

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No.63

Iqaluit, April 12, 2010

Members and Staff Participating:

Willie Nakoolak	A/Chairperson
Robert Moshenko	Member
Peter Awa	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Peter Kusugak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Mikidjuk Akavak	Chief Executive Officer
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Tom Demcheson	Director of Finance and Admin
Dave Rogers	Director of Finance and Admin
Robert Kidd	Director of Wildlife
Adam Schneidmiller	Wildlife Management Biologist
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor

Not Available:

Chairperson	Vacant
CWS Appointee	Vacant
NTI Appointee	Vacant

Other Participants at Various Times:

Joe Justus	DFO, Iqaluit
Chris Lewis	DFO, Iqaluit
Amanda Currie	DFO, Iqaluit
Rory MacDonald	DFO, Iqaluit
Thomas Sulluk	DFO, Iqaluit
Gabriel Nirlungayuk	NTI, Rankin Inlet
Bert Dean	NTI, Rankin Inlet
Glenn Williams	NTI, Iqaluit
Paul Irngaut	NTI, Iqaluit
David Lee	NTI, Biologist
Samantha Song	CWS, Iqaluit
Siu-Ling Han	CWS, Iqaluit
Nancy Aniniliak	Parks Canada, Iqaluit
Maryse Mahy	Parks Canada, Iqaluit

Abraham Keenainak
Jaco Qaqqasiq
Harry Allookie
Bert Rose
Richard Connelly

Parks Management Committee
Parks Management Committee
Parks Management Committee
Parks Management Committee
NIWS, Rankin Inlet

1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries

The A/Chairperson called the meeting to order, welcomed Board Members, staff and guests, to Regular Meeting No.63. Peter Awa was called on to open the meeting with a prayer.

2. Agenda: Review and Approval

The Board decided (**Resolution 2010-011**) to adopt the agenda for April 10-12, 2010 as amended. Items 9D and 11A removed.

3. Environment Canada (CWS): Issues/Decisions

3.A National Bird Conservation Region Planning

Environment Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service (EC-CWS) is in the process of developing twelve Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) plans across Canada. The BCR plans will provide advice to ensure sustainability of species that are identified as conservation priorities. The BCR plans will gather information on incidental take of migratory birds to help estimate this take (i.e. activities that incidentally result in the death of birds or destruction of nests) and provide the biological basis for actions that might be required to permit or exempt activities that cause incidental take. The first draft of technical information (lists of species, habitats, threats, conservation objectives and actions) will be completed by September 2010.

The EC-CWS asked how the Board would like to be involved in the development and implementation of the plans in Nunavut. It was noted that consultations will be restricted to website information and that these plans would be for guidance only and not regulatory. Members and advisors noted concern over the fact that no consultations were planned for the north.

4. Parks Canada: Issues/Decisions

4.A Auyuittuq National Park Management Plan

Maryse Mahy, District Planner for Parks Canada, provided the presentation to the Board. Members of the Joint Park Management Committee were introduced and each member was given a chance to speak. It was noted that the management plan was in its last stages of development and had been approved by the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Canada and the Management Committee. Parks Canada requested the NWMB to approve the Plan.

Full consultations were held with Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuak in 2009. It was further noted that the Board had received a full report on the plan at their meeting in Pangnirtung in June 2009 and that this presentation was to be a short overview of changes to the Plan. It was noted that all cruise ships would not be allowed inside Park boundaries; some zoning areas have been modified; that the northern part of the Park has not been zoned as there has not been enough consultation on this matter; and the allowance of long term non-Inuit the right to travel in the Park without guides. There has been no change in the status of Inuit rights to harvest in the Park. Commercial fishing had been discussed during the consultations but more consultation was required before there is a decision, especially in the northern zone of the Park. It was noted that the NWMB staff had reviewed the Plan and had no concerns.

5. Fisheries and Ocean (DFO): Issues/Decisions

5.A Walrus Management Planning Update

DFO staff reviewed the briefing note with the members, it was noted that in 2007 DFO initiated the development of an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for walrus, starting with the North Foxe Basin Stock. DFO Science has since accepted seven management units for Atlantic walrus as follows:

1. West Jones Sound
2. Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound
3. Baffin Bay (shared with Greenland)
4. North Foxe Basin
5. Central Foxe Basin
6. Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (shared with Nunavik and Greenland)
7. Southern and Eastern Hudson Bay (shared with Nunavik)

The IFMP will ensure the sustainable harvest of walrus consistent with the principles set out in the NLCA. Co-management working groups will be formed to work on these plans. DFO requested that the NWMB consider approval of the management units as an appropriate and precautionary approach to co-management until more information is collected to allow for further refinement of stock separation. Further that the NWMB support the development of an umbrella IFMP with stock-specific chapters for Atlantic walrus in Nunavut. NTI noted concern with the scientific report provided on walrus and it was also noted that there have been indications from CITES that some countries may call for restrictions on all pinnipeds. The NWMB declined the approval of the management units until more information was available but supported the development of an umbrella IFMP.

