

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 15

WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 1995

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
David Igutsaq	Member
Marius Tungilik	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director of Wildlife Management

Not Available:

Kevin McCormick	Member (with cause)
Malachi Arreak	Member (with cause)
David Aglukark	Member (with cause)

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Ben Kovic, convened the Conference Call at 1:00 p.m.

2. Research Proposals from Government Agencies

The Chairperson opened discussion on the research proposals yet outstanding from the recent Board Meeting at Pond Inlet. Reference was made to Dan Pike's summary and recommendations just transmitted, albeit not yet translated. Jim Noble noted the lack of a quorum, since participation in the Conference Call was one Member short. Gordon Koshinsky suggested that if participants could reach consensus, other Members could be polled on that consensus, in hopes of achieving a defacto quorum position. It was noted that the Board has taken decisions through this type of polling on some previous occasions. Participants agreed this was a reasonable approach.

Following discussion, participants agreed that the recommended research package as put forward by Dan Pike be supported and approved, with one exception and two provisos:

- That the proponents for the marine mammal diseases research proposal (#6) be invited to provide further justification as to why NWMB should fund this work.
- That the egg-harvesting research proposal (#8) not be approved, but that the proponents be invited to provide further evidence of the feasibility of egging as a waterfowl management measure, assurance that eggs would not be wasted, and endorsement from the Canadian Wildlife Service.
- That the proponents for the grizzly bear research proposal (#9) be very clearly advised that NWMB support will be in respect to one specific item (1995 collaring for satellite transmitters), and is not to be interpreted as an endorsement for, or participation in, the overall long-term project.

Jim Noble was charged with the task of polling other Board Members, as required, to seek concurrence with this position. If not successful, an alternative method for Board treatment of the research proposals will need to be devised, since time is very much of the essence.

3. Inuit Turbot Quota: Allocation of Residual

The Chairperson made reference to a request from the Baffin Regional Hunters and Trappers Association, just received, for the NWMB to ask the DFO Minister to allocate the 1995 residual (400 tonne) Inuit Turbot Quota to the BRHTA on a one-year pilot basis. The BRHTA would be looking to charter a vessel to take the harvest, via one or more Regional communities.

Messrs. Ikkidluak, Igutsaq and Tungilik supported the request. Mr. Koshinsky indicated that he would not stand in the way if there were widespread support. However he made the following observations:

- We might jeopardize the Inuit turbot allocation if we do nothing more positive or imaginative with it than make it available to a foreign vessel, even if that vessel does fish on behalf of Inuit.
- We have gained credibility from taking a conservative and go-slow approach to developing the Inuit turbot fishery. We want to be very careful not to jeopardize the Pangnirtung winter fishery. There is no magic in the present quota; insofar as the Davis Strait area is concerned it is a very arbitrary number and we should not feel particularly safe about it. We have no reason to be confident that this amount of fish really is available to be harvested on a long-term sustainable basis.
- We should not proceed without the concurrence of the Pangnirtung winter fishermen. Substantial benefits to Inuit should be a prerequisite for any such arrangement.

The majority opinion of the Conference Call participants was in favour of the BRHTA turbot allocation proposal.

4. Honourarium Rate

Some Members expressed concern about the stalled status of the attempt to increase the Honorarium rate. The Executive Director was requested to send a formal submission to the Implementation Panel; he in turn requested input from Members in preparing it.

5. Workshop with DFO

Tentative plans remain to have the workshop with DFO in Ottawa as soon as it can realistically be arranged. The possibility will be considered of holding a Board Meeting concurrently, and also of conducting interviews for the Director of Finance and Administration position at the same time.

6. Adjournment

The Conference Call adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved by: _____ **Date** _____
Chairperson