

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. RM 004-2012

Iqaluit, December 4, 2012

Members and Staff Participating:

Manasie Audlakiak	Acting Chairperson
Raymond Ningeocheak	Member
Peter Kusugak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Winston Fillatre	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Tom Demcheson	Interim Director of Finance
Rebecca Jeppesen	Director of Wildlife Management
Anna Magera	Fisheries Management Biologist
Tina Rose	Executive Secretary
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Letia Janes	Interpreter

Participants at Various Times:

Lisa Pirie	Environment Canada
Glenn Williams	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Chris Lewis	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Eric Kaan	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Wayne Lynch	Government of Nunavut – Fisheries and Sealing
Aatima Hadlari	Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
Ross Taki	Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Tuesday, December 5, 2012

Regular Meeting No. 004-2012

1. Call to order / Opening Prayer Regular meeting
2. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Board members were given the opportunity to declare any conflicts of interest based on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Agenda: Review and Approval

The agenda was approved after moving agenda items #5a, #6d and #9. (Resolution RM2012_____)

Glenn Williams of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated asked permission of the Board Members for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to film the Board members during the Regular Meeting. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is preparing a video regarding wildlife management in Nunavut for presentation at an upcoming CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) meeting.

The Board motioned to approve Glenn Williams' request. (Resolution IC2012_____)

4. Environment Canada: Issues/Decisions

a) Approval of Proposed Management Plan for Rusty Blackbird-SARA

Lisa Pirie of Environment Canada presented an information item regarding the proposed management plan for the rusty blackbird. The rusty blackbird is currently listed as "Special Concern" on the federal species at risk list.

Environment Canada sent consultation packages to affected Nunavut communities (Arviat, Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk). The consultation package contained a letter, power point presentation, summary of the proposed management plan and a poster to help identify the rusty black bird. An email and identification poster were also sent to Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet and Gjoa Haven to determine whether the rusty blackbird was known to these communities, and to present an opportunity for these communities to request a consultation.

Once the document is completed, the Minister of Environment will ask the Board to consider whether they want to approve the management plan and if the Board wants to make a formal decision to support the national management plan for the rusty blackbird.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed the rusty blackbird in 2006 and suggested the listing because the species had experienced a significant decline in population.

There has been no response from the communities to the information packages.

Comments regarding the proposed rusty blackbird management plan were due by the end of December and the final document should be available early in the New Year. The Board will be informed of any changes in the document which apply to Nunavut and any comments that are received from Nunavut communities.

The Board discussed the effectiveness of the community consultations.

The Board requested information about the current population of rusty blackbirds. Pirie informed the Board that the numbers were available in the management plan.

The Board's Executive Director clarified with Pirie regarding when the Board's response would be required. It was agreed that the Board could revisit the matter at the March meetings.

5. Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Issues/Decisions and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated: Issues/Decisions

a) Exploratory Char Fisheries Management Plans for Igloolik and Basic Needs Level for Kingnait Fiord Char Fishery

Legal Counsel prefaced this agenda item by suggesting that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's item regarding basic needs levels for Kingnait Fiord char fishery be moved up the agenda to coincide with the Fisheries and Oceans Canada item regarding exploratory char fisheries management plans for Igloolik.

Glenn Williams of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. presented information to the Board regarding the Kingnait Fiord char fishery. Williams explained that decisions made by the Board two years ago about total allowable harvest and basic needs levels for the Kingnait Fiord char fishery were rejected by

the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. has since drafted a stewardship plan, which was circulated to all Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Organizations. The stewardship plan sets out a model for the Hunters and Trappers Organizations to regulate fisheries with or without a total allowable harvest and basic needs level. The Hunters and Trappers Organizations would determine where fishing could take place and determine the amount of fish to be taken.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated requested that the Board make a decision regarding the Kingnait Fiord char fishery by July of 2013.

Chris Lewis of Fisheries and Oceans Canada noted that the Board recently inquired of Fisheries and Oceans Canada if there had been progress made in determining which harvests would be included in the calculations of basic needs levels to justify approving the Igloolik fisheries plan.

Lewis further explained that in 2002, a working group identified a number of draft fishery management objectives for an arctic char total allowable harvest/basic needs level/surplus allocation fishery. The working group agreed that progress parameters and management measures would need to be established; such as the inclusion of harvest reporting and enforcement of basic needs levels.

Lewis presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the exploratory char fishery license application from the Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Organization. Due to the limited information currently available, Fisheries and Oceans Canada recommends that the exploratory fishery begin under the five year protocol to allow Fisheries and Oceans Canada to examine the harvest levels. The five year exploratory fishery protocol is intended to provide information regarding the viability of a fishery in a particular location.

b) Walrus Sport Hunt Reporting for 2012

Chris Lewis of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented this information item to the Board.

