

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING No.1

DECEMBER 12 - 15, 1994
FRESHWATER INSTITUTE/DFO - WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Members and Staff:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Andy Theriault	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
David Igutsaq	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Marius Tungilik	Member
Malachi Arreak	Member
David Aglukark	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Keith Hay	Biologist (Bowhead Knowledge Study)

Absent:

Kevin McCormick	Member (Prior commitments)
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Guests:

G. Burton Ayles	Regional Director General - DFO
Redmond Clarke	A/Regional Director, F&HM
Larry deMarch	A/Dir Cons/Protection/Nat.Aff.
Robert Moshenko	Manager, Fisheries Mgmt Div.
David Moshenko	Coordinator Native Affairs
Jim Reist	Leader, Fish Research Section
Rob Stewart	Leader, MM Research Section
Dan Topolniski	Economics Branch
Roger Peet	Mgr. Fisheries Research Division
Stuart Innes	Research Scientist
Brian Wong	Policy Advisor - Ottawa
Don Vincent	Fisheries Advisor - DRR
Bert Dean	NTI - Hunter Support Program

1. Call to Order

The Chairman convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with an opening prayer by David Aglukark. The Chairman thanked the members for attending, Gordon Koshinsky for arranging the meeting, and DFO for the invitation to use the Freshwater Institute.

2. Review/Approval of Agenda

The Chairman referred the members to both the general agenda of events for the week as provided by DFO, plus the detailed agenda pertaining to two days of Board Meetings. **(Resolution 95-058)**

(Resolution 95-059) Resolution for continuation of Iqaluit meeting.

3. Welcome by DFO Regional Director General

The Director General welcomed the Board on behalf of Brian Tobin, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to the Regional Headquarters of the Central and Arctic Region. He noted how important the Board was, representing both the Inuit and the Government. Cooperative Boards formerly advised Government but today cooperative Boards make decisions. He noted that he had been involved in two major ground-breaking initiatives in the Arctic, the issuing of the first bowhead whale license in the Inuvialuit Region and the formation of the NWMB. He discussed the large number of staff that work for DFO and wanted to explain how the day to day operation would work in relation to the NWMB. He noted that the first point of contact for all day-to-day operational issues is Tim Surette, DFO's Area Manager in Iqaluit. Robert Moshenko is the Region's designated coordinator in respect to all Nunavut issues and also serves as Tim Surette's alternate in Winnipeg. For matters requiring more senior management attention, the Board should talk to himself, the Regional Director General. Of course, access to the Minister is always open to the Board. It was also noted that Brian Wong was the person to contact in the Ottawa office. The Director General then went on to discuss various issues related to the Board:

DFO Programs - Central and Arctic Region, a brief review of activities such as the Biological sciences; contaminants, water quality, hydrography, habitat management. food inspection, fishing vessel insurance and the harbours program.

DFO Restructuring - The Director General reviewed the activities involved in restructuring the department and the reductions that were being contemplated. It was noted that the Department wanted to emphasize the Oceans part of the mandate, hence the new Oceans Act and Oceans Policy, which the Department is proposing. Reference was made to a Memorandum of Intent between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of the Environment (Copy

provided) which may affect the Board. Some Board members felt that changes were occurring too quickly when the Board is just getting started

Management Plans - Management plans set out the rationale and agenda by which the Department manages marine mammals and fish stocks. Several examples of management plans were provided to the Board such as the Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan and the Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Plan.

Bowhead - Brief discussion on the bowhead kill in Igloodik and the Board's concern that no charges had been laid.

Research Funds - It was noted that a process had to be developed for accessing research funds. Developing research priorities was another matter that the Board and DFO had to address. The Board was provided with a budget breakdown for implementation funding provided DFO. The Chairman noted that it was important to get community opinions on research priorities.

International Issues - In this area, topics such as the Canada/Greenland Joint Commission on Beluga and Narwhal were discussed.

Fisheries Development Programs - It was noted that funding for fisheries development programs is routed through the Economic Development Agreement. The Board will be advised of all license applications related to this program, prior to issuance. Board members noted several matters of concern in this area. These concerns included, the short notices of meetings relating to the offshore fisheries, and the difficulty of monitoring fishing activities offshore. It was also noted that the current EDA program is almost finished and there will be discussions on a new program.

SE Baffin Beluga - It was noted that the Board must assess and respond to the management plan/report. It was also noted that the Board will need to activate this matter soon because the DFO variation notice was only for 1994 and the new season is drawing near.

Consultation with Communities - DFO will continue to consult with the communities with respect to issuance of fishing licenses; however it is ultimately the Board's responsibility.

