

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: MEETING No. 46

CHURCHILL, MANITOBA JUNE 6 - 8, 2006

Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson/CEO
Paul Pemik	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Pitseolak Alainga	Member
Abraham Kaunak	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Tom Demcheson	Director of Finance and Administration
Joe Justus	Director of Wildlife Management
Erin Calder	Wildlife Biologist
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter
Michael d'Eça	Legal counsel

Not Available:

Kevin McCormick	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
DFO Nominee	Vacant

Other Participants at Various Times:

Andrejka Lokar	Land Claims Liaison Officer, DFO
Sandra Courchesne	Fisheries Management Tech, DFO
Keith Pelley	Area Chief, Conservation & Protection, DFO
Marty Bergmann	DFO, Winnipeg
Holly Cleator	DFO, Winnipeg
Ross Tallman	DFO, Winnipeg
Ray Ratynski	DFO, Winnipeg
Dan Shewchuk	Regional Manager Kivalliq, DOE
Jeff Maurice	NTI, Iqaluit
Gabriel Nirlungayuk	NTI, Rankin Inlet

Tuesday, June 6, 2006 – 2:15 pm

1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries

The Chairperson welcomed the members, staff, and guests to the 46th meeting of the NWMB in Churchill. It was noted that weather problems and set up of the meeting room had delayed start of the meeting.

The Chairperson then requested that the NWMB Legal Advisor provide a short presentation on consideration of *Conflict of Interest*. It was recommended that as the Chairperson is reviewing the agenda each meeting, that any Member with a conflict of interest (either personal or financial) should state his or her potential conflict. It is then up to the Board Members to decide how to proceed.

2. Agenda for Regular Meeting No. 46

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-089**) to accept the agenda for Meeting 46 with agreement that the agenda be re-arranged to ensure the more urgent items be handled first due to the late start of the meeting.

3. Minutes: Review and Approval

3.A Regular Meeting No. 45, Iqaluit, March 28-30, 2006

The Board adopted (**Resolution 2006-090**) the minutes of Regular Meeting No.45, conducted in Iqaluit, March 28-30, 2006 with the understanding that errors in the Inuktitut translations be corrected prior to final approval.

3.B Conference Call No 96, April 7, 2006

The Board adopted (**Resolution 2006-091**) the minutes of Conference Call No.96, conducted April 7, 2006 with noted corrections.

3.C Conference Call No. 97, April 25, 2006

The Board adopted (**Resolution 2006-092**) the minutes of Conference Call No.97, conducted April 25, 2006 as presented.

3.D Conference Call No. 98, May 4, 2006

The Board adopted (**Resolution 2006-093**) the minutes of Conference Call No. 98 conducted, May 4, 2006 as presented.

Financial and Administrative Business

4.A Review/Approval of 2005/06 Audit Report

The Director of Finance and Administration reviewed the 2005/06 Audit Report with the Members. A review of the "Management Letter" from the auditors was also reviewed and the Director responded to the audit observations. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-094**) to approve the Audit Report as presented.

5. Chairperson, Senior Staff, Advisors' and Members' Reports

5.A Chairperson's Report

The Chief Executive Officer referred members to his report in the binder. He noted that Members should feel free to ask any questions with regards to these reports.

5.B Chief Operating Officer's Report

The Chief Operating Officer referred members to his report in the binder.

5.C Wildlife Management Director's Report

The Director of Wildlife Management referred members to his report in the binder.

5.D Finance and Administration Director's Report

The Director of Finance and Administration referred members to his report in the binder.

5.E Wildlife Management Biologist's Report

Members were referred to the report in the binder.

5.F Legal Advisor's Report

The NWMB Legal Advisor referred members to his report in the binder.

5.G Members' Reports and Concerns

Abraham Kaunak noted concern with regards to the quality of translations; he finds numerous mistakes in the various documents. The Chairperson suggested that it may be necessary to have another translator proof read the documents before they go to the binders.

6. Completion of Assignments and Implementation of Resolutions

The Chief Operating Officer referred members to the task list in the binder. Items not completed or ongoing were reviewed with the members. Gabriel Nirlungayuk noted that Item 9 was missing NTI Lands Division and they should be included.

