

# NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

## Minutes Meeting No. 47

Iqaluit, November 28, 2006

### Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson/CEO
Paul Pemik	Member
Pitseolak Alainga	Member
Abraham Kaunak	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Tom Demcheson	Director of Finance and Administration
Joe Justus	Director of Wildlife Management
Erin Calder	Wildlife Biologist
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter

### Not Available:

Harry Flaherty	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
DFO Nominee	Vacant

### Other Participants at Various Times:

Andrejka Lokar	Land Claims Liaison Officer, DFO
Sandra Courchesne	Fisheries Management Technician, DFO
Siu-Ling Han	CWS/DOE, Iqaluit
Jason Akearok	CWS/DOE, Iqaluit
Grant Gilchrist	CWS/DOE, Yellowknife
Glenn Williams	NTI Wildlife Advisor

**Tuesday, November 28, 2006**

### 1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries

The Chairperson welcomed the Members, staff, and guests to the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NWMB in Iqaluit.

## **2. Agenda for Regular Meeting No. 46**

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-138**) to accept the agenda for Meeting No. 47 as presented.

## **3. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Issues/Decisions**

### **3.A Wolffish Recovery Strategy and Management Plan**

Sandra Courchesne of DFO reviewed the briefing note with the Members noting that the Board should review the Strategy and then DFO will look for approval. The NWMB's Legal Advisor noted that the NWMB does not have a policy on how to approve Species at Risk Recovery Strategies/Plans at the current time. The Board will have to see the full document and needs to know if wolffish occur both inshore and offshore. They will also have to know if there are any gear restrictions with regards to this species. There is also concern if the public needs to be consulted on these plans; if so, more time will be required to give the public full notice. DFO advised that there are no new gear restrictions recommended; community consultation was not considered a requirement. Bi-catch of wolffish is permitted, however, the fishing industry is requested to try and release any fish caught. It was further noted that it is up to the NWMB if there are to be any restrictions inshore. No further discussion was held on this item.

### **3.B Federal Government Decision to Not List Beluga Whale Under SARA**

Sandra Courchesne of DFO again reviewed the briefing note with the Members. It has been decided that beluga will be temporarily removed to allow more time for consultation with the communities and the NWMB. It was noted that no time lines were presented but that the Department will press forward to list these species. There will be a need to provide public notice and to properly advise all parties of this listing.

### **3.C 2005 Cumberland Sound Beluga Survey Results**

The briefing note was presented to the Members. It was noted that DFO Biologists did not feel confident with the survey conducted in 2005 due to weather problems. It is now difficult to compare the 1999 survey due to these problems in 2005. The NTI Wildlife Advisor noted that Pangnirtung currently has a quota and feel that the population is increasing. It is therefore most important that DFO and the NWMB find some means of resurveying this population. It was noted that the 1999 survey also included a ground survey and maybe this should be considered for a re-survey.

### **3.D Baffin Bay Narwhal Survey Analysis**

The briefing note was reviewed with the Members; aerial surveys were conducted over much of the narwhal summer habitat between 2002 and 2004. The Baffin Bay



narwhal population is thought to contain several sub-stocks. Admiralty Inlet sub-stock is estimated to contain about 5,322 narwhal; Eclipse Sound sub-stock is estimated at 18,732 narwhal; and the Somerset sub-stock is estimated at 28,000 narwhal. These surveys did not include Lancaster Sound, Barrow Strait and Peel Sound. With corrections for diving animals, an estimated 52,000 narwhal were estimated. It was noted that the Board would appreciate a standard deviation estimate with these figures in the future.

### **3.E Killer Whale Research**

With concerns regarding impacts on other marine mammals, a new research project was initiated in 2005/06 to study killer whales in the Canadian Arctic. A data base of old sighting was set up and recording devices were monitored in several locations. DFO has approximately 600 sighting records have been collected since the early 1800s to the present. Photographic records are also being collected, 2007 will see redeployment of recorders and an IQ project is also anticipated. Members asked if there were any estimates of the stock and whether they were different or similar stocks.

### **3.F Re-analysis of Bowhead Surveys and Genetics**

DFO conducted aerial surveys in the eastern Arctic 2002 through 2004; 2002 surveys produced the best results. With adjustments for diving whales, an estimated 7,309 bowheads occupied Eclipse Sound, Prince Regent Inlet, and Gulf of Boothia in 2002. This was a partial estimate as the surveys did not include east Baffin, Hudson Bay or Foxe Basin. There are some small genetic differences between the populations but there is not enough evidence to indicate two different stocks. DFO plans to re-analyze this information and present their findings to the NWMB early in 2007.