Eighteen walrus sport hunt licenses were issued in 2012; seven for Coral Harbour, two for E&E Outfitters, and five to Sikku Tours. Three walrus were harvested from Coral Harbour. One walrus was harvested from Hall Beach.

December 5, 2012

6. NWMB Items:

a) Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management – MOU

The Director of Wildlife Management presented an information item regarding the Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management – Memorandum of Understanding.

b) Fin Whale Management Plan

The Fisheries Management Biologist presented a Fisheries and Oceans Request for Board decision on the approval of the fin whale management plan.

The objective of the management plan is to ensure that humans do not impose a threat to the fin whale population. The fin whale has not been hunted in Canada since 1971. The fin whale is hunted for subsistence in Greenland, and commercially in Iceland.

The Board requested further information regarding consultation in Canada, especially within Nunavut communities.

Legal Counsel clarified that the proposed fin whale management plan did not affect Nunavut communities.

c) Walrus Sport Hunt Applications

The Fisheries Management Biologist presented an item for decision regarding applications for the walrus sport hunt.

The Board discussed the application process as well as personal concerns regarding the harvesting of walrus.

9. Other Presentations

a) Narwhal and Seals

The Director of Wildlife Management presented a letter received by the Board from Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization.

The Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization requested information or support regarding the long delays in receiving tags from Fisheries and Oceans for found narwhal tusks.

Additionally, Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization raised their concerns about the level of mercury in seals and requested a survey of the seals to insure the safety of the residents of Pond Inlet.

Eric Kaan of Fisheries and Oceans Canada clarified that current seal research efforts were not inclusive of seal populations within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Wayne Lynch of the Government of Nunavut's Fisheries and Sealing division indicated a willingness to collaborate with Fisheries and Oceans Canada on conducting research and testing seal meat.

Winston Fillatre suggested that Nunavut Wildlife Management Board staff contact Greenland to learn more about any research regarding mercury in seals.

Glenn Williams indicated that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated had learned from Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff that policy on the issuing of tags for found narwhal tusks has changed. Currently, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is unable to issue tags for found narwhal tusks. Instead, found tusks may be issued a letter confirming that the tusk was found but prohibiting sale of the found tusk in international markets.

Legal Counsel suggested that the Board obtain a commitment from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to produce a comprehensive report with respect to matters concerning the narwhal tusk issue. Additionally, Counsel recommended that Nunavut Wildlife Management Board staff write to the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization to confirm that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board would look into their concerns.

b) Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board – Annual General Meeting Concerns

Aatima Hadlari of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board presented an information item to the Board regarding the most recent Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board annual general meeting, held in Cambridge Bay.

The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board elected a new executive; James Panooyak was elected Vice Chairperson and James Qillaq was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Ima was hired as full-time office manager.

Additional topics discussed at the annual general meeting included the review of bylaws, changes to election rules and procedures, the harvesting of polar bears in the McClintock Channel, the need for caribou management and the desire of Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board Members for a greater presence of Fisheries and Oceans representatives at their meetings.

The Board discussed the frequency of Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board meetings and the failure of Fisheries and Oceans Staff to attend these meetings.

Eric Kaan explained that Fisheries and Oceans Staff attempt to attend the meetings conducted by the Regional Wildlife Organizations. Sufficient advance notice of upcoming meetings is necessary for Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff participation.

The Board discussed the McClintock Channel polar bear moratorium, when and why the moratorium was implemented, and how long the moratorium may last. Nunavut Wildlife Management Board staff were asked to gather current information on the moratorium and present that information to the Board and to the Regional Wildlife Organizations.

Ross Taki, Chairperson of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, updated the Board on the current status of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board changed the timing of their annual general meetings from the spring to the fall to better accommodate the spring harvest season.

6) NWMB Items: Issues/Decisions

d) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization 2013 Total Allowable Catch

The Fisheries Management Biologist presented a request for a recommendation from Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization 2013 total allowable catch.

The Fisheries Management Biologist explained to the Board that a request was put to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council for a numbers based analysis on increasing the catch in areas 0a and 0b. The requested information was not received; however the Scientific Council looked at the implications of increasing the total allowable harvest by 10 or 15 percent, which analysis shows could lead to an unsustainable rate of harvest.

The recommendation from the Board, which Fisheries and Oceans Canada has requested, will be determined during the in-camera meeting.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The Board agreed to hold the next Regular Meeting in March 2013 in Iqaluit.

Regular Meeting No. 008-2012 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution RM2012_____: RESOLVED that the Board adopt the agenda for RM 004-2012.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Kusugak
Date: December 4, 2012

Resolution RM2012_____: RESOLVED that the Board approve NTI's request to film part of Regular Meeting No. 008-2012.

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Kusugak
Date: December 4, 2012