7. Environment Canada (CWS): Issues and Decisions

Nil Report

8. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Issues and Decisions

8.A Regulation Amendment for Landing of Groundfish By-Catch

Currently, regulations require that all groundfish by-catch must be kept by licence holders. A new proposal to amend Sec. 93.3 of the Atlantic Fisheries Regulations would limit application of this regulation to only persons holding commercial groundfish licences, and will allow the use of conditions on their fishing licence for the mandatory release of groundfish by-catch where required. Consultations took place February 8th during the Greenland halibut management plan meeting in Iqaluit. Stakeholders were provided the proposed amendments and given to the end of March to respond. No comments were received and DFO now recommends the NWMB approve the proposed amendment. NWMB staff requested further time to review the regulations and to provide a recommendation to the NWMB. This item was deferred to the Board's next regular meeting.

8.B Catches of Pink Shrimp in Shrimp Fishing Area SFA 3

Currently the fishery in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 3 has a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 4,300 tonnes for striped shrimp (*Pandalus montaquii*) with no TAC for pink shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*). There is currently no pink shrimp allocation in SFA 3, however there is a substantial by-catch with the striped shrimp fishery. Under current management practices, any by-catch of pink shrimp caught in SFA 3 are counted against the TAC in SFA 2 where there is quota. This causes some problems with vessels fishing for the HTOs in Nunavut when these vessels have already reached their TAC in SFA 2. It is proposed that for 2006 only, a pre-emptive by-catch of 400 tonnes will be established for pink shrimp caught within SFA 3 when it is part of the striped shrimp fishery in the area. This proposal would not allow for any more than 50% of the catch to be pink shrimp in the striped shrimp fishery. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-095**) to approve a 400 tonne quota for pink shrimp by-catch in SFA 3.

8.C Monitoring and Control of Small Fish Catches

Sandra Courchesne reviewed the briefing note with the members. The purpose of these revised procedures is to standardize the operating procedures and decision making processes to control catches of small fish and incidental catches. These procedures close a fishery when 15% of the numbers of fish caught are undersized or if established incidental catch levels are exceeded. Closures will be established on the basis of the catch during a single day and will be in effect for a minimum of ten days. It was noted that consultations on this policy were conducted in Iqaluit during the Greenland Halibut Management Plan meeting held in Iqaluit, February 8, 2006. The NWMB's Legal Advisor suggested that the Board must ask themselves whether there was sufficient consultation on this policy and remember that there are two management areas, the offshore (Zone I, where the NWMB has an advisory

jurisdiction) and inshore (NSA, where the NWMB has a decision-making jurisdiction). This item was deferred to the Board's next regular meeting.

8.D Atlantic Canada Groundfish Transfer Guidelines

The Atlantic Canada Groundfish Transfer Guidelines allow transfers of annual allocations on a temporary or permanent basis. The new guidelines attempt to outline and consolidate the guidelines for both temporary and permanent transfers between the various fleet sectors. Consultations took place in Iqaluit in February and comments were expected by the end of March. The NWMB will be requested for a recommendation/decision at the June meeting. This item was also deferred to the Board's next regular meeting.

8.E Request for Support to Conduct Shrimp Stock Assessment

Sandra Courchesne reviewed the briefing note with the members. The Northern Shrimp Research Foundation (NSRF) is a joint venture (Industry/Government) to study northern and striped shrimp in waters adjacent to Nunavut. The NWMB originally agreed to support this project in 2005 and now there is a request for a further study in 2006 with an increase of 3300 sq nautical miles to the survey area. This survey is funded by a 3,625 tonne research quota which has been fished off the Labrador coast since 2003. Further surveys are planned by DFO in OA for 2006 and Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay for 2007. At the end of these surveys 100% of the commercial fishing areas adjacent to Nunavut will have been assessed. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-096**) to approve the request of NSRF to continue the shrimp and turbot survey in OA for 2006 subject to the following conditions:

1. That the research licence indicates that no historic attachment to this fishing area will be considered as a result of this test fishery;
2. That a member of DFO Nunavut be on the NSRF Board as a regular member; and
3. That the NSRF agree to these conditions prior to approval of their research licence.

