

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: MEETING No. 42

IQALUIT, 7-10 JUNE 2005

Members and Staff Participating:

Harry Flaherty	A/Chairperson
Nick Amautinuak	Member
Robert Moshenko	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Paul Pemik	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Abraham Kaunak	Member
Johnny Peters	Alternate Member - Makivik
Joe Tigullaraq	Chief Executive Officer
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Joseé Galipeau	A/Director of Wildlife
Tom Demcheson	Director of Finance and Administration
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Mary Nashook	Interpreter

Not Available:

DIAND Appointee	Vacant
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Other Participants at Various Times:

Dr. Ian Sterling	Polar Bear Biologist, CWS
Stas Olpinski	Wildlife Advisor - Makivik
Raymond Ningeokseak	2 nd Vice President, NTI
Glenn Williams	Wildlife Advisor, NTI, Iqaluit
Gabriel Nirlungayuk	Director of Wildlife, NTI
Mitch Taylor	Manager of Wildlife Research, DoE
Mike Ferguson	Regional Biologist, DoE
Keith Pelly	C&P Iqaluit, DFO
Siu-Ling Han	Section Head, DOE Nunavut
David Aksawnee	Chairperson, KWB
Holly Cleator	Species at Risk Biologist DFO, Winnipeg
Martine Giangioppi	Fisheries Management Technician, DFO
Pierre Richard	Research Scientist, DFO, Winnipeg
Rob Stewart	Research Scientist, DFO, Winnipeg
Ross Tallman	Research Scientist, DFO, Winnipeg
Simon Idlout	HTA Grise Fiord
David Kalluk	HTA Grise Fiord

1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries

Harry Flaherty A/Chairperson called the 42nd Regular Meeting of the NWMB to order at 9:00 a.m. Abraham Kaunak led the opening prayer.

2. Agenda for Regular Meeting No. 42

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-041**) to accept the agenda for Meeting 42 as presented.

3. Minutes: Review and Approval

Minutes for all meetings were deferred to the next meeting.

4. Financial and Administrative Business

4.A Variance Report for the Period Ending May 31, 2005

Presented to the Board by the Director of Finance.

5. Chairperson, Senior Staff, Advisors' and Members' Reports

Members were advised that these reports were available for review in the binder.

6. Completion of Assignments and Implementation of Resolutions

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

7. Environment Canada (CWS): Issues and Decisions

7.A Species at Risk Proposed Legal Listing

The NWMB's legal advisor briefed the Board on concerns regarding the process followed by the Minister of Environment; the level of consultation with affected communities; scientific knowledge concerning the Queen Elizabeth Islands populations of Peary Caribou; and the population dynamics of the Dolphin-Union Caribou for the proposed SARA listings for these species.

7.B Canada/Nunavut Bilateral Agreement

The NWMB's Legal Advisor noted that the NWMB, GN, CWS and DFO met on development of the Bilateral Agreement. Discussions followed on the possible development of two steering committees to manage the SARA program. It was noted that all these discussions were of a preliminary nature and negotiations would continue. It was recommended that a briefing note be developed for the next NWMB meeting to help members understand the issues. This item was deferred to the Executive Committee.

8. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Issues and Decisions

8.A Possible SARA Listing of Nunavut Belugas

Holly Cleator reviewed the briefing note provided with the Members. It was noted that in May 2004, COSEWIC designated five beluga stocks for listing, three relating to Nunavut:

1. Eastern High Arctic/Baffin Bay Stock – approximately 21,000 whales, heavily hunted by Greenland, no surveys for 15 year – recommended for status of *Special Concern*.
2. Cumberland Sound Stock – Commercially hunted by Hudson Bay Company in the 50s and 60s. Quota established in early 1980s, a survey in 1999 estimated 2,000 whales, populations seems to be increasing a new survey is planned for summer of 2005. COSEWIC downgraded listing of *endangered* to *threatened*.
3. Western Hudson Bay Stock, survey conducted in 2004 awaiting results. Recommend status of *Special Concern*.

Holly Cleator reviewed the consultations conducted with the communities involved. Only Sanikiluaq agreed with the Western Hudson Bay Stock designation as they are concerned with hydro electric development. It was noted that no IQ was included in the initial COSEWIC designations. The majority of the communities did not agree with the designations. Holly Cleator advised that the Minister would be writing to the NWMB for their decision in September and the Board would have 30 days to respond. Board members spent considerable time questioning the science of these three populations.