5.B Stock Definition of Beluga and Narwhal in Nunavut

The NWMB requested that DFO explain why advice was given on the basis of known summering stock aggregations rather than at the population level regarding advice for Total Allowable Harvest levels. The NWMB also asked for clarification of various terms used by DFO (e.g. population, stock, sub-stock, management unit) and an update on the current stock identity of belugas harvested by hunters from Iqaluit and Kimmirut. It was noted that DFO had prepared a "Stock Definition of Belugas and Narwhals in

Nunavut.” It was recommended by the NWMB that DFO provide a presentation at the next NWMB meeting in June to allow for clarification of points raised in the DFO paper on Stock Definition.

5.C Pangnirtung Fisheries Request to Amend Longline Hook Size

DFO staff reviewed the briefing note with the members, this item was a request from Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd to amend the current groundfish fishing licence to allow the use of a range of smaller hook sizes (#11-14), which might reduce the winter fishery bycatch of shark. DFO staff are recommending approval of PFL’s request to amend their licence to allow use of the smaller hook sizes.

5.D 2009 Greenland Halibut Quota Reconciliation

This was a request from DFO to reconcile turbot quota overruns for the 2009 fishing season and to remove the overruns from the 2010 allocations for turbot in 0A and 0B. NWMB staff noted that this request had already been approved during Conference Call No. IC10, conducted March 15th.

5.E Development of Precautionary Approach to Northern Shrimp

DFO staff reviewed the briefing note with the members, in November of 2007 DFO presented a draft *Decision-making Framework Incorporating the Precautionary Approach and the broader Sustainable Fisheries Framework*. DFO’s Precautionary Approach Framework has three stock status zones (critical, cautious and healthy). These policies have economic implications as they are key components of fishery eco-certification (e.g. increased access to markets). These draft zones and policies will go through a peer review process and when completed DFO will seek NWMB approval.

5.F Bathurst Inlet Emerging Fishery Application – Arctic Char

The Burnside Hunters and Trappers Association have requested exploratory char licences for Burnside Bay, Huikitak River and the Burnside River. Based on a review of the available information, DFO recommended to continue the five-year test fisheries process for a harvest level of 2000 kg along with samples and data being submitted and use of 5.5 in mesh nets. It was further recommended that for the Huikitak River, Umingmaktok HTA be requested to supply a letter of support for this project. Both Glenn Williams and Michael d’Eça noted that this process is contradictory to the land claim process. Discussion followed on how to address this problem, through meetings, fisheries regulations review or through development of management plans.

5.G Lauchlan River (Byron Bay) Quota Increase Request – Arctic Char

Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Association and Kitikmeot Foods Ltd have requested an allocation increase for the Lauchlan River (Byron Bay) from 2400 kg to 9100 kg. The current allocation is 2400 kg established in 1994. DFO is currently doing a review and will provide recommendations to the NWMB upon completion. NWMB Board

members noted that there is most likely enough information to establish a Total Allowable Harvest.

6. Department of Environment (DOE-Nunavut): Issues/Decisions

6.A Polar Bear Conservation Strategy

Chris Hotson from the Department of Environment reviewed the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy with the members. This strategy was just received and the parties have not had a chance to respond. NTI representatives noted that Canada is the largest manager of polar bears, and suggested that this plan may have substantial impacts. NTI recommended that a review committee of the GN, NTI and NWMB be set up to review the strategy.

7. Nunavut Wildlife Management Board: Issue/Decisions

7.A Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Applications for 2010/11

A total of 36 new applications for NWRT funding were received this year, 16 from the Government of Nunavut (GN), 16 from Department of Fisheries and Oceans(DFO), 3 from Canadian Wildlife Service(CWS), and 1 from Parks Canada (PC). These proposals requested a total of **\$1,472,235**. There were no funding commitments for multi-year projects this year as all multi-year funding commitments ended in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

NWMB Board members were informed by staff of an approved policy change for the NWRT when it finalized its 2009-2014 Strategic Plan which was that "The NWMB will consider only a package of projects (ranked highest to lowest) that does not exceed 135% of the funds available for allocation". Based on the total amount of **\$763,758** approved by the NWRT **(including the \$32,758 returned from 2009-2010)** that the Board has to allocate for 2010-2011, the total amount that could be brought to the NWMB could not exceed **\$1,031,073**.

Based on this direction provided to NWMB staff, a total of 24 projects were brought forward for consideration (10 from the GN; 11 from DFO; 3 from CWS) for a total of **\$1,025,070**.

These projects were evaluated according to the policy approved in September 2003 by the NWMB. Given the total amount of funding being requested, it was not possible for the Board to be able to fund all of the proposed projects. There was a difference of **\$261,312** based on the amount being requested that made the 135% percentile (\$1,025,070) and the amount of funding available (\$763,758).

