

**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING No. 2012-004 HIGHLIGHTS
Iqaluit, Nunavut**

1. Regular Meeting No. 2012-004 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was conducted in Iqaluit on December 4/5, 2012.
2. Environment Canada presented a briefing note 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. 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.
3. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the Kingnait Fiord char fishery.
4. Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the exploratory char fisheries management plans for Igloodik.
5. Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note informing the Board of the outcomes of the 2012 Walrus Sport Hunt. Together, Coral Harbour and Hall Beach harvested a total of four walruses in 2012.
6. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board’s Director of Wildlife Management presented an information item regarding the Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management – Memorandum of Understanding.
7. 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.
8. The Director of Wildlife Management presented a letter received 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 Canada 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.
9. The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board presented an update to the Board regarding the most recent Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board annual general meeting, held in

Cambridge Bay. Along with the election of a new executive; topics such as 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 Canada representatives at their meetings were discussed at the annual general meeting.

10. 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 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.
11. The next Regular Meeting of the NWMB will be held the second week of March in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Please refer to the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) for updates.

For further information please contact:

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