8.B. Possible SARA Listing of East Hudson Bay and Zone II Beluga

Holly Cleator presented a briefing note to the Board Members. COSEWIC recommended both Eastern Hudson Bay and Ungava Bay belugas as endangered in May 2004. The federal government had not yet decided whether or not to accept COSEWIC's advice and list the populations under SARA. The decision would not be made until consultations with affected people were made. These consultations were conducted and Nunavimmiut overwhelmingly do not support adding Eastern Hudson Bay and Ungava Bay belugas to the SARA list.

8.C Nunavik Request to Harvest Beluga in Nunavut

David Aksawnee, Chairperson of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) briefed the Board on the status of the Makivik request to hunt beluga in five Kivalliq communities. David noted that they had requested advice from DFO but no response was received. It was noted that KWB had made a motion to approve 20 whales from the West Hudson Bay population. Johnny Peters and Stas Olpinski provide a briefing to the Board on the status of beluga whale hunting in Nunavik. They noted that there is heavy pressure from DFO to reduce the harvest as there is concern that Eastern Hudson Bay beluga population is declining and requires

careful management. It was noted that this is causing much stress in many of the Nunavik communities. The request for more whales from other areas is to try and relieve the pressure on the EHB population. Stas Olpinski reviewed the requests from Nunavik to hunt in Nunavut:

- A request to hunt 25 beluga near Sanikiluaq hunting area;
- A request to hunt 25 beluga from, five each from various Kivalliq communities; and
- A request to hunt 15 belugas from the west side of Ottawa Islands area previously approved by the NWMB.

In summary, no decision was made on these issues as more consultations were required before the NWMB could make a decision on the request to hunt in Sanikiluaq's hunting area. The NWMB had no concerns in the West Hudson Bay area and this agreement would be between Makivik and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. It was recommended to Makivik members consider negotiating much earlier for the 2006 hunting season.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-042**) to move to an in camera session.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-043**) not approve the request from Makivik to conduct a harvest of 25 beluga in the Sanikiluaq hunting area of the NSA.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-044**) to move out of in camera session.

8.D Nunavik Request for Bowhead Hunt

The NWMB's Legal Advisor reviewed the briefing note provided with the Members. Makivik members advised that due to the reduction in beluga hunting, they are looking for ways of supply food to the Nunavik communities. These are preliminary negotiations, it was recommended that Makivik include the RWO and NTI in there consultations. It was agreed that the NWMB's Legal Advisor would draft a letter to Makivik on this issue.

8.E Cumberland Sound New Turbot Quota

Michael d'Eça updated the Board on the status of a 500 metric tonne TAC for turbot allocated by the DFO Minister for Cumberland Sound. NWMB will have to make a decision on how to allocate the TAC to fishers and the BNL may need to be adjusted. These issues are to be addressed at the next regular Board meeting.

8.F Shrimp Research Survey in Division OB

David Orr of DFO briefed the Board on a proposal to form a Northern Shrimp Research Foundation (NSRF) to conduct research surveys in NAFO Division OB using a foreign vessel that was to be Canadianized. Jim Noble reminded the members that the same proposal was made to the Board 2 years ago by the same group, who are members of the Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP).

The recommendation of the Board at that time was that this research should be conducted by northern rather than, southern fishing interests. It was noted that DFO in Nunavut do not have shrimp expertise and that such expertise lies with DFO in Newfoundland. Robert Moshenko clarified that NWMB prefers to liaison with Nunavut DFO on fisheries matters.

