

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting RM001-2012

Large Board Room, Hotel Arctic, Iqaluit, March 10 and 13, 2012

Members and Staff Participating:

Mikidjuk Akavak	Chief Executive Officer / Chairperson ¹
Manasie Audlakiak	Member
Peter Kusugak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Colin Adjun	Member ²
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca Jeppesen	Director of Wildlife Management
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Adam Schneidmiller	Wildlife Management Biologist
Anna Magera	Fisheries Management Biologist
Sheila Pokiak Lumsden	Wildlife Communications/Admin Technician
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter

Not Available:

Raymond Ningeocheak	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
CWS Appointee	Vacant
DFO Appointee	Vacant

Other Participants

Lisa Pirie	Environment Canada (EC), Iqaluit
Amanda Currie	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Iqaluit
Chris Lewis	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Iqaluit
Charlotte Sharkey	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Iqaluit
Glen Williams	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Iqaluit

Saturday March 10, 2012

1. Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust and Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund

¹ Present on March 10 only

² Present on March 13 only

a) Overview of NWRT and NWSF Policies

The Wildlife Management Biologist presented an overview of the NWRT and NWSF funding guide and policy. The presentation included a review of the NWRT and NWSF application system, scoring structure, funding limitations and eligibility, consultation requirements, and reporting requirements.

1b) Summary of NWRT Interim Progress and Financial Reports

The Director of Wildlife Management presented a summary of the NWRT interim progress and financial reports from the 2011-2012 funding period. The project leaders of three of the projects that were funded have not submitted the required interim progress and financial reports to date. As per the NWRT policy, penalties for late and outstanding reports were applied when determining the final score of new proposals from these project leaders.

1c) Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Applications for 2012-2013

A total of 30 new applications for NWRT funding were received this year, 14 from the Government of Nunavut (GN), 14 from Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), 1 from Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), and 1 from the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife. The total request amounts to **\$1,241,550**. The total funding available is **\$777,000**. Multi-year funding commitments amount to **\$125,000**, which brings the total available for new proposals down to **\$652,000**.

Based on the total amount of **\$652,000** available for new 2012-2013 proposals, a total amount that could be brought forward for NWMB consideration would be an amount no greater than 135% of funds available for a total of **\$880,220**. However, in order for a new proposal to be included within this tally of 135%, the proposal needs to score 65% or better. New proposals that have scored 65% or better amount to **\$759,350** (6 from the GN; 6 from DFO; 1 from CWS).

These projects were evaluated according to the NWRT Policy. 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 **\$103,220** based on the amount being requested that made the 135% percentile (\$880,220) and the amount of funding available (\$777,000).

The following table outlines the applications submitted for Board consideration:

New Research Trust Proposals for 2012-2013				
Project #	Multiyear	Title	Amount Requested	
2-12-05	Y	Baffin Island caribou abundance and distribution	\$75,000	
2-12-01	Y	Baffin Bay polar bear genetic mark recapture	\$75,000	
4-12-01	Y	VM polar bear population assessment	\$75,000	
3-12-07		FB Walrus	\$60,000	
2-12-02	Y	Kane Basin polar bear	\$62,000	
2-12-10		Kivalliq musk-oxen trends	\$44,350	
2-12-06		Population Ecology of Raptors	\$38,000	
3-12-14		Arctic invasive species	\$75,000	
2-12-14	Y	Nunavut Coastal Resources Inventory	\$75,000	
3-12-04		ES narwhal distribution	\$65,000	
3-12-06	Y	CS turbot population assessment and by-catch	\$40,000	
3-12-02		Bowhead movements	\$50,000	
3-12-08	Y	CS commercial char fishery	\$25,000	
			Total Requested	\$759,350
			Funds Available	\$652,000

1d) Summary of NWSF Interim Progress and Financial Reports

The DWM presented a summary of the NWSF interim progress and financial reports from the 2011-2012 funding period.

