

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes Conference Call No. 104

Wednesday, January 17, 2007; 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson/CEO
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Paul Pemik	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Pitseolak Alainga	Member

Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Erin Calder	Wildlife Biologist
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter

Not Available:

DFO Nominee	Vacant
Harry Flaherty	Member
Abraham Kaunak	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member

Guests:

Stephan Romberg	DFO Biologist
Andrejka Lokar	DFO Liaison Officer
Derek Osbourne	DFO SARA Co-ordinator

1. Opening by Chairperson

Joe Tigullaraq opened the meeting, welcomed members and introduced participants.

2. Review/Approval of Agenda

The members decided (**Resolution 2007-001**) to approve the agenda with the addition of four items:

- Decision on DIAND Carry-Forward of Funding Policy
- Decision on Salary Grid for second Wildlife Management Biologist position
- Decision on sending letter requesting Peary caribou information from Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay
- Gjoa Haven Request to Carryover Narwhal Tags

3. Approval of Wolffish Recovery Strategy and Management Plan (SARA)

Derek Osbourne, Species at Risk Act (SARA) Co-ordinator for the DFO Newfoundland and Labrador Region, reviewed the briefing note with members on the Wolffish Recovery Strategy and Management Plan. In May 2001 COSEWIC assessed the Northern Wolffish and the Spotted Wolffish as "Threatened" and a third species Striped Wolffish as "Special Concern." All three species were included in Schedule 1 at proclamation of the Act in June 2003. Recovery Strategies have been drafted for the two threatened species and a management plan for the species of special concern. All three species are encountered in Davis Strait, however, there are no restrictions planned for the people of Nunavut. DFO is now requesting the approval of the NWMB to allow the Department (DFO) to move ahead with these plans. It was noted that BFC had been consulted and that they rarely encountered wolffish and if they did, would return them to the water as soon as possible. Michael d'Eça, NWMB Legal Advisor, recommended that the Board should develop a policy for approval of recovery strategies and management plans. It was further recommended that:

1. Draft strategies and management plans should be translated if under twenty-five pages, and summaries if over twenty-five pages;
2. If any harvesters are affected by these plans, that notice be given to harvesters to allow them time to respond to the strategies and plans;
3. That presentations to the NWMB be in person to allow the Board to speak directly to the presenter; and
4. That the presenting Department provide sufficient notice (scheduling) of approximately three months for NWMB staff to review and present these plans and strategies to the Board.

Pitseolak Alainga thanked the Board's Legal Advisor for these recommendations and suggested the Board should hold a governance workshop and a meeting to approve the Board's Policies and Procedures before April 2007.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-002**) to approve the Recovery Strategy and Management Plan as presented.

4. Bowhead Total Allowable Harvest

NWMB Biologist Erin Calder reviewed the briefing note with the Members. It was noted that the current Stock Status Report for Bowhead Whales indicates that a harvest of one (1) bowhead whale every 2 to 3 years would be within sustainable harvest levels for the Foxe Basin/Northern Hudson Bay bowhead whale stock. It was recommended that the Board set a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of one (1) bowhead in 2007 or 2008. On approval by the Board, a letter will be sent to the Minister of DFO for his approval. This hunt would be conducted in accordance with the Bowhead Management Plan most recently approved by the NWMB. Members noted that recent surveys of bowhead had indicated that there were more whales than previously estimated and asked why the Board could not

increase the quota as one whale per year is not enough all Inuit that would like a taste of muktuk. The Chief Operating Officer noted that DFO was currently working on a new management plan and stock status report for bowhead and that they were estimating that this would be completed in March or April of 2007. Staff felt that if communities were interested in conducting a hunt for 2007 or 2008 it would provide more planning time if the Board approved a hunt immediately. To wait until March or April would not provide sufficient planning time and the Board can always adjust the TAH with new scientific or IQ information. It was noted that this would also allow time for public consultations on this new Management Plan and TAH. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-003**) to approve a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of one (1) bowhead whale for the 2007 or 2008 hunting season in the Foxe Basin/Northern Hudson Bay stock.

5. Eskimo Curlew Recovery Strategy Approval

Erin Calder reviewed the briefing note provided with the members. CWS had previously provided briefings to the NWMB on this species in March and November 2006. It was noted that this species was last seen in 1963 and no further reports or sightings have been recorded. The recovery strategy recommends that no further research or surveys are required, but that any sightings or reports should be monitored. It was noted that NWMB staff have reviewed the Strategy and agree with the findings reported and recommend approval by the Board. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-004**) to approve the Eskimo Curlew Recovery Strategy as presented.

6. Ross's Gull Recovery Strategy Approval

Erin Calder again reviewed the briefing note provided with the members. CWS had provided several briefings to the NWMB on earlier occasions. CWS is looking for the Board's endorsement of the recovery strategy. The population of Ross's Gulls appears to be stable, however there are only four known nesting locations and the number of gulls is small and any number of factors could affect this population. Three objectives have been identified for the recovery of this species:

1. Maintain known current distribution and number of pairs of Ross's Gull breeding in Canada over a five-year average;
2. Protect breeding habitat through stewardship and conservation agreements and target studies to identify critical habitat; and
3. Identify importance of threats at breeding locations and implement management strategies to reduce those threats.