8.G Request to Re-open Kingnait Fjord Lake for Commercial Fishing

Martine Giangioppi briefed the Board on an application made by Pangnirtung HTO requesting an early opening of the 5 year moratorium on commercial charr harvesting in Kingnait Fjord which had been enacted by DFO and NWMB at the request of the community in 2000. In six of the ten year spanning 1986 to 1995, the commercial harvest of char exceeded the established quota of 4,500 Kg. Citing concern for the charr stock in 2000, Pangnirtung HTO requested that the NWMB close the Kingnait Fjord exploratory charr fishery and the Board moved and resolved to do so. In 2002, the Pangnirtung HTO requested that the moratorium be lifted. The NWMB deferred any change to the moratorium at that time until TAH and BNL were first established for the fishery. In late 2003, the Pangnirtung HTO requested support from DFO in their attempts to re-open the commercial charr fishery in Kingnait Fjord. Analysis of the most recent scientific data was made and an estimate of the current age structure of the stock suggested that limited commercial harvest may be possible. As a result, DFO recommended that the precautionary approach be taken and the commercial fishery in Kingnait fjord reopened under a limited exploratory license for a TAC of 2000 Kg. Based on the evidence presented, the Board resolved (**Resolution 2005-045**) pursuant to section 5.6.16 of the NLCA to establish a TAH for Arctic Charr in Kingnait Fjord of 2000 Kg.

8.H BFC Request to Use Foreign Vessel

The Board considered and accepted (**Resolution-2005-046**) a request from Baffin Fisheries Coalition (BFC) to use a foreign flagged fishing vessel to prosecute the shrimp fishery in NAFO Division 0A and resolved to make such recommendation to DFO for the current fishing season ending December 31st 2005.

8.I Aiviit HTO Walrus Sport Hunt Application

The Board reviewed and accepted (**Resolution-2005-047**) an application for 2 walrus sport hunts in Coral Harbour.

8.J Kugaaruk Request to Carry-over Narwhal Tags

A request for carry over of 10 unused narwhal tags from the previous harvest season was considered and accepted by the Board ((**Resolution 2005-048**)).

9. Nunavut Wildlife (DSD) Issues and Decisions

9.A Peary Caribou

Basic Needs Level (BNL) and Adjusted Basic Needs Level (ANBL) were suggested for Peary Caribou in the Eastern Queen Elizabeth Islands (EQEI). There was discussion about the implications of possible listing under SARA for this species in the high arctic and the status of the draft management plans developed by Gries Fjord and Resolute Bay in conjunction with GN-DoE for Peary Caribou. A review of the management plans was presented by Michael d'Eça. A decision on Peary Caribou TAH will be made at a future meeting after thorough evaluation of all the data is completed.

9.B Polar Bear Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The NWMB previously approved new MOU for Nunavut's polar bear populations. They contain a modified system of harvest management whereby IQ may be used to modify harvest limits in certain circumstances. The NWMB recently approved increases in TAH for 7 of Nunavut's 12 polar bear populations and a decrease in one population. A number of issues have arisen which are currently generating controversy within Nunavut, as well as nationally and internationally about the decision to modify some of these polar bear TAH. In particular, there are concerns about populations in which TAH were increased based on IQ; Western Hudson Bay, Baffin Bay, Davis Strait, Foxe Basin because new scientific results appear inconsistent with IQ. The Board will work with its co-management partners to investigate and address issues relating to these concerns.

10. NWMB Internal Items: Issues / Decisions

10.A Tahera Diamond Corporation (Jericho Project)

Deferred to conference call at later date.

10.B. 10 Year Implementation Contract Negotiations

Deferred to conference call at a later date.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-049**) to move to an in camera session.

The Board then decided (**Resolution 2005-050**) to allocate 50k for the purchase of new translation equipment for the Board.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-051**) to move out of an in camera session.

11. NTI Wildlife Division

11.A NLCA Article 5. Part 3

Glenn Williams presented a briefing note criticizing the Board for not being transparent. NTI requested that a policy be developed by the NWMB and Ministers of the Crown that ensures the public is notified when decisions are accepted, rejected or varied and are registered in a timely manner to ensure that any person or organization that perceives to be aggrieved by a decision, can more easily initiate a judicial review. NTI also recommends that the Board develop and establish a policy that insures Inuit are notified in a timely manner of all meetings (including teleconference calls) of the Board or Ministers of the Crown.

11.B Joint Secretariat

Bert Dean updated the Board on the development of the wildlife Secretariat, including the appointment of Richard Connelly as Executive Director, and a workshop that was held in Iqaluit with HTOs.

12. Applications for Funding

Board reviewed applications for funding

12.A DFO Presentation

Ross Tallman updated the members on the status of his arctic charr fisheries research. The goal of this research is to provide data to assist NWMB with setting TAH for charr stock within the NSA. The Board noted that DFO has been collecting data on charr over the past 30 years and that this accumulated data needs of be formulated into information that can be used by NWMB for making management decisions about stocks in Nunavut.

