




NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #25 12-16 MARCH 2000

IQALUIT, NU

1. This was the twenty-fifth regular meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.



2. The Board was advised by DFO that a discussion paper on Nunavut Fisheries Regulations was distributed to the members of the working group on the regulations. The Board considered their response to the discussion paper. Marine Mammal Regulations are being worked on at a national and regional level and a draft is expected sometime early in the new year.
 3. The Board received recommendations from the Narwhal Working Group on the new narwhal management system for Nunavut. Communities that had their quotas removed in 1999 will have to complete registration of their bylaws prior to the narwhal hunting season for 2000. Otherwise they will return to the quota system.
 4. New communities wishing to participate in the new narwhal management system in 2000 will have to submit their hunting rules to NWMB by 1 May, 2000. Assistance will be given by NWMB and NTI to help communities.
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5. The Board received a request from Coral Harbour to conduct a Bowhead hunt in 2000.
 6. The Board received a presentation from the Department of Sustainable Development and GNWT Department of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development on the Bluenose Caribou herd. The Board accepted the information provided in the presentation that the Bluenose Caribou herd is actually comprised of 3 separate herds, only one of which spends time in Nunavut.
 7. The Board received information from DIAND on their proposal to develop a federal policy on managing caribou calving areas. The Board agreed to support the initiative in principle.



8. The Board received information from DSD on their current research on polar bears in McClintock Channel. The research has raised concerns about the current population estimate and harvest levels. It may be necessary to consider reducing the harvest of this population in future years.
9. The Board received information from DSD on the department's plans to revise the Polar Bear MOUs. The Board agreed to support in principle the general approach described in DSD's brief.

10. The Board received information on progress towards developing a Nunavut Wildlife Act from DSD.
11. The Board approved a request from KHTA to increase the number of commercial caribou tags for the Dolphin Union Caribou herd to 50: 35 for Cambridge Bay (up from 25) and 15 for Kugluktuk (up from 10). These tags will be used to increase the sports hunts.
12. The Board approved a request from KHTA to increase the muskox quota for the Victoria Island herd from 1000 to 1300 animals. This herd is harvested by the community of Cambridge Bay, both domestically and commercially.
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13. The Board approved a request from KHTA to increase the muskox quota for Muskox Area 11 on the Boothia Peninsula from 10 to 20 animals. These muskox are harvested by Taloyoak.
14. The Board received information on steps being taken to develop a Bathurst Caribou Management Plan. The Board agreed to participate in a planning committee working together to develop a plan. This herd is harvested by communities in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and groups on both sides of the boundary will participate in the development of the plan.
15. The Board received an update on the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study. This five-year study of Inuit knowledge on bowhead whales is now in the final printing stages. It should be ready for release by the end of the fiscal year.
16. The Board received an update on the Big Game Hunting Guides Working Group. The group will meet in Iqaluit on April 11 - 12, 2000. This group will make recommendations to the NWMB on establishing qualifications for Big Game Hunting Guides.
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17. The Board received information from their legal advisor on progress in developing the new Species At Risk Act. There has been significant progress on ensuring that the provisions of the NLCA are reflected in the new SARA legislation.
18. The Board approved a request from NTI to assist with funding a workshop in April on wildlife harvesting and management of overlap issues with Nunavik.
19. The Board approved a request from NTI to assist with funding a Nunavut-wide wildlife symposium, involving the chairmen and secretary/managers of every HTO in Nunavut.
20. The Board reviewed 15 new research proposals from Government departments for funding from the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust. The Board approved 10 new projects for funding and 8 previously approved projects for funding totalling just under \$700,000. Projects include studies of narwhal in Northern Hudson Bay and Foxe Basin, Bowhead whales in Foxe Basin / Pelly Bay, polar bears in the Central Arctic, Arctic Charr at Pangnirtung, eider ducks in the Kitikmeot, caribou in the Keewatin and Kitikmeot, and walrus in Foxe Basin and the high arctic.
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21. The Board reviewed 9 new project proposals for funding from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Study Funds, for non-government agencies. The Board approved 8 new projects and one project for carry-over funding from 1999 - 2000, for a total of approximately \$200,000. Projects include studies of muskox and caribou near Resolute Bay, bowhead whales near Clyde River, Arctic Charr near Gjoa Haven, Snow and Ross' Geese near Arviat and Eider ducks near Sanikiluaq.

22. The Board received a presentation on a proposed exploratory crab fishery in waters adjacent to Nunavut from the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and their Newfoundland partner company. The Board supported the proposed fishery in principle, but wished to have more time to fully review the proposal and make recommendations to DFO on licensing.
23. The Board heard a presentation from Jonah Kelly on the Nunavut Law Reform Commission and their work to ensure that legislation is brought in line with Inuit beliefs and customs. The Board welcomed the Commission's work and offered to assist in any way they could.
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24. The Board reviewed two funding requests from the Tuktu Nogak project in Cambridge Bay and agreed to provide funding to assist with the translation of their web site into Innuinaqtun and develop a poster for distribution to the communities. The Board also agreed to assist in sending the lead researcher to the Inuit Studies Conference in Aberdeen this summer.
25. The Board approved a request for funding assistance from Attagoyuk School in Pangnirtung to assist them in traveling to Peterhead, Scotland.
26. The next meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be in Taloyoak, the week of 12 June, 2000.

For further information please contact:

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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