



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #23

24 - 26 AUGUST 1999

NAUJAAT (REPULSE BAY) NUNAVUT

1. This was the twenty-third regular meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and the first meeting of the Board conducted in the community of Naujaat (Repulse Bay).



2. Prior to commencing its business agenda, the Board swore-in new Board member Moses Koonoo appointed by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

3. The Board's Audit Report for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999 was reviewed and approved as presented, and the Iqaluit accounting firm of Mackay Landau was re-appointed as auditors for the 1999/2000 fiscal year.

4. The Board was advised by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) that the United States is proposing to allow the harvest of peregrine falcons in the southern US (Texas-to-Florida coastal zone). US authorities believe that the three subspecies of peregrine falcon have recovered sufficiently to allow such a harvest. Canadian authorities are concerned about this proposal and will be recommending twelve conditions for any such harvest at the upcoming meeting of Canadian Wildlife Directors.



5. The Board heard an update from the CWS on the proposed regulations to allow the spring sport hunting of snow geese. Both the NWT and Nunavut Wildlife Departments have expressed tentative support for such a hunt. This discussion was considered the first round of consultations with the NWMB.
6. CWS advised that as at September 1999, possession and use of lead shot for hunting migratory game birds will be prohibited throughout Canada.
7. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) provided a status report on walrus sport hunting for the current year. Ten successful hunts were conducted in Igloodik, and two hunts were conducted in Salluit. Hall Beach and Cape Dorset did not conduct sport hunts as authorized by the NWMB.
8. The Board was advised by DFO that a new draft of the Marine Mammal Regulations can be expected by the end of December. These regulations will require Canada-wide consultation prior to implementation. The Board was also advised that a new set of

Fishery Regulations is being drafted for Nunavut. There are no current plans to revise the Fisheries Act.



9. DFO provided an update on the narwhal hunt monitoring process in the communities operating under the new narwhal management system. DFO reviewed the stock status report for the Hudson Bay narwhal stock. DFO suggested that the maximum harvesting rate would be 3-4% and that a precautionary harvest rate would be 2% of the estimated population. The current (1999) harvest is well over these rates, which is cause for concern.
10. The Board received the Stock Status Report for the Hudson Bay/Foxe Basin population of bowhead whales. This report was developed using scientific knowledge, traditional knowledge and harvest data. DFO noted that they sent this report to the RWOs, HTOs and NTI for final comments. The final document will be forwarded to the DFO Canadian Stock Assessment Unit in Ottawa. Completion of the final version of the report is expected by mid October.
11. The Board reviewed applications from both the Northern [Shrimp Fishing] Coalition and from the Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP) to harvest striped pink shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) within the Nunavut Settlement Area near Resolution Island. The Board decided to approve only the Northern Coalition's application to fish inside the NSA.
12. The Board heard a report from the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) on an organized harvest of one thousand snow geese in the Arviat area. This harvest has been conducted over the past few years to help reduce the over-abundance of snow geese in the Arctic nesting areas.



13. DSD provided their recommendations for polar bear quotas for the 1999/2000 hunting season. Four changes were recommended: Clyde River was recommended for an increase from 8 to 21 animals. Coral Harbour was recommended for an increase from 34 to 39. Recommended for decreases were: Taloyoak from 15 to 6, and Igloodik from 9 to 4. Board members voiced some concerns and possible recommendations, following which the Board made its quota decisions.
14. The Board received the executive summary of a report on the "Effects of Capturing and Handling Polar Bears." The report concludes that while there may be short-term effects on individual animals, there do not appear to be significant long-term effects. Mortality rates for captures related to management studies are considered low (one case per thousand bears handled), and rate of injury is approximately one case per one hundred bears handled.
15. The Board was reminded that DSD and the Province of Manitoba want to formalize current arrangements between the two agencies governing management and sharing of Polar Bears. DSD tabled a draft MOU with the Board.



16. The Board heard a status report on the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan. The primary issue remaining to be resolved is the Inuit right to hunt within the sanctuary. DSD plans to arrange a final meeting of the parties to resolve these issues and have the plan ready for approval at the next NWMB meeting in November.
17. The Board learned that DSD has held preliminary discussions with the Regional Wildlife Organizations on the idea of establishing a Wildlife Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ - Inuit Traditional Knowledge) Advisory Group. The purpose of this group would be to provide guidance and make recommendations concerning IQ to agencies with wildlife research and management responsibilities. The NWMB was asked to comment on this proposal.

