

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Update on changes to narwhal management and NWMB public consideration commitments for the process

Background:

On August 10th-11th, co-management partners¹ participated in a narwhal co-management workshop that was focused on the review of proposed approaches to the management of narwhal (including the review of the summering stock management approach to narwhal) and the development of options to collaboratively address narwhal management issues.

There was agreement at the meeting that co-management partners would cooperatively work towards the development of a management plan for narwhal that included recommended total allowable harvests (TAH) and non-quota limitations (NQLs). The anticipated completion date is September 2012, when it will be brought to the NWMB for consideration. A detailed timeline to complete this process is identified in Appendix 1.

In order to achieve this objective, participants at the workshop agreed to the following next steps:

1. Working groups will be created to provide recommendations on specific management issues and processes, such as the development of a flexible quota policy / framework, compliance (i.e. licensing and reporting), hunting losses, consultation requirements, etc.;
2. DFO will prepare a draft management plan prior to a Nov./Dec. meeting of co-management partners, where the draft will be discussed and finalized prior to community consultations
3. Community consultations will be conducted in Jan./Feb. 2012;

The detailed timeline is a best case scenario and relies on agreement by all co-management partners on all aspects of the management plan (including recommended TAHs / NQLs). If agreement is achieved and support is obtained from all co-management partners then, based on past NWMB processes, the NWMB could most likely fulfill its procedural fairness requirements through a written hearing process. However, participants at the meeting identified that there is a need for “back-up” plan, in case there is not agreement on particular aspects of the management plan. In the past under these particular circumstances, for species that are of

¹ Participants included representatives from DFO science, fisheries management and conservation & protection; Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Regional Wildlife Boards, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, and the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Executive Advisory Committee.

high social, economic and cultural value, the NWMB has held in-person public hearings to consider such decisions and meet legal principles of procedural fairness.

Recommendation:

In order to meet the timeline of January 2013 for a finalized Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for consideration at the CITES Conference of Parties in the spring of 2013, the following public consideration commitments from the NWMB are recommended:

1. If all parties (i.e. DFO, NTI, RWOs, HTOs) are in agreement on all aspects of the management plan (including recommended TAHs / NQLs), the NWMB commit to holding a written public hearing, upon the receipt of a Proposal for NWMB decision, to fulfill procedural fairness requirements during the following time period March 1st 2012 to June 1st 2012 and make a decision at the Board's regularly scheduled June meeting.
2. If all parties (i.e. DFO, NTI, RWOs, HTOs) are not in agreement on all aspects of the management plan (including recommended TAHs / NQLs), the NWMB commit to holding in-person public hearings, upon the receipt of a Proposal for NWMB Decision, to fulfill procedural fairness requirements.

In this circumstance, the NWMB should approve and commit to holding in-person hearings during the period from March 1st – May 15th, as per NWMB policy (which indicates that the NWMB will hold stand-alone public hearings in the community or Region most affect by the hearing subject matter)². Three in-person public hearing options are provided below:

- A.) NWMB hold public hearings on each individual summering stock within the Baffin Bay population and the Northern Hudson Bay population in an associated community:
 - i. Somerset summering stock public hearing in either Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven or Resolute Bay;
 - ii. Admiralty Inlet summering stock public hearing in Arctic Bay;
 - iii. Eclipse Sound summering stock public hearing in Pond Inlet;
 - iv. East Baffin summering stock public hearing in Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, or Pond Inlet; and
 - v. Northern Hudson Bay population public hearing in Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet or Whale Cove;
- B.) NWMB hold public hearings on each individual summering stock within the Baffin Bay population and the Northern Hudson Bay population in an associated region
 - i. Somerset summering stock public hearing in either Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven or Resolute Bay;
 - ii. Admiralty Inlet, Eclipse Sound, and East Baffin summering stock public hearing in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq or Pond Inlet; and
 - iii. Northern Hudson Bay population public hearing in Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet or Whale Cove;

² Please note that all of the three options assume a commitment from DFO or another co-management partner to submit a Proposal for NWMB Decision by March 1st, 2011.

C.) NWMB hold public hearings based on populations in an associated community:

- i. Baffin Bay population summering stocks (Somerset; Admiralty Inlet, Eclipse Sound, East Baffin) public hearing in either Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq or Pond Inlet
- ii. Northern Hudson Bay population public hearing in Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet or Whale Cove

Consultations: Joe Justus, Regional Senior Fisheries & Aquaculture Management Officer;

Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Director of Wildlife Management, NWMB

Date: August 29th, 2011