

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 37

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 1998

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
David Tagoona	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Meeka Mike	Member
Joan Scottie	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director of Wildlife Management

Not Available:

Gordon Koshinsky	Member (with cause)
Kevin McCormick	Member (with cause)
Pauloosie Keyootak	Member (with cause)

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Ben Kovic, convened the Conference Call at 1:20 p.m.

2. Agenda

Ben reviewed the agenda with the Members. A large part of the agenda was devoted to applications for NWMB research funding.

3. Policy for NWMB-Funded Research: Review

Dan Pike reviewed the current "Policy for NWMB Research Funding." He noted that this program is becoming more heavily used each year. In the past, the Board has considered applications that have come forward at any time throughout the year. However this process is becoming unfair: applicants applying late in the year may find that budgeted funds are no longer available. Dan recommended that the Board amend the Policy such that proposals be considered at one meeting per year, in

February or March. The Board approved amending the Policy to provide for a once-per-year review of applications. **(Resolution 99- 040)**

4. Applications for NWMB-Funded Research: Review/Approval

4.A Benthic Survey of Areas Around Broughton Island

Dan Pike reviewed his briefing note with the Members. The Nativak HTA completed a similar project with NWMB financial support last year and would like to continue assessment work in 1998. Dan suggested that this is more like an economic development project than a research project. However results from last year's work were excellent, and there is potential for employment since the prospects for development are promising. The Board approved funding for the project in the amount of \$10,000 for the current fiscal year. **(Resolution 99- 041)**

4.B Char Population and Wintering Assessment in Saputing River

The Board reviewed the briefing note provided. Dan Pike noted that the project design is sound and likely to be successful. Dan also advised that Arctic Bay HTA has not provided a report for a previous NWMB-funded project, and suggested that approval of the current project should be subject to receipt of this report. Dan also recommended that a plan for reporting to the community was required, as well as an agreement with Iqloolik HTA on sharing of this stock. The Board approved \$19,000 for the project, with noted conditions. **(Resolution 99- 042)**

4.C Re-evaluation of Keewatin Muskoxen Populations, Management Zones and Quotas

Dan Pike reviewed his briefing note with the Members, and indicated that muskox were rated as a high-priority research item for the Keewatin. Dan also noted that the Keewatin Wildlife Federation has essentially no involvement in the proposed project and the request is for 100% NWMB funding. The Board decided to not approve the project in its current format. **(Resolution 99- 043)**

4.D Biological Characteristics of Arctic Char in Cumberland Sound

This proposal aims to address questions concerning stock delineation and productivity of arctic char in the Cumberland Sound area. Dan Pike noted that Arctic char were identified as a medium priority for the Baffin Region. Dan recommended that the Pangnirtung HTA submit a revised budget that does not include administration fees and also provide further details on how study results will be presented to the community. The Board approved funding for the project in the amount of \$12,200, with noted conditions. **(Resolution 99- 044)**

4.E Exploratory Fishing in the Belcher Islands

Dan Pike reviewed his briefing note with the Board, and indicated that the proposal is to address population size and setting safe harvest levels. Dan observed that marine fish had not been assessed as a research priority. Dan suggested that the project might be considered a medium priority. He recommended that the proponent should provide a plan for reporting the survey results to the community. The Board approved the project for \$10,000, with the noted condition. **(Resolution 99- 045)**

4.F Cooperative Programs to Monitor White Goose Populations at West Hudson Bay

The Members reviewed the briefing note that was provided. Dan Pike noted that the initial phase of this project was started last year. The Arviat HTA, the KWF, and CWS propose to continue the project in 1998. The proposal addresses questions concerning population trend, productivity, and the effects of geese on their nesting habitat. Dan noted that neither financial reports nor project reports have been received in respect to the work done in 1997. The Board approved the project for \$3,300, conditional on receipt of reports for 1997. **(Resolution 99- 046)**

