

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Regular Meeting RM 003-2016 Highlights
Iqaluit, Nunavut

Regular Meeting RM 003-2016 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was conducted in Iqaluit, Nunavut on September 13, 2016.

1. The **Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment** presented the following items to the Board:

- Recommendation to modify Devon Island muskox total allowable harvest (decision).
- M'Clintock Channel polar bear 2016 research update (information).
- Gulf of Boothia polar bear 2016 research update (information).
- Western Hudson Bay polar bear 2016 research update (information).
- Prince Charles Island caribou die-off update (information).

2. **Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board**

- Prince Charles Island caribou die-off recommendations (decision).

3. **Fisheries and Oceans Canada** presented the following items to the Board:

- Turbot total allowable catch recommendations (decision).
- Recovery Strategy for Northern and spotted wolffish, and Management Plan for Atlantic wolffish (decision).

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Operational updates:

Marine Mammals:

a) Narwhal:

- The 2016/17 narwhal tags (including carryover tags) and information packages have been distributed to all communities, with the exception of 20 carry over tags to Arctic Bay (45 of 65 carry over tags have been sent to that community).

b) Walrus:

- Twenty (23) Licences and hunt packages have been issued to walrus sport hunt outfitters in Hall Beach (8) and Coral Harbour (15). Nineteen (19) hunts are planned for July and August 2016; one hunt is planned for August into September; 2 hunts are planned for September; and one hunt is planned for September into October.

c) Bowhead:

- Five communities are confirmed as hosts for the 2016 bowhead hunts: Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, Igloodik, Arviat and Coral Harbour. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has indicated that Igloodik and Pangnirtung have carried out successful bowhead hunts.

Arctic Char:

d) Pangnirtung Arctic Char Fishery:

- The 2016 Arctic char summer fishery in Cumberland Sound opened on August 3, 2016. The Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization did not allocate quotas for waterbodies on the south side of Cumberland Sound, because of ice in the Sound.

e) Other Exploratory Arctic Char Fisheries:

- The start of the 2016 exploratory Arctic char fishery in Pond Inlet was delayed until late July due to ice conditions. Data collection is ongoing. Joanna Panipak from Fisheries and Oceans Canada Resource Management in Iqaluit will be traveling to Pond Inlet to provide some support for sampling.

Greenland Halibut:

f) Offshore:

- Nunavut sub-allocation decisions have been finalized for Greenland halibut (turbot) in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Divisions 0A and 0B (Baffin Bay and Davis Strait). The Nunavut allocation in Division 0B is 2850 tonnes. Five vessels have been fishing Nunavut sub-allocations in Division 0B, and have harvested 1531.428 tonnes. Vessels have now moved north to fish in Division 0A. The Nunavut allocation in Division 0A is 8000 tonnes.

g) Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area:

- The 2016 Cumberland Sound ice turbot fishery went from February 3 to May 6. 333.561 tonnes, or 735,368 pounds round weight, was harvested by 69 fishers. The total allowable harvest for the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area is 500 tonnes.
- The licence for the 2016 Cumberland Sound small vessel turbot fishery was issued on July 26, 2016. The licence is for 166.439 tonnes of Turbot, which is the remainder of the total allowable harvest TAH after the ice fishery. There is one vessel on the licence.

Shrimp:

- No harvesting of Nunavut shrimp allocations has taken place.

4. **Environment Canada** presented the following items to the Board:

- Species at Risk program update (information).

5. **Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated:**

No submissions were presented for this meeting.

The next Regular Meeting of the NWMB will be held in Pond Inlet on November 30, 2016. Please refer to the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) for updates.

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