Robert Stewart updated the members on the status of his walrus research in the high arctic. A video presentation on the effectiveness of a promising dart delivered drug immobilization method under development for walrus was given. At present, there are no data to indicate when the meat of drugged animals is safe for human consumption.

Pierre Richard updated the members on the status of his whale sampling program, outlining funding contributions and results obtained to date.

12.B DOE/CWS Presentation

Dr. Ian Sterling of the Canadian Wildlife Service provided the Board with a review of his work in various areas of the Arctic. Dr. Sterling noted that possible global warming is changing the polar bears habitat. Earlier ice break-up and later freezing times are affecting the bears and their ability to catch seals. A decline in body fat is has become evident over the period of 1980-2000. It was also suggested that seals are decreasing with the changing ice and weather patterns. In summary, it was suggested that these warming trends and decrease in ice cover will continue and

potential problems with bear populations will appear in the southern areas. It was recommended that the Board manage conservatively for the future.

12.C South Baffin Caribou and Wolf IQ Project

Deferred to conference call at a later date.

12.D Seal Ban Impact Interview Series

Deferred to conference call at a later date.

14. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations

15. Meetings, Workshops and Other Pertinent Events

Members were advised that a list of upcoming meetings was provided in their binders.

15.A Past Events: Reports and Briefings

Nil report

15.B Upcoming Events: Review and Participation

Nil report

16. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-052**) to conduct its next (43rd) Regular Meeting in Igloodik the week of September 13-15, 2005

17. Adjournment

The Chairman thanked members, translators and NWMB staff for their work in preparation for and at the meeting. The 42nd Meeting of the NWMB was adjourned.

Minutes Approved by:


Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2005-041: RESOLVED that the NWMB accept the agenda for Meeting No. 42 as presented.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Carried Date: June 7th, 2005

Resolution 2005-042: RESOLVED that NWMB move to an in camera session.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Carried Date: June 7th, 2005

Resolution 2005-043: RESOLVED that NWMB not approve the request from Makivik to conduct a harvest of 25 beluga in the Sanikiluaq hunting area of the NSA.

Moved by: Paul Pemik Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Carried Date: June 9th, 2005

Resolution 2005-044: RESOLVED that NWMB move out of an in camera session.

Moved by: Paul Pemik Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Carried Date: June 8th, 2005

Resolution 2005-045: RESOLVED that the NWMB pursuant to Sec.5.6.16 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA), for the 2005 fishing season, approve the level of harvesting for the commercial harvest of arctic charr in Kingnait Fiord of 200 Kg, subject to the provisions of sample/data collection and catch effort data by the community of Pangnirtung to DFO.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Carried Date: June 8th, 2005

Resolution 2005-046: RESOLVED that NWMB recommend to DFO that BFC be allowed to use a foreign flagged vessel to fish shrimp in NAFO Division 0A for the current fishing season ending December 31st 2005.

Moved by: Robert Moshenko Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried Date: June 10th, 2005

Resolution 2005-047: RESOLVED that NWMB recommend to DFO that Aiviit (Coral Harbour) HTO be allowed to conduct two walrus sport hunts for the 2005 season subject to conditions outlined in the hunt plan.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried Date: June 9th, 2005

Resolution 2005-048: RESOLVED that NWMB recommend to DFO that Kugaaruk HTO carry over 10 narwhal tags, which were not used in the previous harvest season, for use in the present harvest season only; in accordance with the Community Based Management agreement.

Moved by: Paul Pemik	Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Carried	Date: June 9 th , 2005

Resolution 2005-049: RESOLVED that NWMB move to an in camera session.

Moved by: Paul Pemik	Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried	Date: 2005

Resolution 2005-050: RESOLVED that NWMB allocate 50 K for the purchase of new translation equipment for the Board.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak	Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Carried	Date: June 10 th , 2005

Resolution 2005-051: RESOLVED that NWMB move out of an in camera session.

Moved by: Paul Pemik	Seconded by: Robert Moshenko
Carried	Date: June 10 th , 2005

Resolution 2005-052: RESOLVED that NWMB conduct the 43rd meeting of the Board in Igloolik the week of September 12th, 2005 in Igloolik

Moved by: Robert Moshenko	Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Carried	Date: June 10 th , 2005