8.F Request for Arctic Charr Exploratory Fishery - Pond Inlet

A request for an Arctic Charr Exploratory Fishery license for Koluktoo Bay/Milne Inlet has been received by DFO. The request is for 50,000 lbs (22,727kg). There was an earlier exploratory fishery in this area from 1995-98 however little data was collected. The domestic fishery in the area was estimated at 220 kg per year however the Harvest Study suggests that this figure is closer to 4-500 kg per year with an average weight of 5.5 kg per fish. DFO advises that a total allowable harvest of 3000 kg including an estimated subsistence harvest of approximately 500 kg would likely represent a low risk of decline. A total allowable harvest above 3000 kg would put the stocks at a higher risk of decline. DFO is recommending no more than 3000 kg per year and that a full five year study is conducted on this fishery to

provide accurate stock estimates. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-097**) to approve the proposed plan, as agreed to by DFO and the Pond Inlet HTO, with the harvest level not to exceed 3,000 kg of Arctic char for the 2006 fishing season in Koluktoo Bay/Milne Inlet - to allow more information to be collected.

8.G BFC Request for Exploratory Crab Fishery

Baffin Fisheries Coalition has requested an exploratory crab fishery license for Sub Area 0 including the NSA. The request is to have three of their fishing vessels have 12 crab pots each to test for crab. Earlier requests for crab test fishery permits have provided no results or data, the only recommendation from DFO is that the same harvesting requirements for snow crab and stone crab be used due to their similar life histories. DFO is also requesting normal test fishery information and data collection. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-098**) to approve the plan agreed to between DFO, the HTOs adjacent to the exploratory waters and BFC thus allowing three vessels to use 12 crab pots each to test for crab in Sub Area 0 including waters of the NSA.

8.H Pangnirtung Request for Exploratory Char Fishery

Pangnirtung HTA has requested exploratory fisheries from various water bodies in the Pangnirtung area. Technical and legal staff from the co-management partners met on May 18, 2006 to discuss how to proceed with exploratory char fisheries within the Nunavut Settlement Area. The group concluded that there was not adequate time for the NWMB to decide on the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and Basic Needs Level (BNL) for the 2006 fishing season. It was therefore agreed that the exploratory fisheries be allowed to proceed and that data would be collected to assist with the future establishment of TAHs and BNLs for the 2006 season. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-099**) to approve the proposed plan as generally outlined in DFO's submission to the NWMB dated April 24/06, and agreed to by DFO and the Pangnirtung HTA concerning char harvests for the 2006 harvest season in the following lakes:

- Targioyuk
- Abituajuit - Chidlak Bay
- Iqaluit Lake - Robert Peel Inlet
- Iqaluit Lake - Exaluin Fjord
- Nauliniavik
- Kanayuktuuq - Ikpit Bay
- Anaktuayuit
- Isuituq
- Qasigiyat
- Kipisa
- Qasigialiminiq Lake

And, that the NWMB continues its commitment to hold a public meeting to consider the establishment of a TAH/BNL for these fisheries as soon as is practicable, taking into account public notice and procedural fairness requirements.

8.I Cumberland Sound Beluga Recovery Strategy

Holly Cleator noted that this item was presented to the Board last September. Jack Orr went to Pangnirtung to conduct survey, but poor weather conditions delayed the survey until mid August 2005. Results showed similar results to earlier surveys of approximately 900 animals. Holly noted that if this species gets listed by SARA, the Minister will ask for approval of the Recovery Strategy. Michael d'Eça noted that there is a sequence of decision-making that must be invariably followed:

1. Approval (or not) of a proposed listing for the species/population;
2. If listed, approval (or not) of proposed total allowable harvests and/or non-quota limitations; and
3. If listed as threatened or endangered, approval (or not) of the recovery strategy.

Michael then pointed out that, if/when they are listed, a TAH and BNL will have to be considered for beluga. This will require a public hearing and time for proper consultation and consideration before a Recovery Strategy is approved. Holly Cleator noted that the Department is aware of the time required to do these steps properly. It was further noted that the recovery goal is 5000 animals. Abraham Kaunak asked how the whale population looked over the last few years. Holly Cleator suggested things are going well, but that a repeat survey may be needed to check in a few years.

8.J Summarized Results of the Bowhead Recovery Workshop

The Bowhead Recovery Workshop was held in Iqaluit April 25-27, 2006 in partnership with WWF-Canada and the NWMB. Twenty-seven people participated, the workshop consisted of two parts, first a review of scientific and Inuit knowledge of bowhead whales in the eastern Arctic. During the second half of the workshop, the Recovery Team updated the Conservation Strategy with new information and made it SARA compliant. It was noted that the team is not ready to decide on critical habitat, discussion followed on possible threats to the population. It was noted that the Recovery Strategy needs to be drafted and discussion followed on ongoing research that will be required.