## **4. Environment Canada: Issues/Decisions**

### **Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)**

#### **4.A Ross Gull Recovery Strategy**

Jason Akearok (CWS) reviewed the briefing note with the Members. Little is known about this species anywhere in the world. Consultations were held in the Southern and Northern Baffin Regions. Inuit recognized the bird but did not know of any breeding areas. Staff of CWS met with the Resolute Bay HTA in January 2006 to discuss the bird and draft recovery strategy. A letter was sent to Resolute HTA in September 2006 asking for their thoughts on the Recovery Strategy which is to be completed in June 2007. There was no response from the HTA and no date set for review. CWS is now seeking NWMB endorsement of the Recovery Plan.

#### **4.B Eskimo Curlew Recovery Strategy**

CWS staff reviewed the briefing note with the Members. The Eskimo Curlew was listed as endangered on Schedule I of the Species at Risk Act when it came into force. There have been no confirmed sightings of the Curlew since the 1970s, and scientists suspect they are extinct. The draft Recovery Strategy indicates that "no recovery action is recommended for Eskimo Curlew." Kugluktuk was consulted as it was the only possible location for Nunavut and they did not feel it was necessary to consult on this bird, there was no concerns with the recovery strategy. The Board is now requested to provide any concerns or comments on this strategy and following this the Board will be asked for a decision.

#### **4.C Peregrine Falcons (Anatum) Recovery Strategy**

This population of falcons live below the tree line and there is general agreement among scientists and government that these birds do not breed in Nunavut. The draft recovery strategy does not apply to Nunavut and all proposed actions take place in southern jurisdictions. No community consultations are proposed, the Board is now requested to advise if there are any concerns with the strategy and whether they wish to be further consulted before the Minister makes a decision.

#### **4.D Surveillance of Avian Influenza in Wild Birds**

There are a number of different diseases that wild birds may carry, most cannot be transmitted to humans. A disease called "avian influenza" or bird flu is common in birds, only the avian influenza called Eurasian H5N1 is known to cause illness in humans. This type of flu has not been detected in any wild birds in Canada. The flu found in eider ducks is not the same and will be discussed in the next briefing.

#### **4.E Avian Cholera Detected and Growing Worse in Common Eiders**

Grant Gilchrist reviewed the briefing note with the Members. CWS is currently working at East Bay; east of Coral Harbour. Many common eiders nesting in Nunavut migrate to Greenland in the winter where there is a heavy harvest (approximately 100,000 birds). Two years ago avian cholera started and many birds died in this area, the only other area affected was in Quebec. Thirty-three hundred birds were found dead in the Coral Harbour area. This disease is not known to cause illness in humans and a brochure has been produced to explain this disease.

#### **4.F Snow Goose Regulation Changes**

CWS advises that numbers of snow geese in Nunavut have greatly increased over the past 30 years. Hunting regulations have been amended to increase harvest and to reduce goose numbers. CWS is now recommending further amendments to the regulations to increase the harvest. Consultations with the three regional wildlife organizations will occur and then the Department will report back to the NWMB and request a decision in March 2007.



#### **4.G Harlequin Duck Management Plan and Consultations**

CWS has consulted Nunavut communities which may occasionally see Harlequin ducks in their area. Kimmirut is the only known area where these birds may nest.

Harlequin ducks were designated Endangered in April 1990 by COSEWIC. A recovery plan was developed in 1995 for southern Canada populations. In 2001 the status of these birds was re-examined and designated Special Concern in May 2001. There is no habitat or harvesting prohibitions for these ducks under SARA, however, there has been a ban on hunting in the Atlantic Flyway since 1990. As per SARA, a national management plan is due by June 2008. Consultations will occur with Kimmirut, following this consultation and development of a revised national management plan the NWMB will be requested to approve the plan sometime in 2007.

#### **4.H Rusty Blackbird Listing of Special Concern**

The Rusty Blackbird was assessed by COSEWIC in May 2006 and proposed a listing of Special Concern due to habitat loss and disturbance in wintering grounds. There is now a requirement to develop a management plan within three years. In September 2006 three communities in Nunavut were contacted by letter to ask if there were any concerns with this listing (Arviat, Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk). CWS will soon be approaching the NWMB for a decision on the proposed listing and if the NWMB has any concerns it should contact CWS.

#### **4.I Ivory Gull Up-listing to Designation of Endangered**

CWS has recently learned from community consultations that Ivory Gulls have declined dramatically over the past 15-20 years. Between 2001 and 2004 more extensive consultations have occurred in four high Arctic communities (Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay and Pond Inlet). Surveys were conducted between 2002 and 2006 of all known breeding areas, survey results showed a decrease of up to 80% in the population. Six new colonies supporting approximately 500 birds were found further north and had probably not been found or counted previously. However, there is still concern that there may be up to a 65% decline from previous figures. Recent analysis suggests that Mercury levels in eggs of these gulls are very high. CWS plans to consult further with the communities on the up-listing of these birds.