Technical staff of the NWMB has reviewed the Strategy and have no concerns and therefore recommend its approval. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-005**) to approve the Ross's Gull Recovery Strategy as presented.

7. Appointment of Auditors for the 2006/07 Audit

The Chief Operating Officer reviewed the briefing note provided with the members. It was noted that the NWMB has contracted the same auditors since the establishment of the Board. Mackay Landau is the only resident auditor in the Baffin Region and looking outside would increase costs considerably. Staff recommended that the NWMB approve Mackay Landau as auditors for the 2006/07 fiscal year. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-006**) to approve MacKay Landau as auditors for the NWMB for fiscal year 2006/07.

8. Other Business

8.A DIAND Funding Carry-Forward Policy

The NWMB Legal Advisor reviewed a recent decision of DIAND staff to no longer allow the NWMB to carry-over funding at mid-year to later in the 10 Year Planning Period. It was noted that the Board has been allowed (and encouraged) to carry over funds from 1994 when the Board was established and has done so most years since. The Board recently carried over approximately \$2,000,000 in this current planning period for use on a new harvest study. This past November during the normal interim reporting period, the Board requested a carry-forward of \$267K which has been rejected. The Board's Legal Advisor offered two options for going forward:

1. Attempt to convince DIAND staff to change their position, which might be difficult in the time remaining; or
2. Write a letter directly to the Minister of DIAND:
 - A. advising that - pursuant to the terms of the DIAND-NWMB FTP Agreement - unexpended funding at year-end will be retained by the NWMB as long as our work plan commitments have been met;
 - B. objecting to this retroactive, unilaterally-imposed change in policy; and
 - C. objecting to the lack of notification of, and opportunity to respond to the policy change.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-007**) to recommend option 2 and have the NWMB Legal Advisor draft a letter to the Minister of DIAND regarding the funding issue.

8.B Approval of Salary Grid for 2nd Wildlife Management Biologist Position

The Chief Executive Officer reviewed a briefing note on this issue with the members. It was recommended that the salary grid for this position be one (1) step lower than the original Wildlife Management Biologist position. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-008**) to approve the salary grid for the 2nd Wildlife Biologist position as recommended.

8.C Peary Caribou Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay

The NWMB's Legal Advisor briefed the Board on the status of the Peary caribou issue with regards to Special Meeting 12 and development of the Wildlife Regulations. It was noted that the Board did not approve a Peary caribou Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for the Queen Elizabeth Islands as the Board wanted to consult with the two communities by way of a letter. It was noted that the Chairperson had discussed this issue with the Members earlier and that all had agreed with the process and approved sending the letter to the communities. It was also noted that all this information had been sent to the Members for review. The Board decided to approve sending the letters requesting information on Peary caribou to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay as drafted.

8.D Gjoa Haven Request for Carryover of Narwhal Tags

It was noted that Gjoa Haven had written a letter to the NWMB requesting carryover of seven (7) unused narwhal tags from the 2006 harvest season to use in the 2007 season. Gjoa Haven did not harvest any narwhal during the 2006 season and had returned their tags to DFO. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-009**) to approve the request of Gjoa Haven to carryover seven (7) tags to the 2007 harvesting season.

9. Meeting adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:


Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2007-001: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the agenda with the addition of four items under Other Business:

- Decision on DIAND Carry-Forward of Funding Policy
- Decision on Salary Grid for second Wildlife Management Biologist position
- Decision on sending letter requesting Peary caribou information from Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay
- Gjoa Haven HTA request to carryover narwhal tags

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-002: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Wolffish Recovery Strategy and Management Plan (SARA) as presented by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-003: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of one (1) bowhead whale for the 2007 or 2008 harvest seasons from the Foxe Basin/Northern Hudson Bay stock; and that a letter be sent to the Minister of DFO advising of this decision.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-004: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Eskimo Curlew Recovery Strategy as presented by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS).

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-005: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Ross's Gull Recovery Strategy as presented by Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) based on the following objectives:

- Maintain known current distribution and number of pairs of Ross's Gull breeding in Canada over a five-year average;
- Protect breeding habitat through stewardship and conservation agreements and target studies to identify critical habitat; and
- Identify importance of threats at breeding locations and implement management strategies to reduce those threats.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-006: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the appointment of the accounting firm Mackay Landau of Iqaluit as auditors for the NWMB for fiscal year 2006/07.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-007: RESOLVED that the NWMB write a letter to the Minister of DIAND regarding their concerns with regards to the Departments decision to no longer allow the NWMB to re-profile funds to later years during the interim reporting period at the end of October each year.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-008: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve a salary grid for the new Wildlife Management Biologist position of \$58,665 to \$75,818.

Moved by: Makabe Nartok
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: January 17, 2007

Resolution 2007-009: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Gjoa Haven HTA request to carryover of seven (7) narwhal tags from the 2006 harvest season to the 2007 harvest season.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Date: January 17, 2007