8.K Summary of Bowhead Consultations

COSEWIC designated Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin bowhead whales and Davis Strait-Baffin Bay bowhead whales as Threatened in May 2005. The federal government must now decide whether to forward the designation to the NWMB for possible listing under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA). This decision will occur after consultations are completed. Consultations were conducted in many communities between January and March

2006. Nunavummiut did not support listing of the two bowhead whale populations. This was based on the fact that many communities are seeing more whales than in the past, recent surveys show an increased population and for these reasons Inuit do not believe the whales are threatened at this time. It was also felt that killer whales, tourist ships and other environmental factors are more of a threat than Inuit hunting them. Currently DFO feel the current estimates are fairly accurate, however COSEWIC prefers a more conservative approach.

8.L Bowhead Management Plan Update and Community Consultations

Results of recent aerial surveys, satellite tagging and genetics analysis conducted by DFO now indicate that Eastern Arctic bowhead whales form a single population, much larger than originally thought. It is also thought that Nunavut, Nunavik and Greenland all share this population. This new information was not available for COSEWIC when they reviewed the bowhead population and they felt there were two separate populations, one in Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin and one in Davis Strait-Baffin Bay. The government decision on whether to forward the COSEWIC designation to the NWMB for possible listing of these two populations is expected sometime in 2007. The Bowhead Management Plan needs to be updated and approved by the NWMB no later than June 2007 in preparation for a possible summer 2007 bowhead hunt. DFO is seeking NWMB views on a possible revised format of the Bowhead Management Plan. Traditionally, one section of the Plan included an approved Hunt Plan by the host community; it is now proposed that this Hunt Plan be included as an Appendix to the Bowhead Management Plan, separating the two documents would simplify the approval process. The revised Management Plan would then stand until new scientific or Inuit Knowledge is available. Preparation and approval of the Hunt Plan would then become the responsibility of the host whale hunt community. Holly Cleator noted that DFO would like the Board's recommendation on how to conduct community consultation on the revised Bowhead Management Plan. Joe Justus noted that management plan will be long term and consultations will not be required each year.

8.M. Summary of Narwhal Consultations

COSEWIC designated narwhal in Nunavut waters as Special Concern in May 2005; the federal government must decide whether to forward the designation to the NWMB for possible listing under SARA and the NLCA. As with the bowhead whale, consultations were conducted in thirteen communities between January and March 2006. All communities did not support listing of narwhal as they feel there are just as many or more today than earlier years. The NWMB will now have to review the summary of consultations and be prepared to respond to the Minister on a proposed listing. It was noted that all communities are concerned that this listing will bring further restrictions to Inuit and do not want to support listing. The NWMB's Legal Advisor asked if 2002/04 research work was included in COSEWIC's assessment. DFO advised that it was not factored and surveys show higher numbers than

previously. Members all voiced concern that COSEWIC did not take into account the most recent (and significant) research work.

8.N COSEWIC Assessment of Walrus

Four populations of walrus were scheduled for assessment by COSEWIC in April 2006, at this time COSEWIC decided to consider all walrus as one stock due to the lack of information. DFO is currently working on walrus populations, and hope to have new scientific information ready for COSEWIC when they next review walrus. Holly Cleator noted that they have developed a new biopsy method by shooting the animals with an air gun that takes a small skin sample for studying. Board members questioned where the scientists get their information. Holly Cleator noted that COSEWIC does not do research but rather relies on reports from other scientists. It was noted that DFO scientists feel that there are three separate populations of walrus and they may be of different sizes in each of these populations. DFO scientists had hoped that COSEWIC would have waited for the new information before making a decision.

Note:

Wednesday, June 7, 2006 8:30 a.m.

