

**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING No. 2012-003 HIGHLIGHTS  
Iqaluit, Nunavut**

1. Regular Meeting No. 2012-003 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was conducted in Iqaluit on September 10, 2012.
2. The Canadian Wildlife Service presented a briefing note regarding notification of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) status assessment of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper and the Grizzly Bear. Both species were assessed in May 2012. COSEWIC recommends that the Buff-breasted Sandpiper be listed as Special Concern because the species has suffered big declines due to market hunting. COSEWIC recommends that the Grizzly Bear be listed as Special Concern because the Southern distribution of the species has declined by over 50%.
3. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note updating the NWMB on the status of aquatic species already assessed by COSEWIC, including; beluga whale, narwhal, bowhead, atlantic walrus, harbour porpoise, killer whale, roughhead grenadier, roundnose grenadier, Acadian redfish, deepwater redfish, and the northern bottlenose whale.
4. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note about the Atlantic Fin Whale's COSEWIC status. The Fin Whale (Atlantic population) was assessed by the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a species of Special Concern in 2005 and added to the Wildlife Species at Risk List in 2006.
5. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans presented a briefing note about the Thorny Skate's COSEWIC status. The Thorny Skate was assessed by COSEWIC as a species of Special Concern in 2012. COSEWIC proposes a listing of Special Concern for the Thorny Skate because the southern population is in decline, whereas the northern population has been increasing. While the species as a whole does not meet the criteria for a Threatened Status, declines and range contractions in the south are causes for concern.
6. The chair of the Nattivak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization in Qikiqtarjuaq presented a briefing note requesting that NWMB and DFO permit Nattivak HTO

to conduct the 100 MT exploratory turbot fishery for 2012 both inside and outside the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) in the waters adjacent to Broughton Island. The Board will be sending its recommendation to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

7. The Manager of the Research Division of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment presented a briefing note about the results of the 2009-2010 Aerial Surveys of the Foxe Basin Polar Bear population. The survey estimated the overall abundance at about 2,580 bears. The NWMB expressed a desire to see Inuit Elders included in the survey trips, and the inclusion of more IQ into the polar bear population studies.
8. NWMB's Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist presented a briefing note on behalf of Arctic Bay's Ikajutiit Hunters' and Trappers' Organization requesting credit for unused polar bear tags. Based on the letter from the Government of Nunavut, the Board asked for more information to determine the number of unused tags owed to the Ikajutiit HTO.
9. The next Regular Meeting of the NWMB will be held the first week of December in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Please refer to the NWMB's website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)) for updates.

**For further information please contact:**

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