunavut.
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20. The Board's final decision (August meeting) to affirm its original decision to authorize a traditional polar bear hunt (with stringent conditions) at Coral Harbour was discussed. The Board gave consideration to the response from the Minister of RWED, which was to refer the matter to the Minister of Sustainable Development for the new Nunavut Government.
21. The Board accepted the report of its consultant on "An assessment of big game hunting guide qualifications for Nunavut". The Board will give further consideration to this matter at a later date
22. The Board decided to provide funding support to the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board to assist in the completion of a caribou-range-mapping project, and specifically for the transfer of the information and analysis to a compact disc format.
23. The Board was addressed for the first time by Bert Dean in his new capacity as Wildlife Coordinator for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI). Bert provided an update on developments with respect to compensating for polar bears killed as a consequence of human defence or handling, and on the administration of harvesting-rights assignments by Inuit. Bert also briefed the Board on a recent (October 5-8) workshop on the "Implementation Responsibilities and Organizational Development" of the RWOs. The Board applauded this latter item as an especially worthwhile and encouraging exercise.
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24. In the discussion of RWO organizational development and current situation, Mr. Dean was joined and assisted by Ida Ayalik-MacWilliams of the KHTA at Kugluktuk, and Mary Kay Pameolik of the KWF at Arviat.
25. Joanasie Akumalik, Executive Director of the Qikiktaaluk Wildlife Board, provided a status report and update on the operations of the QWB. Mr. Akumalik also tabled the final report of the QWB on the 1998 bowhead hunt.
26. The Board scheduled its next regular meeting for the second week of February 1999 in Iqaluktuutiak (Cambridge Bay).

**For further information please contact:**

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