NWMB Studies Fund 2010-2011 Progress Reports			
Project #	Title	2010-2011 Funding	Funding to be returned
244-11-01	A Minimum Known Alive (MKA) estimate of the M'Clintock Channel polar bear subpopulation using non-invasive methods	\$30,000	N/A
250-10-04	2010 Kugluktuk harvest calendar	\$11,425 ³	N/A
214-11-01	Community-based monitoring of sea ice and disease in eider duck populations around the Belcher Islands, Nunavut	\$30,000	N/A
214-11-02	Reindeer Ground Survey 2012	\$14,685.30	N/A
Total		\$74,685.30 (\$86,110.30)	0

Interim progress reports were due on January 15, 2012. Two of the four 214-11-01 and 214-11-02, as previously identified and agreed upon, signed their Contribution Agreements only in late January 2012.

The other two NWSF projects, had staff advice to the affect that either they have continually failed to report in a proper fashion or that they have failed to submit an interim report on time, both of which carry advice that no new funds be released until all outstanding reports are submitted and any unused funds returned.

NWMB staff will conduct a comprehensive review of the final financial reports (due June 30) to ensure that all required NWMB funds are returned if not spent.

1e) Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund Applications for 2012-2013

There were 8 proposals for the Board to consider this year for NWMB Study Funding for a total of **\$140,445**. The Board had **\$125,000** available to allocate this year. The NWMB staff recommended that the Board commit an additional **\$52,500** toward NWSF projects in 2012-2013, bringing the total request amount of **\$192,945**. The projects were evaluated using the criteria outlined in the NWMB Study Funding policy.

³ Note that this project was a carry-over from the 2009-2010 funding period.

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 2012-2013			
Project #	Title	Amount Requested	Identified Possible Additional Funding
244-12-01	Community organized musk-ox survey	\$30,000	\$7,500
212-12-01	Cumberland Sound beluga biopsy study	\$30,000	\$0
246-12-02	Muskox survey and IQ study (preliminary study funding)	\$7,500	\$0
246-12-01	Muskox survey and IQ study	\$30,000	\$0
211-12-02	Qikiqtarjuaq in-shore turbot exploratory	N/A	\$15,000
203-12-01	Declining caribou study	\$30,000	\$0
211-12-03	Qikiqtarjuaq ring seal study	\$6,435	\$15,000
211-12-01	Qikiqtarjuaq arctic char study	\$6,510	\$15,000
	Sub-totals	\$ 140,445	\$52,500
	Grand total (requested and additional)	\$192,945	
	Funds available	\$125,000	
	Difference	-\$67,945	

March 13, 2012

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order and Manasie Audlakiak provided the opening prayer for the meeting.

2. Agenda: Review and Approve

Manasie Audlakiak moved to approve the agenda and Peter Qayutinuak Sr. seconded. The motion was carried.

3. Environment Canada

a) Management Plan Barrow's Goldeneye

Lisa Pirie presented a briefing note (BN) on the proposed Management Plan for the Barrows Golden Eye, a sea duck. The only evidence of the Barrow's Goldeneye appearing in Nunavut is from satellite tag data which indicated that the species was a rare visitor to the Belcher Islands and South East Baffin Island.

Under the Species at Risk Act, the Minister must prepare a management plan and consult with the NWMB. The Management Plan goals and objectives identify that over the next 4 years that conservation, stewardship, research and monitoring will take place. It was noted that the limitations identified in the plan will not affect Nunavummiut.

The Board decision on approval of the Management Plan for Barrow's Goldeneye was deferred to the In-Camera meeting 003-2012 session.

4. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

a) Sport hunting walrus with bow and arrow.

Amanda Currie presented a BN on this issue. The BN outlined a request that was made to the NWMB in 2004. At that time, the NWMB decided to not use bows or cross bows in sport hunts. It was noted that there had been renewed interest to use bows and arrows.

The Marine Mammal Regulations was cited, "s. 25 no person shall fish with a firearm, unless with a rifle and bullets that are not full metal jacketed, that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1500 foot lbs., or b) shotgun rifled slugs that produce a muzzle energy of not less than 1500 foot lbs." DFO expressed concerns over bow and arrow in that it would increase struck and lost rates.

