

## NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #27

NOV 27 - DEC 1, 2000

#### RANKIN INLET, NU

1. This was the 27th meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board conducted in Rankin Inlet, 28 November - 1 December 2000.



2. The Board received an update from DFO on the information collected from the communities participating in the community-based management system for narwhal and beluga. This was the second year for this management system for narwhal in the communities of Repulse Bay, Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq, and for beluga in the communities of Iqaluit and Kimmirut. In the coming months, the NWMB will be reviewing the information provided by DFO, meeting with communities and consulting with its co-management partners, in order to evaluate the management system and to determine the most appropriate course of action for the 2001 fishing season. Among the options under consideration is a public hearing - if that is appropriate based on consultations with our co-management partners.
3. The interim decision by DFO to close the fishery for narwhal in Qikiqtarjuaq in October, was made pursuant to Article 5.3.24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. As required by that section of the NLCA, the NWMB will be conducting a full review of this interim decision as part of the discussions noted above.

4. DFO provided an update on the initiative to develop an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Pangnirtung. DFO has begun consultations with the Pangnirtung HTO on this project.



5. DFO gave the Board updates on the progress of research projects funded by DFO Nunavut Implementation Funds. DFO has 22 projects on fish and marine mammals currently underway in Nunavut.
6. DFO reported on the initial results of the turbot survey in NAFO Subarea 0B carried out in October. Those results indicate that turbot productivity in Subarea 0B is similar to that found in 1999 in Subarea 0A to the north.
7. The Board received a progress report on efforts to develop new Nunavut Fisheries Regulations. The next meeting of the Nunavut Regulatory Review Committee (involving DFO, NWMB, DSD and NTI) will be held in Iqaluit in December.



8. The NWMB approved walrus sport hunts for the communities of Igloodik (12), Hall Beach (10), Coral Harbour (15), Cape Dorset (5) and Qikiqtarjuaq (10), as well as for the community of Salluit, harvesting in the area of equal use and occupancy near Nottingham

and Salisbury Islands (8).

9. The Board reviewed requests for experimental commercial fisheries for kelp and sea urchins along the west coast of Hudson Bay. The Board will be forwarding its decisions to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.
10. The Board reviewed a request from the Kugluktuk HTO for commercial quotas for arctic char and lake trout. The Board will be forwarding its decision to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.
11. The NWMB reviewed the results of consultations regarding the future of the Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee. The Board decided to disband the Committee, with the understanding that the Committee may be reinstated if there are any future changes to the management system for beluga in Southeast Baffin. The Board expressed its gratitude to the committee members for their hard work over the years.
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12. DSD updated the Board on progress with consultations on the M'Clintock Channel polar bear population. These consultations are being carried out in light of the results of scientific survey work that indicates the population of polar bears is smaller than previously thought. DSD will attend a meeting during the week of December 4, hosted by KHTA with representatives of the three communities that harvest from this population. An NWMB representative will also attend this meeting. Recommendations will then be brought to the NWMB on appropriate actions to be taken.
13. DSD informed the Board that they are currently reviewing their various harvester support programs. A document will be released soon as the basis of consultations in the form of community meetings in January (two in Keewatin, two in Kitikmeot, three in Baffin).
14. DSD reported to the Board that they are currently funding a review of polar bear sport hunts and the value of these hunts to the communities. This should assist communities in marketing of these hunts.
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15. The final report has now been released on the effects of capture and handling techniques used during research on polar bears. The study indicates that there have been no significant effects on the polar bears.
16. DSD reported on work that is underway to examine the effectiveness of electric fences for deterring polar bears, especially around outpost camps. Initial indications are that the fences are effective against polar bears. Work is now underway to determine the practicality of the use of the fences in Nunavut.
17. The Harvest Study Coordinator advised that there has been extensive recent work on the database and interim community reports will be released in regional groups over the next few months. All should be completed prior to April, 2001.
18. The Board reviewed a report prepared by its Director of Wildlife Management on the use of Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Funds over the past 7 years. The Board has approved over \$4.3 million in funding in that time for wildlife research by government agencies.
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19. The Board reviewed and approved a new policy for determining wildlife management priorities, which will be implemented over the next year. Information with respect to the new procedures will be distributed to the RWOs, HTOs and government departments in the next few weeks. The new process will result in more direct community participation in the priority-setting process. These wildlife management priorities will assist the Board in identifying research needs and priorities.

20. The Board reviewed and approved a revised Fisheries Allocation Policy. The revised policy now gives flexibility to accommodate new fishery quotas and emerging fisheries. The policy will be distributed to RWOs and HTOs along with the call for applications for the 2001 shrimp and turbot allocations, in January 2001.

21. The Board reviewed a proposed interim Policy on Transfer of Tags or Quotas between Communities. The draft policy will be distributed to NTI, RWOs, HTOs and the government departments shortly for their input.



22. The Board reviewed a request from the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board for support for their continuation beyond 2002, the end of their current mandate. The BQCMB is an interjurisdictional Board that provides advice to the NWMB on matters relating to the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds. The NWMB supported continuation of the BQCMB beyond 2002.

23. The next (28th) meeting of the NWMB will be in Iqaluit, the week of March 19, 2001.

For further information please contact:

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