

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING No. 41 HIGHLIGHTS

Iqaluit, April 5 - 8, 2005

1. This was the 41st meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board conducted in Iqaluit, April 5 - 8, 2005.
2. The Board reviewed interim progress report on fifteen completed Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust (NWRT) projects from 2004/05 along with five ongoing projects.
3. The Board reviewed twenty new proposals from Government agencies for funding from the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust, along with five ongoing projects from 2004/05. The Board approved thirteen of these new projects, along with the five approved previously for a total of approximately \$645,700 for 2005/06. New or ongoing projects include studies pertinent to management of bowhead whale in Davis Strait, caribou in the Kivalliq Region and Northeastern Mainland, Peary caribou on Ellesmere, Axel Heiberg and Central Devon Islands, muskoxen in the Kitikmeot Region and High Arctic Islands, polar bear in Davis Strait, walrus in various locations, beluga whales in the Nelson River, eider ducks in the High Arctic Island along with various charr and turbot sampling programs.
4. The Canadian Wildlife Service presented an update on research conducted in the high arctic on Ivory Gulls and concerns about a decline in numbers of the birds on Devon Island and Ellesmere Island.
5. The Board received an update from staff and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on the preliminary harvest numbers for communities on community-based management for narwhal and beluga, and plans to continue implementation of the changes announced in August, 2003.
6. The Board considered proposals for several experimental fishing licences. The Board's decisions will be forwarded to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.
7. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans updated the Board on activities relating to Cumberland Sound beluga, and progress towards the development of a recovery strategy and management plan. The Board approved the terms of reference for the working group to develop the management plan.
8. The Board reviewed several requests for walrus sport hunts. The decisions will be forwarded to the relevant communities.

9. The Board was pleased to hear during its meeting that the Nunavut Wildlife Act had been passed by the Nunavut Legislature. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with the Department of Sustainable Development in the implementation of the new act.
10. The Board received an update on progress towards development of the new Polar Bear MOUs across Nunavut.
11. The Board reviewed several recommendations for changes to muskox seasons and quotas and will be notifying the Minister of Sustainable Development of its decisions. Some decisions were deferred until further information was available.
12. The Board reviewed a request for a commercial caribou quota for Arviat. The Board will be notifying the Minister of Sustainable Development of its decision.
13. The Department of Sustainable Development updated the Board on progress to prepare an MOU for the management of Peary caribou.
14. The Department of Sustainable Development updated the Board on progress towards a management plan for Southeast Baffin caribou.
15. The NWMB Harvest Study Coordinator updated the Board on progress toward production of the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study Final Report. The Final Report is now in draft form and is being prepared for translation and then printing.
16. The Board received an update from NTI on recent activities including the recent workshop on hunting techniques held in Iqaluit.
17. The Board viewed an update from Parks Canada on wildlife activities in the National Parks within Nunavut and provided comments as requested by Parks Canada.
18. The next (37th) meeting of the NWMB will be in Iqaluit, the week of March 22nd, 2004.
19. The Board reviewed 16 new research proposals from Government agencies for funding from the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust. The Board approved 14 of these new projects and, along with two other projects approved previously, allocated a total of approximately \$700,000 from the Trust for 2001/02. New or ongoing projects include studies pertinent to management of narwhal in the High Arctic, bowhead whales in Foxe Basin and Committee Bay, Arctic charr at Pangnirtung, turbot in Davis Strait, eider ducks in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions and at Sanikiluaq, caribou in the Kitikmeot region, and walrus in Foxe Basin and in the High Arctic.
20. The Board reviewed nine new proposals directed to the NWMB Study Fund, which the NWMB makes available to non-government agencies. The Board approved four of these proposals for a total of approximately \$107,000. Approved projects pertain to studies of caribou and muskox near Resolute Bay, bowhead whales near Clyde River, and caribou in the Kivalliq.