DFO sought support from NWMB. DFO recommended that the NWMB permanently reinstate its 2004 decision to not allow the use of bows and arrows or cross bows and to add the limitation as a license condition starting in the 2012 season.

The decision was deferred to the In-Camera meeting 003-2012 session.

b) Confederation Fiord Emerging Char Fishery Application

Chris Lewis of DFO presented a BN on this issue. The Board was informed that the Nattivik HTO (the applicant) in Qikiqtarjuaq requested an exploratory license for char and that the HTO had consulted with its membership and DFO. Chris Lewis identified the exploratory license application was attached to the BN.

According to the applicant, arctic char is abundant in lakes, and the HTO felt confident that it could turn the fishery into a commercial fishery. The proposed harvest level was consistent with previous levels recommended to DFO for other water bodies. The intention of the 5-year exploratory fishery regime serves to provide information on the viability of a fishery of a particular water body. Protocol requires full quota harvest over 5 years and that there be a collection of biological information of the fish caught.

It was noted that four lakes that are interconnected were a part of the application, and the total proposed catch would be 2000 kg. Fishing would take place in the winter months between February to April. The HTO would be the license holder and would coordinate the exploratory harvest level. Any fish exported out of Nunavut would follow the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and any other fish inspection acts and regulations.

Glen Williams of NTI, was invited to comment. He read aloud an NTI letter dated March 12, 2012, whereby NTI stated it did not support the NWMB approving limitations in management plans as an approach to approving exploratory fisheries.

This item was deferred to In-Camera session 003-2012.

c) Conversion of Northern Shrimp Fishery in Shrimp Area 2

Charlotte Sharkey of DFO presented a BN on this issue. It was noted that the area includes SFA 2 east of 63W. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) had been maintained since 1999, the year it was deemed as exploratory. The TAC has never been met.

DFO asked the NWMB to approve the change from an exploratory fishery to commercial status. DFO spoke to the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariats' assessment report and summarized that in each assessment that has taken place, it was shown to have an actual exploitation rate of approximately 2% but a potential rate of approximately 11%.

DFO also stated that it made a presentation to the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) in Montreal as well as its presentation to the NWMB. It was clarified that discussions with stakeholders did not take place.

This item was deferred for decision to the In-Camera 003-2012 meeting session.

5. NWMB Items and Decisions

a) Struck and Loss Workshop

Adam Schneidmiller presented a BN on this issue. NWMB staff sought a commitment from the Board to hold a Struck and Loss workshop. It was noted that co-management partners met in Ottawa between February 6th and 7th to discuss the draft narwhal fisheries management plan where there was a detailed discussion on struck and loss.

It was recommended that \$100,000 be allocated to conduct a workshop on struck and loss and that it be conditional on the formation of a working group. The decision was deferred to the In-Camera session 003-2012.

b) Bowhead Whale Total Allowable Harvest Review

Adam Schneidmiller presented a BN on this issue. It was noted that the NWMB was required to review the current TAH on bowhead whales based on its decision from 2009, and it was recommended that the current TAH be extended for the 2012 and 2013 seasons.

If the NWMB approved the written report from DFO and the verbal report of the NTI, there would be no need to revise the 2009 decision.

Glen Williams of NTI was then invited to present a verbal report. It was noted that NTI is attempting to document the efficiency of primary and secondary killing devices and also ascertain scientific information on the anatomy of bowhead whales. NTI does not see a sharing agreement at this time with Greenland or Nunavik.

The decision was deferred to In-Camera session 003-2012.

c) ACCWM Caribou Management Plan Update (verbal)

Adam Schneidmiller presented a verbal report. The Advisory Committee for the Cooperation of Wildlife Management deals primarily with the Bluenose East and West and the Cape Bathurst herds. The Committee established a MoU between 8 inter-jurisdictional boards and as per its MoU, the management plan was introduced in early 2009.