4. Requests for Funding

Bowhead Knowledge Study Budget Proposal - The Board reviewed the Bowhead Knowledge Study budget as approved by the Bowhead Knowledge Committee. A brief report of Bowhead Knowledge Study Steering Committee meeting held in Iqaluit was provided by biologist, Keith Hay. The Board members

had questions regarding the budget and how the work and meetings would proceed. **(Resolution 95-060)**

Population Dynamics of Polar Bear in Western Hudson Bay - This proposal was discussed at the Taloyoak meeting and agreed in principle. No further questions or discussions. Approved **(Resolution 95-061)**

Arctic Bay Narwhal Proposal - Ikajuktit HTA - A proposal to attempt to do a stock identification of narwhal by photography. The Board discussed this proposal at length, there were concerns with the fact that this was a three year program. There were also concerns that narwhal may not be a high priority stock and that this proposal had not been vetted by DFO. The Board felt that they needed more information to make a decision. A suggestion was made that Stuart Innes was aware of this project and could provide more details. It was agreed, and Stuart Innes was called in to provide more background on the proposed study. He noted that the HTA was interested in obtaining this information as the use of narwhal is of major importance to Arctic Bay hunters. They are noting a reduction in animals each year and are concerned about sustainability of the population. The Board decided to return this item to the agenda for the next meeting in Arviat. The Executive Director was requested to obtain more information from Arctic Bay regarding this proposal, and to notify Arctic Bay that the Board is reviewing their proposal. Stuart Innes was invited to elaborate further on how the project would assist the management activities of the Board.

Ellsmere Island National Park Reserve Funding Request - This is an ecological study about the interaction of wolves, peary caribou and muskox within the park. It was felt that this may not be a high priority program for the NWMB. It was decided that the Board send a letter stating that the Board had reviewed the proposal but wanted more time to weigh this proposal against other proposals being submitted for funding for next year.

Harvest Study Budget - Discussion on the need to establish a harvest study budget for the 1994-95 fiscal year. Board approved budget. **(Resolution 95-062)**

5. New Business

Nunavut Hunter Support Program - Bert Dean - Bert provided a status report on the Hunter Support Program. He noted that the program would grow and change. It is hoped that assisted hunters will become providers for the needy families in the communities. It was noted that a review of the program will occur in the fall of 1995. Board members had many questions on the program and financing of same. The Board was provided with the Hunter Support Program Policy and TimeTable. Gordon Koshinsky asked whether implications for increased harvesting

(resource pressure) had been considered when designing this program. Apparently they had not considered this aspect.

Discussion Paper on Research - Gordon Koshinsky noted that Kevin McCormick had provided the Board with a draft discussion paper on research funded by the Board. A summary of this paper had been provided to the Board to assist in its review. Three draft Resolutions were provided to assist the Board in getting the policy in place. Gordon Koshinsky noted that item 5.17 of the Contract notes that the 11 million dollar research fund is to pay for the conduct of research proposed by the Government of Canada or the Government of the Northwest Territories and approved by the Board. When the Board does call for research proposals, the Board will have to remember this section of the Implementation Contract. **(Resolution 95-063 thru 065)**

Harvest Study - Dr. Fikret Berkes of the University of Manitoba, the consultant contracted by the Board to design the Harvest Study was invited to meet with the Board. Berkes gave a brief resume of his background and related projects he had conducted. He indicated to the Board that he would be looking at a harvest data/commercial value type design for the Board's study possibly utilizing a Geographical Information System (GIS) approach. Malachi Arreak offered to make a search for unpublished data from the previous BRIA harvest studies. It was decided that Gordon Koshinsky be appointed Chairman of the Harvest Study Steering Committee, and that Carol Churchward be appointed Secretary to the Committee. **(Resolution 95-066)**

Polar Bear Management Agreements - The Chairman noted that problems had developed regarding these agreements in several communities, with too many female bears being harvested. The Department of Renewable Resources has introduced a male/female tag system to the communities and this was causing some concern. The Department has been negotiating with the communities to resolve this issue. It was noted that these concerns will have to be addressed when the Management Agreements are re-negotiated. It was suggested that the Board participate fully in the next round of negotiations. Members had numerous comments and concerns regarding this topic.

Second Review/Sanikiluaq TEKMS Study - Request for Funding - The Chairman noted that this request had been reviewed at the Iqaluit meeting; however no final decision had been made. Considerable discussion followed on the project and the funding for same. The final agreement was that an offer of financial assistance would be made by the Board however it was to be noted that this would be "one time only" funding, not to exceed half the identified request, and with definite product guarantees required. **(Resolution 95-067)**

Logo Contest - The Chairman reviewed the logo contest rules with the Board members. Selection of winners was conducted.

