

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. 54

Ekaluktutiak, December 11-13, 2007

Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson/CEO
Robert Moshenko	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Peter Awa	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Willie Nakoolak	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Joe Justus	Director of Wildlife Management
Tom Demcheson	Director of Finance and Admin
Erin Calder	Wildlife Biologist
Paul Frame	Wildlife Admin Biologist
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter
Henry Ohokannuak	Interpreter

Not Available:

Pitseolak Alainga	Member
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Other Participants at Various Times:

Raymond Ningeocheak	NTI, Second Vice President, Rankin
Glenn Williams	NTI, Iqaluit
Keith Pelley	DFO, Iqaluit
Sandra Corchesne	DFO, Iqaluit
Holly Cleator	DFO, Winnipeg
Jon Davis	DFO, Ottawa
Tyler Givoanna	DFO, Winnipeg
Jason Akearok	CWS, Iqaluit
Leslie Wakelyn	BQCMB, Yellowknife
Wendy Avalak	Chairperson, Ekaluktutiak HTO
Gabriel Nirlungayuk	Ekaluktutiak
Graham White	Toronto (U of T)

December 11, 2007

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The Chairperson welcomed the members, staff and guests to the 54th meeting of the NWMB in Cambridge Bay.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-120**) to adopt the agenda as presented.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Kevin McCormick recused himself from agenda item No. 8.

4. Approval of Past Minutes

Item deferred to Conference Call 111

5. Financial and Administrative Business

A. Interim Activity Report

Director, Finance and Administration presented the interim activity/financial report for the period 01 April to 31 October, 2007. The report included a summary of Board results and achievements and summary financial information for the reporting period. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-121**) to approve the interim activity report as presented.

B. Revised Workplan and Budget

Director, Finance and Administration presented a revised work plan which reflected the additional funding that the NWMB will be receiving from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC). The additional INAC funds allocated for HTO and RWO operations will have no impact on NWMB activities. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-122**) to allocate the new funds (\$250,000.00) toward the new harvest study.

C. Variance Report

Director, Finance and Administration presented the financial variance report up to 30 November, 2007. The Director projected a surplus of approximately \$200,000. The Board approved (**Resolution 2007-123**) the variance report as presented.

6. Chairperson, Staff and Members' Report

A. Chairperson/CEO Report

A summary of activities from 21 September to 11 December 2007 and priority issues for the next quarter were presented.

B. Chief Operating Officer Report

A summary of activities from 1 July to 1 December 2007 and priority issues for the next quarter were presented.

C. Director, Finance and Administration Report

A summary of activities from 1 September to 15 November 2007 and priority issues for the next quarter were presented.

D. Director, Wildlife Management Report

A summary of activities from 28 August to 16 November 2007 and priority issues for the next quarter were presented.

E. Wildlife Management Biologist Report

A summary of activities from September to 14 November 2007 was presented.

F. Wildlife Administrative Biologist Report

A summary of activities from 01 September to 16 November 2007 was presented.

G. Legal Advisor Report

A summary of activities from 29 August to 20 November 2007 and priority issues for the next quarter were presented.

H. Member Reports and Concerns

No reports or concerns were tabled.

7. Assignments: Progress, Review and Discussion

The status of tasks arising from recent NWMB meetings was reviewed.

8. Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service

A. SARA-NLCA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The legal advisor made a presentation regarding the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the MOU between the NWMB and the relevant federal government departments. The MOU is intended to harmonize the consultation and listing processes required under SARA and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Both NTI and GN were also involved in the development of the MOU. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-124**) to approve the MOU as presented.

B. Proposed Listing of Grizzly Bear as Special Concern

Grizzly Bear was assessed as Special Concern by COSEWIC in May 2002. EC sought NMWB approval for the proposed listings in October 2004. However, the NWMB did not approve the proposed listings because IQ had not been included in the assessments and adequate community consultation had not been undertaken.

Environment Canada (EC) staff summarized the results from its recent community consultations:

Kugluktuk HTO supported the proposed listing.

Cambridge Bay HTO had no formal position on the issue

Rankin Inlet HTO indicated that adequate scientific information was not available and that more public consultation was required.

Baker Lake HTO indicated that there was no need to list the species and that more public consultation was required.

Arviat HTO did not provide a written response.

NWMB staff reviewed the history of this listing proposal, the species' status, relevant portions of SARA and regional wildlife research priorities regarding grizzly bear.

See: In-camera Meeting No.7 Resolution 2007-159

C. Proposed Listing of Wolverine as Special Concern

Wolverine was assessed as Special Concern by COSEWIC in May 2003. EC sought NMWB approval for the proposed listings in October 2004. However, the NWMB did not approve the proposed listings because ATK had not been included in the assessments and adequate community consultation had not been undertaken.

Environment Canada staff again summarized the results from its recent community consultations:

Kugluktuk HTO supported the proposed listing.

Cambridge Bay HTO had no formal position on the issue

Rankin Inlet HTO indicated that adequate scientific information was not available and that more public consultation was required.

Baker Lake HTO indicated that there was no need to list the species and that more public consultation was required.