The following table outlines the applications submitted:

New Research Trust Proposals for 2010-2011			
Project #	Multiyear	Title	Amount Requested
3-10-05	3-year	Community-based monitoring of ice-breeding seals in Hudson Bay region	\$75,000
2-10-13		Aerial survey population monitoring of polar bears in Foxe Basin 2008-2010	\$75,000
2-10-01-M	3-year	The effects of predation on a declining population of mainland migratory barren-ground caribou in the vicinity of Qamanirjuaq Lake, Nunavut	\$60,600
2-10-15		IQ of polar bear distribution and habitat in Foxe Basin	\$23,000
4-10-01	2-year	Community-based monitoring of sea ice and eider duck populations around the Belcher Islands, NU	\$25,000
3-10-08-M	3 year	Photo-identification of bowhead whales in Foxe Basin, NU: establishment of calving intervals and population growth potential	\$40,000
2-10-02-M	3-year	Estimation of population size for wolverines in the vicinity of Baker Lake, using DNA based mark recapture	\$20,000
3-10-09		Foxe Basin walrus survey	\$60,000
4-10-02		Local knowledge and surveys on declines of Arctic terns near Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove	\$10,600
2-10-12		Multi-scale investigation of the population ecology of raptors in Nunavut	\$14,870
3-10-12		Eclipse sound narwhal study movements and ecology	\$45,000
3-10-03		Stock assessment of Coppermine River arctic char, Kugluktuk, NU	\$25,000
2-10-08		Re-evaluation of muskoxen populations and quotas in the Kivalliq	\$55,000
3-10-15		Population estimation, genetic characterization and migration of arctic char from the Sylvia Grinnell River, NU	\$20,000
3-10-16		Aerial survey of the Admiralty Inlet narwhal stock	\$51,000
2-10-14		Baffin Bay polar bear aerial survey 2010-2012	\$75,000
2-10-10		Space use and movement patterns of North Baffin caribou	\$10,000
2-10-09	3-year	Distribution and abundance of barren-ground caribou on Baffin Island Nunavut	\$75,000
4-10-03	3-year	Avian cholera: examining the geographic spread and population impact of the disease among northern common eider ducks nesting in NU	\$55,000
3-10-01		Integrated approach to learning about narwhal ecology	\$25,000
2-10-04		An estimate of breeding females in the Beverly and Ahiak herds of barren ground caribou	\$75,000
3-10-10-M	3 year	Multi-species stock assessment surveys of NAFO 0A, 0B and Canadian Shrimp Fishing Area 3 -A three-year plan	\$75,000
3-10-14-M	3 year	Development of a new model for providing advice on arctic char	\$10,000
3-10-11		Stock assessment of Kingnait river arctic char, Pang, NU	\$25,000
		Total amount to be brought to the NWMB:	\$1,025,070
		Funds available	\$763,758
		Difference between funds available and funding requested	-\$261,312

There were 7 proposals for the Board to consider this year for NWMB Study Funding for a total of **\$203,906**. The Board had **\$125,000** available to allocate this year.

The projects were evaluated using the criteria outlined in the NWMB Study Funding policy approved by the NWMB in June 2002. Projects were evaluated in a similar manner as NWRT projects..

Given the total amount of funding being requested, it was not possible for the Board to be able to fund all of the proposed projects. There was a difference of **-\$78,906** based on the amount being requested (\$203,906) and the amount of funding available (\$125,000). It was suggested that the Board may wish to fund some projects at a lesser amount in order to be able to fund a greater number of projects.

A summary projects are provided in the following table:

New Study Fund Proposals for 2010-2011		
Project #	Title	Amount Requested
250-10-01	Effect of development on Bathurst caribou movements	\$24,300
250-10-04	Harvest calendar	\$11,425
224-10-01	Re-assessment of Western Hudson Bay polar bear population	\$27,600
222-10-01	Re-assessment of Western Hudson Bay polar bear population in Arviat	\$30,000
250-10-03	Effect of development on arctic upland birds	\$14,324
215-10-01	Tusaqtuut: Inuit knowledge on wildlife and ecology	\$80,400
250-10-02	Development activities database	\$15,857
Total		\$203,906
Funds available		\$125,000
Difference		-\$78,906

8. Other Presentations

8.A Management Plan for Kivalliq Musk Ox Populations

Richard Connelly, Executive Director of the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat reviewed the briefing note with the members. It was noted that the Wildlife Regulations have not been finalized and the old NWT regulations are still in effect. Over the past years there have been disputes with regards to musk ox management. Hunters are concerned with the long distances they have to travel to go musk ox hunting when animals are much closer to the communities. One option to this problem was exemption permits, however there has been frustration regarding the delays in receiving these permits. The HTOs were advised that one possible solution would be to develop a management plan for musk ox. A draft plan was developed by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and reviewed by the Department of Environment and NTI. It was noted that the musk ox areas in the management plan are the same as in the exemption permits. It was noted that KWB is

looking for a more permanent resolution to this problem, that being development of Nunavut Wildlife Regulations. NTI noted that they support this initiative and hope that new regulations could be in place for July 1, 2010. GN-DoE also noted support for the request at the meeting.

9. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The Board agreed that the meeting for June 19-24, 2010 would be conducted in Pangnirtung rather than split between Iqaluit and Pangnirtung.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:  OCT 20/10
A/Chairperson Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2010-011: RESOLVED that the NWMB adopt the agenda for April 10-12, 2010 as amended. Items 9D and 11A removed.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Awa
Date: April 12, 2010