

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 20

TUESDAY, 28 MAY 1996

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
David Igutsaq	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Malachi Arreak	Member (late arrival)
Marius Tungilik	Member
David Aglukark	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director of Wildlife Management
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter

Not Available:

Meeka Mike	Member (with cause)
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1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Ben Kovic, convened the Conference Call at 3:00 p.m.

2. Agenda

Mr. Kovic identified two items for agenda:

- Allocation of residual Inuit turbot quotas
- Walrus sport-hunting issues

3. Allocation of Residual Inuit Turbot Quotas

Jim Noble reminded the Board that approximately 1440 MT of turbot quota is available for allocation to the 1996 Nunavut summer fishery. This total derives from

500 MT offshore quota, plus 1000 MT inshore quota less about 60 MT already taken from the latter by the Pangnirtung winter fishery. Jim referred to presentations made to the Board at the last meeting, plus material that was faxed to Members over the past few days. The Board must decide:

- Whether it is going to make the allocation decision(s) and, if so
- How it is going to allocate among the competing proposals and interests.

Jim pointed out that time is of the essence, since Nunavut enterprises are in competition with southern Canadian enterprises for suitable vessels for purposes of leasing arrangements.

Dan Pike referred to the various analyses and opinions which have been developed pertaining to whether this issue is the purview of NWMB. The matter resolves fundamentally around two possible interpretations vis-à-vis the Nunavut Final Agreement:

- If the available turbot is to be interpreted as referable to a basic need(s) level, then it is the responsibility of the RWO (in this case the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board), to make the allocation.
- If the available turbot is to be interpreted in the nature of a surplus (to basic need), then it is the responsibility of NWMB to make the allocation.

This turbot fishery has been solely an Inuit fishery up to now, and all present applications to fish are by Baffin Inuit groups. Thus it is possible to interpret this fishery as fulfilling an Inuit basic need. On the other hand, the fishery is solely a commercial harvest, mainly by large vessels, and with no obvious subsistence aspect. Therefore it is also possible to interpret it as surplus to Inuit basic needs.

David Aglukark considered that the turbot quota should be interpreted as surplus to basic needs. It is not used for subsistence; therefore NWMB should allocate it. Joannie Ikkidluak pointed out that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) has done the allocation for several years, including last year on the authorization of the NWMB. One of the proposals before the Board is a resolution passed by the QWB proposing a specific allocation, including retention by QWB of a substantial amount for future consideration.

Gordon Koshinsky suggested it is clear that NWMB can do the allocation, but it is not clear that NWMB must do it. Obviously there is considerable expectation (including by the DFO Minister) that NWMB will do it. Gordon wondered if NWMB does the allocation, thereby indirectly declaring the interpretation that the turbot is surplus to Inuit basic needs, might that jeopardize future exclusive Inuit access to this fishery?

After this and other discussion, the Members decided that it would be appropriate for the Board to take a hands-on role in the 1996 turbot allocation process.

David Aglukark commented that the proposal from Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd. (CSFL) contained attractive targets of employment and income to be generated for people of Nunavut. No such estimates are provided in the QWB material. David Igutsaq tended to favour the CSFL proposal on that basis. Joannie Ikkidluak responded that it is the intention of QWB to allocate the fishery broadly, to benefit as many communities as possible.

Gordon Koshinsky stated that, for him, one of the most important allocation considerations is to try to ensure improved viability for the operators of the fish processing plant at Pangnirtung. This plant accommodates the winter fishery which, except when it was devastated by bad ice conditions this winter, has been a notable success story. The situation is complicated by the participation of GNWT, but the QWB proposal does not seem to acknowledge this need at all. Simply distributing the summer turbot allocation as widely as possible may undermine this objective.

Kevin McCormick reiterated Michael d'Eça's observation that the NWMB is not obligated to accept any of the proposals for turbot allocation which have been brought forward. He (Kevin) would favour an allocation which minimizes deviation from the preceding year(s), and he would be inclined to respond positively to the CSFL proposal, at least in part. It should also be made clear that the Board is responding under duress, and whatever it decides this year must not constrain the Board's ability to act in future years when it will hopefully have better information and understanding on the matter.

Marius Tungilik proposed that the Board:

- Accept the QWB proposal, on the condition that QWB makes an "adequate" allocation to CSFL.
- Begin immediately to develop a proper process, with criteria, for next year's allocation exercise.

Joannie Ikkidluak supported Marius' proposal. Malachi Arreak expressed concern about QWB being designated to allocate the entire quota since QWB lists itself as one of the quota recipients. Joannie replied that the QWB will not actually keep any of the quota for itself, but will only hold it pending final allocations to communities.

Gordon Koshinsky repeated his concern about the importance of supporting existing operations, in particular the Pangnirtung fish plant. He noted that he did not understand, and had not yet been enlightened by other Board Members, how the various "players" who seem to be competing for the summer allocation, could be expected to address this concern. Ben Kovic expressed deep reservations about

any allocation that did not make provision for Pangnirtung HTO. Joannie noted that the HTO is in fact counting on such an allocation already. The Board decided **(Resolution 97- 027)** to allocate the residual Inuit turbot quota for 1996, with certain provisos, as follows:

- 600 MT to the “community of Pangnirtung”
- 300 MT to Broughton Island HTO
- 300 MT to Qikiqtaaluk Corporation
- 240 MT to Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

4. Walrus Sport-Hunting issues

The Board decided to defer further consideration of walrus sport-hunting issues. Staff were instructed to contact Nunavut communities known to have an interest, to communicate and explain the Board’s decision (Resolution 97-022) to approve a walrus sport hunt for Salluit (Northern Quebec), and to obtain renewed expressions of interest in walrus sport-hunting by Nunavut communities for consideration by the Board.

5. Adjournment

The Conference Call adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved by: _____
Chairperson **Date**

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

RESOLUTION: CONFERENCE CALL No. 20

28 May 1996

Resolution 97-027

Resolved that the NWMB allocate the remaining Nunavut turbot quota for the summer of 1996 as follows:

- 600 MT to the “community of Pangnirtung”
- 300 MT to Broughton Island HTO
- 300 MT to Qikiqtaaluk Corporation
- 240 MT to Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board,

With the following further instructions to staff and provisos:

1. That staff immediately undertake a process of negotiation with the parties having a stake in the “community of Pangnirtung” allocation, in order to achieve sub-allocations which support existing operations including the fish plant.
2. That staff begin development of an allocation process, with criteria and other pertinent information, to guide the Board in its deliberations on this matter next year.
3. That Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board accepts the task of allocating the residual (240 MT) to Baffin communities so as to achieve a broad distribution of benefits.

Moved by: Malachi Arreak Seconded by: David Aglukark
Carried Abstained: Joannie Ikkidluak Date: 28 May 1996

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Moved by: Malchi Arreak

Seconded by: David Aglukark

Carried

Abstained: Joannie Ikkidluak

Date: 28 May 1996