Arviat HTO did not provide a written response.

NWMB staff reviewed the history of this listing proposal, the species' status, relevant portions of SARA, and regional wildlife priorities regarding Wolverine.

See: In-camera Meeting No.7 Resolution 2007-160

D. Proposed Listing of Ivory Gull as Endangered

EC has, in the past, briefed the NWMB on its activities and consultations relating to Ivory Gull. It appears that the Ivory Gull population in northern Canada has declined by approximately 80% over the past couple of decades.

The Ivory Gull was assessed as Endangered by COSEWIC in May 2006. EC sought NWMB approval for the proposed listing of Ivory Gull as Endangered.

See: In-camera Meeting No.7 Resolution 2007-161

E. Proposed Listing of Rusty Blackbird as Special Concern

The Rusty Blackbird was assessed as Special Concern by COSEWIC in May 2006 because the population has declined due to impacts on its winter range in the U.S.

See: In-camera Meeting No.7 Resolution 2007-162

F. Harlequin Duck National Management Plan

The Harlequin Duck (Eastern Population) is listed as a species of Special Concern under the SARA. Pursuant to SARA, a national Management Plan must be developed for the species. Also, pursuant to the NLCA, such plans must be approved by the NWMB. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-125**) to defer consideration of the plan until a translated copy of the plan is submitted to the NWMB.

9. Fisheries and Oceans

A. Recovery Strategy for Blue Whale

The Blue Whale (Northwest Atlantic population) was designated as Endangered by COSEWIC in May 2002. It was added to Schedule 1 of SARA in January 2005. As required by SARA, a recovery strategy for the species has been prepared. Pursuant

to the NLCA, the NWMB must approve the strategy. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-126**) to approve the recovery strategy.

B. Conservation Harvesting Plans for NAFO Divisions 0A and 0B

DFO has developed conservation harvesting plans for the above-noted fishing zones. A Conservation Harvesting Plan (CHP) is a condensed summarized version of the management plan; no additional items have been added except the conversion table for Greenland Halibut. Conversion factors are used as a quota monitoring tool and shows the cost is of various types of harvested fish. The Board decided to defer decision on this issue until the next conference call or regular scheduled meeting.

C. Cambridge Bay Char Management Plan

DFO is preparing an integrated fisheries management plan for Cambridge Bay Arctic Char. Further details will be brought to the Board as the plan is developed.

D. Modified Fish-out Program for Tail Lake, Doris North Project

At NWMB Conference Call 107(12 July 2007) the NWMB approved:

- The DFO “general fish out protocol for lakes to be lost due to mining developments” for both the Meadowbank and the Doris North gold developments;
- the harvest of all fish species from the water bodies identified as Second Portage Lake, Third Portage Lake, Vault Lake and Tail Lake in the DFO submissions using the “General fish-out protocol for lakes to be lost due to mining developments”; and
- the non-quota limitations (NQL) pertaining to the use of fishing gear as described in section 3.1.3.1 *Fishing Gear and Deployment* of the “General fish-out protocol for lakes to be lost due to mining developments” pertaining to the use of trap nets and gill nets.

After a review of the proposal by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB), it was determined that Tail Lake does not need to be completely dewatered. As a result, a revised fish-out protocol for Tail Lake was submitted to reflect this change.

The revised fish-out protocol differs from the DFO general fish-out protocol in two ways:

1. Tail Lake will not be completely dewatered; and
2. All species of fish will not be removed from the lake (ninespine stickleback will likely remain).

The Board decided to defer consideration of the revised plan until Board staff could obtain more information.

10. Department of Environment (Nunavut): Issues/Decisions

Nil Report

11. NWMB Internal Items

A. Polar Bear Program Review

The NWMB, in cooperation with NTI and DoE (GN) have agreed, in principle, that a comprehensive review of the Polar Bear management system in Nunavut should be undertaken. The intent of the review is to seek alternate approaches to the management of Polar Bears. The three parties have agreed to share the cost of the review. The board decided to defer this item until more qualified consultants can be found.

B. Wildlife Regional Priorities

Every three years the NWMB conducts workshops in each of the three regions of Nunavut to obtain community views on priority wildlife management and research issues. The NWMB held workshops in Rankin Inlet, Yellowknife and Iqaluit. The resultant lists of wildlife priorities will be used to determine the research projects which will be most beneficial to Nunavut and how funding from the NWRT and Studies Fund could be most effectively allocated.

C. Community Based Management for Narwhal and Beluga

In March 2008 the final 5 year trial period will be completed for narwhal and 3 year trial period will be completed for beluga. The Board will be required to present the Minister of DFO with recommendations on the future of community based management. A chronology of key events in the evolution of CBM was presented for the members' information.

D. Community Based Management Working Group Review

The five year review of Community Based Management (CBM) in Nunavut is due to the Minister of Fisheries & Oceans in spring 2008. The CBM Working Group, comprised of representatives of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO), met on 02 October 2007 to discuss a way forward.