Mission Statement - Gordon Koshinsky presented a first draft of a mission statement. This was reviewed by the Board. Comments and changes were indicated. Malachi Arreak and Gordon Koshinsky redrafted the document, which was then reviewed and approved. **(Resolution 95-068)**

Communication Strategy - The Chairman brought up the need for the Board to have a Communication Strategy, for both proactive and reactive purposes. After considerable discussion, the Chairman and Executive Director were directed to develop a strategy for review by the Board.

Basic Needs Level For Beluga, Narwhal and Walrus - A need to obtain an extension on the deadline for this exercise was identified. It was noted that at least a six-month extension was required to allow for proper research and evaluation. **(Resolution 95-069)**

It was noted that a resolution was required to request DFO for an options paper on the use of historical data for determination of the basic needs level for beluga, narwhal and walrus. **(Resolution 95-070)**

6. Old Business

Southeast Baffin Beluga Committee Report - The Chairman noted that this item had extended through three Board meetings and needed to be finalized. Recommendations 1 and 10 were reviewed again by the Board. It was noted that the Committee recommendations had been accepted by the three communities involved and had been acknowledged by the Minister of Fisheries and Ocean. Gordon Koshinsky provided the Board with a two-page decision prompter to assist in finalizing this item. **(Resolution 95-071 thru 074)**

Review of Amendments to the Migratory Birds Convention Act - The Chairman noted that Kevin McCormick was not available for the meeting and he probably had the most knowledge on the subject. This item was discussed at the Lake Harbour meeting but not enough time was spent to fully understand the issues. It was noted that most Inuit would like to be able to legally harvest migratory birds and eggs in the springtime. Andy Theriault offered to set up a conference call with Kevin McCormick or with someone else knowledgeable about the Act.

Report On a Meeting with Chairman of COSEWIC - Andy Theriault reported on a meeting with Chris Shank the Chairman of COSEWIC. The working relationship between the NWMB and COSEWIC was discussed. Mr. Shank had noted that new

legislation was being contemplated regarding endangered species. It was agreed that the Committee would provide more information to the Board in the future.

Contribution Agreement with GNWT - The Board was presented with a draft contribution agreement for the Board to provide research funds to the Department of Renewable Resources. The Executive Director noted several required changes. It was recommended that the Board obtain legal advice before finalizing.

Walrus Co-management Plan - Gordon Koshinsky provided the Board with a Decision Prompter to lead the discussion on the need to develop a co-management plan for walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area. The requests from Igloodik and other communities for walrus sport hunting is making this an important issue. The Board spent a considerable amount of time going over the prompter and providing comments. It was decided to proceed with development of a co-management plan and conduct community consultation. It was requested that this item be directed to the Board's lawyer for comment.

(Resolution 95-075)

Request to Allow Non-Resident Hunter One Caribou - The Board received a request to allow a non-resident hunter to hunt one caribou for a school program. The Board suggested that the hunt be approved in principle contingent on the approval of the Amarok Hunters and Trappers and contingent on the Department of Renewable Resources approval to issue a special licence for this hunt. Considerable doubt was expressed that the latter was possible.

(Resolution 95-076)

7. Other Business

The Chairman informed the Board that NTI had submitted an invoice for the work they had done in preparation for implementing the NWMB. This invoice for \$17,345.99 had been paid.

Southeast Baffin Co-management Committee Financial Statement-The residual balance of \$6,006.00 had been returned by the contractor to the Board

Conference Call 10:45 - A conference call with Kevin McCormick (DOE) was held to discuss changes to the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Kevin provided an update on the negotiations regarding the Act and answered questions and concerns. Kevin was requested to provide a status report indicating what the agreed changes to-date includes.

The Board held an in camera session Tuesday morning to discuss administrative matters. Resolutions followed from the in camera session.

(Resolution 95-077) In camera session

(Resolution 95-078) In camera session closed

(Resolution 95-079) Budget revision

(Resolution 95-080) Benefit package for employees

Member Topics - It was suggested that minutes be recorded by staff other than the Executive Director for future meetings.

The Board reviewed the need to complete job descriptions for a Director of Wildlife and an Executive Assistant. It was agreed completion of these descriptions and staffing of the positions was an urgent requirement.

(Resolution 95-081)

Note: The Department of Fisheries and Oceans invited the Board members to a working supper for Tuesday evening. Issues discussed were:

*A process for DFO preparing for NWMB meetings and following up on action items.

*DFO planning process for stock assessment and research, planning priorities and research funds.

* Atlantic Fisheries issues.

*Basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus.

Wednesday 14 December - The day was devoted to a tour of the Freshwater Institute and the various work underway related to fisheries research and management in Nunavut. The morning was devoted to the fish research group, the early afternoon to the marine mammal research group, and the late afternoon the contaminants research group.

Meeting Adjourned (Resolution 95-082)

Minutes Approved By: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____