18. The Board was advised that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) are seeking the NWMB's support for development of protocols that will direct development activities on caribou calving grounds. The Board members felt that the IPGs are qualified to handle this task and the process is well defined under the NLCA. The members called for clarification of the process from the various parties prior to committing to the process.



19. The Board made a decision regarding commercial caribou quota increases for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, based on the recommendations of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.

20. DSD provided the Board with an update on progress towards development of a new Wildlife Act for Nunavut. Plans are underway to constitute a formal working group consisting of DSD, NWMB and NTI. The next step in the process is to get Cabinet approval to begin the legislative process and then develop a consultation plan.

21. The Board heard an update on the NWMB Harvest Study. Members were advised that a Technical Review has started and will be completed for the November Board meeting. Preliminary findings from the review are positive. Interim reports are currently being developed for transmission to the communities; these reports will help in the verification of information and in the development of the final report.



22. The Board also heard an update on the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study. A partial draft final report was submitted for Board review. Questions regarding who will be asked to conduct a review of the report were tabled and referred to the IBKS committee for discussion. The Board expressed satisfaction with recent progress and enthusiasm about the final product.

23. The Board revisited the request to conduct a traditional polar bear hunt in Coral Harbour made by Noah Kadlak. The Board decided to verify with Mr. Kadlak that he is still interested and if this is the case, write to the Minister of DSD reaffirming the Board's previous decision to permit a traditional hunt.

24. The Board was advised that Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, and Sahtu Wildlife Boards are attempting to form a Bluenose Caribou Management Advisory Committee to oversee development of the Bluenose Caribou Management Plan and would like the NWMB to participate. The Board decided to defer decision on this matter until further consultations can be conducted.



25. The Board spent considerable time reviewing a new Narwhal Management System Proposal submitted by the Pelly Bay HTO. The HTO, on their own initiative, developed narwhal hunting rules based on the Repulse Bay model. The Board decided to remove the narwhal quota for Pelly Bay once the community has met certain conditions.

26. The Board reviewed its Land/Water Use Permits screening process and decided to request that the Nunavut Impact Review Board use its discretion in forwarding these applications to the NWMB for review.

27. The Board heard that progress is being made on the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Bowhead Conservation Plan. A workshop is planned in November to tie-in with the next NWMB meeting. The Board was asked to advise WWF on which stakeholders should be invited to the workshop, which the Board agreed to do.



28. The Board received an update on research projects funded by the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust. Funding in the amount of

\$751,000 was allocated to 20 projects and all projects have met the funding conditions.

29. The Board heard a presentation from Raymond Ningeocheak 2nd Vice-President of NTI on wildlife overlap issues in Nunavut. Five issues were identified as priority concerns:

- reciprocal hunting rights with Makivik beneficiaries;
- polar bear management agreements with the Inuvialuit;
- polar bear Memorandum of Understanding with Manitoba;
- caribou and wolf issues with Saskatchewan;
- beluga, narwhal and walrus issues with Greenland (NAMMCO)



30. NTI would like to see a standardized process for getting agreements or MOUs in place to address such issues. Makivik has raised a concern about the inability of Nunavik residents to hunt in Nunavut. It was agreed that an options paper would be developed to examine how such overlap issues might best be addressed.

31. The Board heard a presentation from NTI on compensation for polar bear defence kills. The need for consistent guidelines, based on agreement among all parties is a requirement. NTI called for establishment of a Working Group to develop a consistent process. It was agreed that NTI and the NWMB would cost-share a consultant who would be asked to develop a proposal for review.

32. NTI provided a briefing on the current Polar Bear Management Agreements in place since 1996 in many communities. These MOUs brought several new initiatives into practice, which have affected some community hunts substantially. NTI is calling on the parties to address these concerns with the communities and to identify funding for the HTOs to meet and discuss common concerns. The Board agreed to formally communicate these concerns to DSD.



33. NTI urged that the NWMB, Government and NTI make hiring Inuit students for summer research projects a priority. NTI noted that there are various funding agencies and programs available to help with this training and that a workshop may be the best way to make this a priority.

34. The Board scheduled its next (24th) regular meeting for the week of November 22nd in Cape Dorset.

For further information please contact:

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