NWMB staff suggested moving the present quota based system into the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and Basic Needs Level (BNL) system as per the Nunavut

Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Under this system, TAH and BNL will be established for each stock of narwhal and beluga in the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA). Pat Hall (DFO) and Joe Justus (NWMB) were tasked to create a draft report of how this approach would be implemented. Hall and Justus expect to have the first draft completed early in the New Year.

E. 2008 Walrus Sport Hunt Allocations

In October 2007, a call letter was sent to all RWOs and HTOs seeking applications for walrus sport hunts. The NWMB received three applications for sport hunts.

Hall Beach HTO requested an allocation of 15 tags.

Grise Fiord HTO requested an allocation of 10 tags.

Willie Keatainak, from Salluit Quebec, requested an allocation of 8 tags.

On 30 November, 2007 the Igloolik HTO made a motion for a two-year moratorium on walrus sport hunts and tourism to determine if walrus will return to their traditional areas near Igloolik.

See: In-camera Meeting No. 7 Resolution No. 2007-163, 164 and Conference Call No.111 Resolution 2008-002

F. Inter-jurisdictional Wildlife Co-operation

The Director, Wildlife Management represents the Board on the Chairpersons' Co-management Advisory Committee established under the interjurisdictional "Bluenose Caribou Herds Management Co-operation Agreement." The Agreement was drafted in 2000 but never ratified. The Advisory Committee is intended to share information and co-ordinate herd management among the various wildlife management boards. It is presently overseeing the implementation of a general management plan for the greater Bluenose herd which will be complemented by specific action plans for each of the three distinct component herds (Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East).

It is proposed that member organizations enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the committee, its mandate and responsibilities. The general theme of the MOU is the exchange of information and co-operation among the member management boards with respect to shared wildlife populations. Its purpose is to foster co-operation amongst member organizations and guide committee members in reaching consensus on shared wildlife issues. The MOU has been reviewed by the DWM and Legal Advisor to ensure conformance with NWMB policy and mandate. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-127**) to approve the MOU as presented.

G. NWMB Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries

Over the past 18 months, the NWMB has developed a comprehensive policy for the allocation of marine fisheries within and adjacent to Nunavut. The final draft policy reflects substantive input from all of the relevant agencies and stakeholders. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-128**) to approve the draft allocation policy.

12. NTI Wildlife Division

A. Bowhead Whale TAH

According to the most recent analysis of DFO information the Eastern Arctic population of Bowhead is substantially larger than originally thought. DFO has determined that a conservative Potential Biological Removal (PBR) for this population is 10 animals. The projected annual harvest of four animals (Nunavut – 2; Greenland – 1; Nunavik -1) is well below the estimated PBR of 10 animals. NTI is seeking an allocation of two animals for 2008. The Board was troubled by the substantively different population estimates which were derived from the same survey data. The Board deferred their decision until the staff could analyze the data in greater detail.

13. Other Presentations

A. Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

A representative of the BQCMB provided an overview of the BQCMB mandate and current activities. The Board is concerned about the limited population information available for these herds and the level of mineral exploration and development which is occurring within the caribou range.

14. Executive Committee Report

Nil Report

15. Meetings, Workshops and Other Pertinent Events

Nil Report.

16. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-129**) to hold the next meeting in Iqaluit; from 04-06 March, 2008.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Minutes Approved by:


A/Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2007-120: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the agenda for Regular Meeting No.54 as presented.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Date: December 11, 2007

Resolution 2007-121: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the interim financial /activity report for the period 01 April to 31 October, 2007 as presented.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Awa
Date: December 11, 2007

Resolution 2007-122: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the allocation of the new operating funds (\$250,000) to the budget for the new harvest study and to approve the revised work plan and budget for the 2007-2008 year.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Awa
Date: December 11, 2007

Resolution 2007-123: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the financial variance report for the period 01 April to 30 November 2007, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Awa
Date: December 11, 2008

Resolution 2007-124: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered species under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk under the Species at Risk Act. The Board further recommended that the Minister should consider a public signing ceremony for the MOU.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried
Abstained: Harry Flaherty

Seconded by: Robert Moshenko
Date: December 11, 2007

Resolution 2007-125: RESOLVED that the NWMB defer further consideration of the national Management Plan for Harlequin Duck until it has received a translated copy of the plan.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty

Seconded by: Willie Nakoolak

Carried

Date: December 11, 2008

Resolution 2007-126: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Recovery Strategy for Blue Whale, Northwest Atlantic Population.

Moved by: Robert Moshenko

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak

Carried

Date: December 11, 2007

Abstained: Harry Flaherty, Peter Awa

Resolution 2007-127: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation on Wildlife Management Between Members of the Wildlife Management Boards Co-chairs Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Robert Moshenko

Seconded by: Peter Awa

Carried

Date: December 11, 2007

Resolution 2007-128: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Allocation Policy for Nunavut's Commercial Marine Fisheries.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak

Seconded by: Willie Nakoolak

Carried

Date: December 11, 2008

Resolution 2007-129: RESOLVED that the NWMB hold its next Regular Meeting in Iqaluit during the week of 04-06 March, 2008.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty

Seconded by: Willy Nakoolak

Carried

Date: December 11, 2008