



## NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #30 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2001

#### IQALUIT

1. This was the 30th meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, conducted in Iqaluit, September 18-20, 2001. While the meeting had been planned for Igloolik, weather conditions prevented the Board members from getting to Igloolik and the meeting was transferred to Iqaluit.
2. The Board received information from COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) requesting Board approval of the changes in designation of 4 wildlife species: Harlequin Duck, Northern Wolfish; Spotted Wolfish; and Lynx. Under Article 5.2.34 f of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) the Board reviews and approves all such designations. The Board deferred their decision pending the receipt of more information on the reasons for the changes from COSEWIC.
3. The Board reviewed a draft Recovery Plan for Peary Caribou. This plan was developed following a Status Report in 1990 that indicated that the Peary Caribou population had declined significantly. The Board decided not to approve the plan at this time, but to ask that a new Status Report be completed first. Recent population counts near Resolute Bay have indicated that the population may now be in better condition. Under Article 5.2.34 d of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) the Board reviews and approves all such designations.
4. The Board received an update from CWS on the Habitat Stewardship Program and plans to implement this in the NWT and Nunavut. This program provides matching funding for non-government organizations to carry out activities that preserve habitat for endangered species or species at risk.
5. The Board reviewed a proposal to conduct a workshop as part of the Hudson Bay Narwhal Objective Based Fisheries Management Planning process. The Board approved funding of \$10,000 to assist DFO in holding the workshop.
6. The Board received an update on the development of a community fisheries management plan for Pangnirtung. Information from various fisheries has been entered into a GIS (Geographic Information System) database and has been presented to the community. It was well received. A brief demonstration was also provided to the Board.
7. The Board received an update on activities by the Oceans Sector of DFO in Nunavut. These activities will include establishing a working group to develop an integrated management plan for the Western Hudson Bay area; and the recent very successful Oceans

Day and beach clean up held in Iqaluit.

8. The Board received an update from DFO on the community-based management for narwhal and beluga. The HTOs in the communities are working with DFO to track the landed, struck and lost and wounded and escaped animals. Final numbers will be received this fall. This is the third year of a 3-year trial for the narwhal and a review of the system will take place this winter.
9. DFO updated the Board on the development of new Nunavut Fishing Regulations. A meeting of the Working Group addressing this matter is planned for October.
10. The Board received an update on the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program and the development of the Regional Classification Committee for Nunavut. Environment Canada is leading this exercise, in partnership with DFO and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
11. The Board received an update on activities relating to the M-Clintock Channel polar bear population. There is a moratorium on hunting of polar bears from that population this year. Gjoa Haven is working on a traditional knowledge project and a meeting will be held with the affected communities, DSD and other co-management partners in October.
12. The Board reviewed polar bear harvest records for 2000/01 and reviewed and approved polar bear harvest quotas for 2001/02. All communities will return to their base allocations except for a reduction of the base quota by 2 for Kimmirut from the Foxe Basin population.
13. The Board received an update on the Viscount Melville polar bear population and the steps necessary to review the harvest levels from that population. This included a presentation on the risk-management models and the items required to be considered for this process.
14. The Board received an update on recent research conducted by DSD in cooperation with the Resolute Bay HTO on Peary Caribou. Ground and aerial surveys from this spring indicate that the numbers appear to have improved over those from surveys in 1997. A final report will be completed in the coming months. More cooperative work is planned for next year.
15. DSD notified the Board that the Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan should be ready for presentation to the Board for approval at the next meeting of the Board. Under Article 5.2.34 c of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) the Board reviews and approves all such plans.
16. The Board received an update from DSD on recent international polar bear meetings held in Greenland. A full report of the meeting will be available shortly.
17. DSD updated the Board on discussions with Greenland with regards to managing shared polar bear stocks. Greenland is conducting community consultations, and while not yet ready to begin formal discussions with Canada, has expressed an interest in such discussions in the future. The Kane Basin, Baffin Bay and Davis Strait polar bear populations are shared between Canada and Greenland.
18. The Board received an update on the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study. Final data collection is now underway and analysis will start

shortly. Community reports based on the first 3 years of data have been distributed to the Kitikmeot and the Kivalliq communities. Reports for the Baffin region are being translated and will be distributed shortly.

19. The Board received an update that all the RWOs have supported the recommendations of the Big Game Guides Working Group. The Working Group will likely meet again to review these and make formal recommendations to the NWMB. Under Article 5.6.41 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) the Board may establish minimum qualifications for Big Game Hunting Guides.
20. The Board received an update on the Wildlife Management Priorities Workshops. Successful workshops have now been held in all regions and reports will be completed shortly. The Board will consider the findings at an upcoming meeting.
21. The Board considered a presentation on a possible flexible quota system that might be considered with the community-based management system. The Board supported considering this as an option during the upcoming review of the 3-year trial period for community-based management of narwhal.
22. The Board received a presentation from NTI on their work with the HTOs and RWOs to submit a plan for funding for the next 10 year implementation phase of the NLCA.
23. The Board received an update on recent and upcoming activities of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.
24. The next (31st) meeting of the NWMB will be in Baker Lake, the week of November 26, 2001.

**For further information please contact:  
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