

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes Conference Call Meeting No. 117

Wednesday, April 22, 2009; 10:00 A.M.

Members and Staff Participating:

Harry Flaherty	A/Chairperson
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Robert Moshenko	Member
Willie Nakoolak	Member
Pitseolak Alainga	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Tom Demcheson	Director Finance and Admin.
Charlotte Sharkey	Wildlife Management Biologist
Adam Schneidmiller	Wildlife Administrative Biologist
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor

Not Available:

Peter Awa	Member
Chairperson	Vacant
Mikidjuk Akavak	Chief Executive Officer

1. Opening by Chairperson

Harry Flaherty opened the conference call at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed the members.

2. Review/Approval of Agenda

The Board decided (**Resolution 2009-018**) to adopt the agenda as presented.

3. Review/Decision of up-coming Regular Meeting No. 60 and Public Hearing on Kingnait Fjord Char Fishery in Pangnirtung

The NWMB's Legal Advisor reviewed the brief memo provided to members regarding the upcoming Regular Meeting No.60 and Public Hearing on Kingnait Fiord Arctic Char TAH, BNL and Surplus. It was noted that only five Board members were currently available for this meeting, and if one member missed his connections, the meeting and hearing would have to be cancelled which would be a consequence. After discussion on this item, it was decided to move the meeting from a June 5th to May 29th start as most members would be able to attend at this time.

4. Review/Decision Non-Detrimental Finding on Polar Bear

The Wildlife Management Biologist reviewed the briefing note provided for the members. The Minister of Environment Canada is calling on the NWMB to provide advice on a non-detriment finding (NDF) report on polar bear. At the March meeting of the NWMB, concerns were heard from CWS that trade in polar bear could be restricted through processes in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). CWS is of the view that a domestic NDF report may afford some protection against trade being restricted through CITES processes¹. The most extreme scenario would be an up-listing from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention, which would lead to a total ban on export/import of polar bear if it passes. CWS has stated that it will publish a non-detriment finding report in June 2009. In their presentation CWS provided three options for this finding:

1. Export from all sub-populations and decreased harvest in Kane Basin and Baffin Bay
2. Export for all except Kane Basin and Baffin Bay matching Greenland voluntary moratorium until agreement is signed and harvest is decreased
3. Export for all except Kane Basin, Baffin Bay, Western Hudson Bay, and Southern Beaufort Sea.

After reviewing this information NWMB staff provided their recommendations for the Board:

Option 1: Export from all sub-populations and decreased harvest in Kane Basin and Baffin Bay

This is the most desirable option, however, the Board has chosen not to decrease harvest levels in Baffin Bay (or Kane Basin) for this harvest season and the PB-NDF must be completed before the end of the harvest season. Therefore the Board cannot meet the expectations of this option.

¹ But trade could be restricted through these processes regardless of whether Canada drafts a NDF report or not.

Option 2: Export for all except Kane Basin and Baffin Bay matching Greenland voluntary moratorium until agreement is signed and harvest is decreased

This option is the most consistent with the intent of the recent NWMB decision with respect to Baffin Bay. It recognizes that until there is co-ordinate, focused, joint interjurisdictional management initiatives and decreased harvesting from the population, the population will continue to decrease despite any unilateral efforts on the part of Nunavut or Greenland alone.

Option 3 Export for all except Kane Basin, Baffin Bay, Western Hudson Bay, Southern Beaufort Sea.

This is the most undesirable option for the NWMB. First, we do not have management responsibility or jurisdiction for the Southern Beaufort Sea (SB) polar bear population. Second, the Board addressed the conservation concern in Western Hudson Bay (WH) by drastically decreasing the TAH, so a non-detrimental finding for harvest in this population should be made.

Therefore, staff recommends Option 2 which is most consistent with the Ministerial Management Initiative decision the Board made for the Baffin Bay population.

Staff noted that the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment has indicated that they will meet the time-line of EC and are opting for option 2. NTI sent a letter to EC requesting that this consultation process should be extended 5 to 6 months.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2009-019**) to have staff write a letter to the Minister of Environment advising that more time to consult with the affected communities on the NDF is required, and that the NWMB will recommend a consultation process and timelines. The Board further requested that the draft letter be circulated to all members for approval prior to release.

5. Review/Decision Canada-Greenland Joint Commission on Narwhal & Beluga Meeting

It was decided that Harry Flaherty and Mikidjuk Akavak should attend this meeting in Greenland. It was also decided that staff should contact DFO and establish what the policy is with regards to nominating a person to the JCNB Commission and ask if it could be an automatic appointment for each new NWMB chairperson.

6. Review/Decision on Baffin Fisheries Coalition Request to use 105 Ft Factory/Freezer Trawler To Fish New Division OB Turbot Quotas

It was decided that a letter be written to the Minister of DFO and copied to Barry Rashotte advising that the NWMB has no conservation concerns with this proposal and noting that NTI and DOE Nunavut would be the best organizations to make this type of decision.

7. Review/Decision on Baffin Fisheries Coalition Request to Use Foreign Shrimp Factory Freezer Vessels to Harvest Shrimp Allocations in Nunavut Adjacent Waters

It was decided that a letter be written to the Minister of DFO and copied to Barry Rashotte advising that the NWMB has no conservation concerns with this proposal and noting that NTI and DOE Nunavut would be the best organizations to make this type of decision.

8. Review/Decision Regarding Review of Land Use Planning Act

It was decided to write a further letter to the Minister of INAC stating that there is insufficient time to respond to the Act, and that a review by the NWMB will follow in May.

9. Other Business

No other business

10. Meeting adjourned

The meeting ended at 12:45

Minutes Approved by:


A/Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2009-018: RESOLVED that the NWMB adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Date: April 22, 2009

Resolution 2009-019: RESOLVED that the NWMB have staff write a letter to the Minister of Environment advising that more time to consult with the affected

communities on NDF is required and that the NWMB will recommend a consultation process and time lines.

Moved by: Robert Moshenko
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Date: April 22, 2009