In April 2011, the Committee met for a final review and the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) and the Kugluktuk HTO requested further consultation. NWMB staff consulted in August 2011 in Kugluktuk and provided a summary of consultations.

NWMB staff provided feedback to the ACCWM to consider in finalizing its management plan. It was expected at that time, there would be approval by the Board in December 2011, however there was an extension request to mid-February 2012.

At the time of this update, there was a meeting proposed for April 2012. NWMB staff advised the committee of required process to bring any management plan to the Board for decision.

d) Fisheries Allocation workshop update (verbal)

Anna Magera presented a verbal update to the Board. NWMB hosted a fisheries allocation policy workshop in Iqaluit on February 16th and 17th, 2012. The last time the fisheries allocation policy was approved was in 2007. Since then, revisions to the policy have been made at the staff level which started back in 2010. Also, in fall of 2011 the NWMB formed a working group to complete revisions to the policy.

The major changes to the allocation policy noted were: 1) annual to multi-year allocations, 2) revisions to mandatory requirements of allocation holders, 3) changes to verification reporting, 4) transfer guidelines and quota reconciliation guidelines and 5) removal of small boat.

The revisions will be reviewed by allocation holders and then it will come back to the working group for review and incorporation of any additional comments, and then it is targeted for Board review and approval in late April or early May 2012.

e) Narwhal Management update (verbal)

Adam Schneidmiller presented a verbal update to the Board. There was a meeting that took place between February 6th and 7th in Ottawa where participants reviewed a third draft of an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for narwhal. The meeting outcome was that NTI indicated that it did not agree with the current regulatory process. NTI requested that all of their comments be removed, and DFO agreed.

It was noted by the NWMB staff in attendance, that co-management partners, namely DFO and NTI, should consider the proposed seasonal restrictions and boundaries. NWMB staff also indicated that the Board would most likely approve an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP). With an assumption that the IFMP is close to finalization, consultations are planned to occur in the following weeks. The NTI representative stressed the importance of community consultations.

f) Walrus sport hunt update (verbal)

Adam Schneidmiller presented a verbal update to the Board, and stated that at the NWMB staff level, a draft revised policy has been worked upon, and was under review

by legal counsel. Once the internal review was to be completed, co-management partners including HTOs and RWOs would be invited to review.

It was identified that there has been an interim policy in place since 1999.

g) Kingait Fiord update (verbal)

Adam Schneidmiller presented a verbal update. In September 2011 the Board wrote to the DFO Minister and made a proposal on a way to move forward on Kingait Fiord regarding the types of harvests to include in the calculation of a basic needs level (BNL).

It identified the need for the parties to meet as necessary to reach a consensus on BNL, however the meetings of the parties did not occur. If the parties do not come to a consensus in 6 month time, one of three options will take place 1) arbitration, 2) statement of case of opinion of the court, or 3) NWMB to proceed with a final decision on a TAH and BNL for Kingait Fiord.

In the DFO Minister's response, he deferred this item to the fisheries oversight committee.

h) Polar Bear Advisory Committee (PBAC) participation

Adam Schneidmiller presented on this issue and identified that the NWMB withdrew their participation on the PBAC in 2009. There were 4 main reasons for the withdrawal, 1) items for decision must come to the Board for consideration in any case, 2) PBAC was composed of Canadian wildlife directors, who speak for the Ministers, however NWMB staff cannot speak on behalf of the Board, 3) there were already Nunavut representatives on the Committee, 4) a lack of NWMB participation would not restrict or limit Board with respect to its authority on polar bear management.

Glen Williams of NTI was invited to comment and said that Quebec had recently attended the Polar Bear Technical Committee meetings. This has led to discussions on overlap agreements on the southern Hudson Bay subpopulation and outstanding issues with respect to Davis Strait subpopulation. He mentioned that active participation helps to be kept informed and aware of what is being discussed on polar bears in Canada.

A decision of the NWMB to return to the PBAC as a member was deferred to In-Camera 003-2012 meeting.