4.G Bowhead Whale Research in Isabella Bay

Dan Pike reviewed his briefing note with the Board, noting that bowhead whales were rated as a high priority for research in the Baffin. Dan also noted that the primary focus of the proposed work is to determine the reactions of bowheads to vessel disturbance, which is not within the primary mandate of the NWMB. Dan also noted that this would be quite a complex study. The HTA would need assistance if they are to obtain worthwhile data as well as analyze and report the results effectively. No provision is identified in the proposal for this kind of assistance. Neither is any plan provided for reporting results to the community. The Board decided to not fund this project, and to explain the decision in detail to the community. **(Resolution 99- 047)**

4.H Bowman Bay Goose Harvest Study

The Board reviewed the briefing note provided by Dan Pike. The Cape Dorset HTA proposes to determine if it is feasible to harvest down from the nests at Bowman Bay, while at the same time obtaining information on the number of birds and nests in the area. Dan noted that geese were identified as a low priority for research and that a complete population survey of the area was carried out in 1997. Dan recommended that the proponent should provide more detail on how the project will be reported to the community. The Board approved the project for \$10,500, with the noted condition. **(Resolution 99- 048)**

5. Turbot Allocations in NAFO Sub-Area 0 for 1998

This item was deferred to a subsequent Conference Call, scheduled for June 12th.

6. Caribou Commercial Quota Re-allocation, Cape Dorset

Dan Pike reviewed his briefing note with the Members. The request is from the Cape Dorset HTA, to have their Non-Resident Barren Ground Caribou sport hunting quota increased from 20 to 48 through a re-allocation from their commercial quota. Dan noted that the Baffin Regional Caribou Biologist supports this proposal since he anticipates some benefits from the selective harvest of more bulls with respect to the overall productivity of caribou on the Foxe Peninsula. The Board approved the request as supported by RWED for a reallocation of 28 caribou tags from the Cape Dorset commercial quota to the sport-hunting quota. **(Resolution 99- 049)**

7. Hunt Plan, 1998 Bowhead Hunt

Dan Pike noted that the NWMB had given approval-in-principle to the 1998 Qikiqtaaluk Bowhead Hunt Plan during the course of the Broughton Island meeting, but had requested a staff review of the plan. Dan Pike and Michael d'Eça did review the Hunt Plan as requested, and recommended ten items for consideration to improve the Plan. One of the major concerns pertains to the plan for control of access by the media. The Board approved the recommendations provided by staff, and agreed to forward these recommendations to the Hunt Planning Committee for their consideration.

8. Walrus Sport Hunt Decision Review, Cape Dorset

Dan Pike reviewed his briefing note with the Members. Cape Dorset HTA has requested that the NWMB reconsider the earlier Board decision, made at the Broughton Island meeting, to approve only one walrus for their initial walrus sport hunt in 1998. The Cape Dorset HTA maintains that they requested approval for five walrus sport hunts; however there is no record of this in the NWMB correspondence. Dan noted that the Board has restricted other communities to one or two walrus in their first year of walrus sport hunting. The Board decided to reaffirm the original decision to approve one walrus for the 1998 Cape Dorset sport hunt. **(Resolution 99- 050)**

9. RWED / NWMB Contribution Agreement: Review / Approval

Jim Noble advised that he has been working with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to draft a Contribution Agreement which would allow the transfer of RWO/HTO administrative funding from RWED to the NWMB in

order to simplify accounting requirements for the RWOs and HTOs. Jim noted that Michael d'Eça had assisted with development of the Agreement and was satisfied that all jurisdictional issues of concern to the NWMB had been covered. Jim asked that the Members review this document and provide their comments as soon as possible with the aim of implementing the Agreement in the current fiscal year.

