

## **SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Update on joint development of an Integrated Fishery Management Plan for the Eastern Canada – West Greenland Bowhead Population

### **Background:**

Members of the Bowhead Working Group (“WG”) represent the wildlife co-management organizations in Nunavut and Nunavik. This WG is co-chaired by the Chair of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) and by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). In 2013, the WG started to jointly update the existing Bowhead Management Plan into the standard Integrated Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) format. The draft IFMP will be presented to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) for their respective decisions, after the public consultation process is completed.

In the 2013-14 fiscal year, DFO coordinated an in-person Bowhead IFMP WG meeting in Iqaluit (October 2013) and then later (March 2014) conducted the first component of a public consultation process with Nunavut and Nunavik Inuit. DFO’s public consultation process has two components:

- 1) A central consultation meeting with invited representatives from the 14 communities (Nunavut, Quebec) who have already conducted a bowhead hunt, representatives of the Nunavut and Nunavik Inuit co-management organizations and representatives from two communities (Clyde River, Quaqtaq) approved to conduct a bowhead hunt in 2014 (HTO/LNUK).
- 2) A subsequent written public consultation for which DFO would circulate bilingual consultation materials to all of the communities in Nunavut and Nunavik, and their co-management organizations.

### **Update/Current Situation:**

A two-day central consultation meeting with bowhead subject matter experts was held in Iqaluit, NU in late March 2014, and co-chaired by NWMB, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) and DFO. DFO has prepared a draft meeting summary for translation and distribution to all of the March meeting delegates in late May. The delegates will

be asked to provide their feedback and comments by mid-July if possible, so that the meeting minutes can be finalized and translated in a timely manner.

In general, discussion among the delegates was very constructive and resulted in suggested revisions that will improve the draft IFMP. For example, delegates agreed that the document needs more *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and DFO staff has asked for help from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the RWOs in locating additional materials, such as community maps showing traditional place names, and documents available through the Inuit Heritage Trust. Delegates briefly discussed some additional approaches that could increase the public engagement in the IFMP consultation process (e.g. local radio, calling in to HTO meetings); DFO will discuss these suggested approaches further with Bowhead WG members over the summer. At the close of the meeting, the meeting delegates and subject matter experts were asked to familiarize themselves with the draft IFMP document, and note any additional questions or text revisions for further discussion. DFO staff is available to assist the communities as requested, by calling in or attending upcoming RWO / RNUK and HTO / LNUK regular meetings.

After the March 2014 meeting, Inuit co-management organizations wrote to DFO, and expressed their concern about the tight timelines that DFO had proposed for public consultation on the draft Bowhead IFMP. DFO received a joint letter from the NWMB and the NMRWB (May 23, 2014), a letter from NTI (March 26, 2014), and from Makivik Corporation (May 07, 2014). The NWMB, NMRWB, NTI and Makivik have all recommended an extension of the time frame for public consultation. The NWMB-NMRWB also provided helpful recommendations for additional approaches to increase public engagement in the IFMP consultation process. DFO is preparing formal responses to acknowledge the advice and recommendations provided by the NWMB, NMRWB, NTI and Makivik.

**Recommendations:**

That the NWMB ask its technical staff to review the draft minutes to be provided by DFO for the March 2014 Bowhead IFMP meeting, and advise DFO technical staff of necessary revisions as soon as they are able.

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