### **5. NWMB Internal Items**

#### **5. A 100 Metric Tonne Turbot Re-Allocation**

The Chief Operating Officer advised the Members that the Board had originally approved a 100 tonne allocation for inshore fisheries development. As the season is almost over, the fishing industry is now requesting that this allocation be moved to the offshore as it highly unlikely that it will be utilized by the inshore fishery. DFO



has advised that Baffin Fisheries Coalition and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation have both gone over quota this season and is recommending that the 100 tonne inshore quota be applied against this over-harvest in the offshore. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-139**) to apply the 100 tonne inshore developmental quota against the over harvest of turbot in the offshore for the 2006 fishing season (16MT to QC and 84MT to BFC).

#### **5. B Delay of New Fisheries Allocation Policy and Status Quo for 2007**

The Chief Operating Officer advised the Members that plans to have the new Fisheries Allocation Policy ready for the start of the 2007 fishing season will need to be reviewed. Delays in both completion of the review of the Offshore Fishery and development and consultation of the new Fisheries Allocation Policy make it necessary to extend the time required to develop the new policy. It is now expected that the new Allocation Policy will have to be implemented for the 2008 fishing season. It was also recommended that the Board maintain the status quo for fisheries allocations for the 2007 season and advise the Industry of this decision. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-140**) to defer establishment of the Fisheries Allocation Policy for the 2007 fishing season and to maintain the status quo for fisheries allocations for the 2007 fishing season.

#### **5.C Participation on the Bluenose Advisory Committee**

The Director of Wildlife Management reviewed the briefing note with the Members. It was noted that certain populations of wildlife found in Nunavut cross jurisdictional boundaries and are harvested outside of the NSA. The NWMB has been asked to participate in a Chairpersons Co-management Advisory Committee established under an interjurisdictional "Bluenose Caribou Herd Management Co-operation Agreement." The purpose of this Committee is to share information and to co-ordinate herd management between the various management boards. Section 5.9.5 of the NLCA states that the NWMB will participate in such agreements. However, as the NWMB is a decision making authority unlike other wildlife boards, this puts the NWMB Chairperson or staff in a conflict of interest position. It was therefore recommended that the Director of Wildlife Management attend all future meetings and that a letter be drafted for him to present to the other Co-management Boards as an explanation of this decision. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-141**) that the Chairperson of the NWMB no longer attend the Co-chairs Meeting and the Director of Wildlife Management attend these meetings with a letter explaining the conflict of interest position the Chairperson of the NWMB is put in by attendance at these Committee meetings.

#### **5. D Update on Special Meeting 12**

A brief update was provided regarding next steps in the Wildlife Regulations and Orders development process. It was noted that a letter was sent to Special 12 participants November 20, 2006 outlining the next steps in the process. The letter

advised that there would be a Decision-making in-camera session with Session 12B limitations December 12-14. Further, that all written submissions would need to be received by January 29, 2007 and that a third and final session (12C) would be held sometime after the end of January. It was noted that this delay will provide a chance to resolve some of the outstanding issues and allow the parties to correspond back and forth.

#### **5.E Polar Bear Research – Markus Dyck**

The Director of Wildlife Management noted that there had been a CBC article about polar bear research that HTO's said they had no knowledge of and were concerned. The NWMB had received a copy of a research permit requested by Markus Dyck to do some research on bears. This permit had been sent to all HTO's around April 4, 2006 by DOE but no communities responded to the permit so they had in effect been notified of this project. The question again arose as to how much effort should be spent on reviewing research permits as the Board had given direction already that little or no time should be spent in this area.

#### **17. Adjournment**

The Chairman thanked members, translators and NWMB staff for their work in preparation for and at the meeting. The 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NWMB was adjourned.

Minutes Approved by:

  
Chairperson

  
Date



## RESOLUTIONS

**Resolution 2006-138:** RESOLVED, that the NWMB approved the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga  
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak  
Date: November 28, 2006

**Resolution 2006-139:** RESOLVED, that the NWMB apply the 100 tonne inshore developmental quota against the over harvest of turbot in the offshore for the 2006 fishing season (16MT to QC and 84MT to BFC).

Moved by: Paul Pemik  
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
Date: November 28, 2006

**Resolution 2006-140:** RESOLVED, that the NWMB defer establishment of the Fisheries Allocation Policy for the 2007 fishing season and to maintain the status quo for fisheries allocations for the 2007 fishing season.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga  
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak  
Date: November 28, 2006

**Resolution 2006-141:** RESOLVED, that the NWMB Chairperson will no longer attend the Co-Chairs Meeting and the Director of Wildlife Management will attend these meetings with a letter explaining the conflict of interest position the NWMB Chairperson is put in by attending at these Committee meetings.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga  
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
Date: November 28, 2006