10. Suvaq Proposal: Development of Char Brood Stock

Jim Noble reviewed the briefing note provided by RWED on the latest Suvaq proposal. RWED has asked that the NWMB consider the request from the Resolute Bay HTA and from the Kugluktuk HTA for permission to provide eggs to Suvaq and to become partners in this new venture. After considerable deliberations the Members decided to not approve this request. Members still felt that there had not been enough consultation with Nunavut communities and that it would be safer not to rush such a decision. **(Resolution 99- 051)**

11. Adjournment

The Conference Call adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved by: _____
Chairperson **Date**

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

RESOLUTIONS: CONFERENCE CALL No. 37

11 JUNE 1998

Resolution 99-040

Resolved that the NWMB Policy for the Provision of Research Funding to Non-Government Agencies be amended to state that funding applications will henceforth be accepted only on a once-per-year basis.

Moved by: Joan Scottie Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-041

Resolved that NWMB approve the Nativak (Broughton Island) HTA request for funding assistance in the amount of \$10,000 to continue a *Benthic Survey of Areas around Broughton Island*.

Moved by: Joan Scottie Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-042

Resolved that the NWMB approve the Arctic Bay HTA request for funding assistance in the amount of \$19,000 for the project *Saputing River Char Population and Wintering Assessment*, subject to the following conditions:

- That the Arctic Bay HTA provide a report on the previous NWMB-funded project on River Clearing.
- That the Arctic Bay HTA establish an agreement with Igloolik HTA for sharing the Saputing River char fishery.
- That the Arctic Bay HTA establish a plan for reporting results of this study to the community of Arctic Bay.

Moved by: Joan Scottie Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-043

Resolved that the NWMB not approve the Keewatin Wildlife Federation (KWF) request for funding assistance for the project *Keewatin Muskox Population Surveys* in its current format, since there is no indication of real involvement by KWF in the project.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-044

Resolved that the NWMB approve the Pangnirtung HTA request for funding assistance in the amount of \$12,200 for the project *Biological Characteristics of Arctic Char in Cumberland Sound*, subject to the following conditions:

- That the proponent provides a revised budget that does not contain administration fees.
- That the proponent provides details on how the study results will be presented to the community.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-045

Resolved that the NWMB approve the Sanikiluaq HTA request for funding assistance in the amount of \$10,000 for the project *Exploratory Fishing in the Belcher Islands*, with the condition that the proponent provide a plan for reporting the study results to the community.

Moved by: David Tagoona Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-046

Resolved that the NWMB approve the Arviat HTA, KWF and CWS request for additional funding assistance in the amount of \$3,300 for the project *Cooperative Programs to Monitor White Goose Populations at West Hudson Bay*, subject to receipt of a report on studies conducted the previous year.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded by: David Tagoona
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-047

Resolved that the NWMB not approve the Clyde River HTA request for funding assistance for the project *Bowhead Whale Research in Isabella Bay*, and that the decision be explained in detail to the HTA.

Moved by: Makabe Nartok Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-048

Resolved that the NWMB approve the Cape Dorset HTA request for funding assistance in the amount of \$10,500 for the project *Bowman Bay Goose Down Harvest Study*, with the condition that the proponent provide more detail on how the study results will be reported to the community.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded by: David Tagoona
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-049

Resolved that the NWMB approve the request of the Cape Dorset HTA as supported by DRWED, for a reallocation of 28 caribou tags from the Cape Dorset commercial quota to the Cape Dorset sport-hunting quota.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-050

Pursuant to a request from the Cape Dorset HTA for the Board to reconsider its decision (Broughton Island meeting) to approve an allocation of (only) one walrus for sport hunting for the 1998 season, the NWMB reaffirms its original decision to approve the allocation of one walrus for the **first** Cape Dorset walrus sport hunt.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Carried Date: 11 June 1998

Resolution 99-051

Resolved that the NWMB not approve the request of the Kugluktuk HTA and the Resolute Bay HTA for authorization to provide arctic char eggs for the Suvaag project on the basis that there has not been enough consultation with Nunavut communities and that it would be safer not to rush such a decision.

Moved by: David Tagoona Seconded by: Meeka Mike

Carried

Date: 11 June 1998