



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #31

15 - 18 January 2002

Iqaluit, NU

1. This was the 31st meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, conducted in Iqaluit, January 15 • 18, 2002.



2. The meeting began with the swearing in of new Board members. Nick Amautinuak was appointed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Meeka Mike was reappointed by DIAND, Harry Flaherty was appointed by NTI (having previously served on the Board from 1996 • 2000, appointed by DSD) and Kevin McCormick was reappointed by Environment Canada.

3. The Board spent most of the first day reviewing the Board mandate and current Board policies and activities in order to ensure all Board members were up to date.

4. The Board discussed the three-year trial of community-based management for narwhal that has now completed the third year. The NWMB agreed to a suggestion from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to establish a committee to review the three-year pilot project and make recommendations to the Board on how to proceed in the future. The committee will include representation from NWMB, DFO, NTI and all 3 regions in Nunavut.



5. The Board received an update from DFO on progress to develop new Fisheries Regulations from Nunavut. These regulations will replace the NWT Regulations, which currently govern harvesting in the NSA, as well as portions of the Marine Mammal Regulations, and will reflect the provisions of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement with regards to Inuit harvesting rights.

6. The Board reviewed a Conservation Plan for Bowhead in the Eastern Arctic, prepared by World Wildlife Fund and DFO, in cooperation with co-management partners in Nunavut. The Board approved the Conservation Plan and looks forward to working with our partners in implementing the provisions of the plan.

7. The Board considered whether to establish another total allowable harvest for bowhead within Nunavut waters. Its decision will be forwarded to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

8. The Board approved walrus sport hunt requests in the Baffin and Kivalliq regions of Nunavut and one from Salluit in Nunavik.



9. The Board received an update from the Department of Sustainable Development on the most recent evaluation of research results from the M'Clintock Channel and Gulf of Boothia polar bear populations. DSD will be meeting with the communities that harvest from these populations to discuss harvest options for the coming season.
10. DSD updated the Board on the development of a new Nunavut Wildlife Act that will replace the current Wildlife Act that was carried over from the NWT. Consultations will begin soon with communities, and a discussion paper will be released for input in coming weeks.
11. Board members reviewed progress towards developing a Board policy to guide evaluation of requests for the live-capture of wildlife in Nunavut. The draft policy outline has been distributed to various co-management partners for comments. The Board will continue development of the policy at upcoming meetings.
12. The Board reviewed reports on the results of wildlife management priorities workshops held in the three regions over past months. The Board approved the priorities as presented and will work with co-management partners to ensure that the issues identified are addressed in coming months.



13. The Board received an update on the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study. The final month for data collection was May, 2001. Verification of the final months of data is now underway. Interim reports on the first 3 years of data were distributed to communities last summer and fall. Preliminary summaries of the full 5 years of data will be completed in the coming months and will be reviewed with communities.
14. NTI updated the Board on plans for a Wildlife Symposium to be held in the fall of 2002. This will be the fourth such meeting. Previous meetings were held in 1994, 1997 and 2000. Representatives from all HTOs and RWOs in Nunavut and government departments with wildlife responsibilities are expected to attend. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Cambridge Bay in September.
15. NTI updated the Board on progress in addressing the assignment of hunting rights as identified in the NLCA. NTI and RWOs will be continuing to work on this issue.
16. NTI also updated the Board on the most recent meeting of the Wildlife Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) and on upcoming meetings of the committee. WPAC is chaired by the Second Vice-President of NTI and has membership from the 3 RWOs.



17. The Board approved Conservation Education funding to assist the Gjoa Haven HTO in conducting a pilot project to collect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on polar bears in the M'Clintock Channel area. Progress is already underway on this project that is also being funded by DSD.
18. The NWMB reviewed requests from Chesterfield Inlet for increased harvests of muskox and caribou. The Board's decisions will be forwarded to the Minister of Sustainable Development.
19. The next (32nd) meeting of the NWMB will be in Iqaluit, the week of March 4, 2002.

For further information please contact:

Ben Kovic, Chairperson