8.O DFO International Polar Year Projects

Marty Bergmann reviewed the briefing note provided on DFO's involvement in International Polar Year (IPY). On September 21, 2005 the Deputy Prime Minister announced new Federal Government funding in the amount of \$150 million for Canada to participate in this program. The major focus of the program will be on polar science and research activities to address two priority areas: science for climate change impacts and adaptations, and the health and well being of northern communities. DFO has twenty-three proposals submitted; 17 climatic questions and 6 multi-disciplines, health, oceans, marine mammal and fisheries. Members and staff reviewed some of the proposals and questions followed. Concerns were raised as to whether any northern employment would arise, whether northern students would be involved, whether communities would be consulted on the approved proposals, would IQ be included in this research as it is a major component of northern science? There was some discussion as to whether the NWMB should contact the IPY Secretariat to ensure that IQ is included in the IPY program. DFO is hoping that the NWMB will provide input and advice to any approved proposals, ensure that communications plan benefits all involved ensure that sharing of information continues and that the NWMB provides advice as to which institution will be involved to develop a student program for two Nunavut students to be involved with DFO projects.

8.P Update on Char Research

Ross Tallman of DFO reviewed his briefing note and summary of findings from previous studies along with recommendations for the future. It was noted that char is a valuable resource and that more research is required. Scientist are assisting communities to understand the life cycles of char, giving advice on sustainable harvests and teaching communities how to do the studies. It was further noted that in most char stocks, 5-7% of the population spawns, the other breeding portion is normally in a resting period and do not spawn. Ross Tallman was asked if there was a less intensive method of getting the information required to establish Total Allowable Harvest (TAH). Ross suggested that this would be difficult without the required information. The NWMB's Legal Advisor suggested that the co-management partners need to come up with a plan of action until TAHs can be established.

9. Nunavut Wildlife (DOE) Issues and Decisions

9.A Update on Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds

Dan Shewchuk, Regional Manager Kivalliq, DOE provided a brief update on the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board. It was noted that there are two new members on the Board, one from Baker Lake and one from Arviat. Last year twenty caribou were collared to try and delineate the herd and to locate calving grounds. For 2006/07 a further fourteen collars are planned for the Beverly herd along with a full aerial survey of both herds including calving ground delineation and recruitment survey. It is estimated that this work will cost approximately \$600,000; the Board is still looking for funding for this project.

Thursday, June 8, 2006 8:45

10.NWMB Internal Items: Issues / Decisions

10.A Thelon Game Sanctuary

The Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan was approved by the NWMB in July of 2004 for the Nunavut Settlement Area only. The Northwest Territories portion of the sanctuary has not been approved and is not binding on the NWT. The Plan leaves unresolved what harvesting restrictions should apply to Inuit within the Sanctuary, and calls on the NWMB to examine the issue further. The NWMB also pledged to review the fishing restrictions for non-Inuit within the NSA portion of the Sanctuary. The GN DOE Minister wrote the NWMB in December of 2005, asking the Board to proceed with respect to two related matters:

1. The NWMB's undertaking to examine the unresolved issue of harvesting restrictions on Inuit in the Sanctuary; and
2. The management Plan's recommendation that the NWMB conduct a public review jointly with the NWT on this issue.

The NWMB's Legal Advisor drafted a set of five recommendations to follow with respect to the requirements under the Management Plan. The Board decided **(Resolution 2006-101)** to accept the NWMB Legal Advisors five recommendations on the Thelon Management Plan as presented.

10.B NWMB Initiated TAH/BNL Modification

The Director of Wildlife Management reviewed the briefing note on this issue with the members. The issue being whether or not the NWMB should unilaterally initiate a public consideration of the establishment of TAH/NQL or modification of existing TAH/NQL in the NSA where the most current Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and /or scientific information suggest a TAH or NQL may be required pursuant to the criteria of section 5.3.3 of the NLCA but where no proponent has made submission to the board requesting such a decision be made. Staff recommend that the Board adopt a protocol that would make it appropriate for the NWMB to make a formal request for submission from the concerned proponent, or – if such a request were not advisable or were refused – for the NWMB to make a formal request to one or more relevant co-management partners for a position and evidence regarding the matter. The Board decided **(Resolution 2006-102)** that the NWMB can unilaterally (that is, on its own initiative publicly examine the justification and evidence for a proposed harvest limitation, as well as any relevant reviews, responses or challenges to the justification or evidence) and appears consistent with the objectives of Section 5.1.3 (b) (vi) of the NLCA.

The Board further decided **(Resolution 2006-103)** to approve the recommended protocol for the NWMB to follow in the event that there are concerns with certain TAH/NQL where there is no proponent recommending such a review. And further, that the staff contact partners and ask for their position prior to moving forward on a review.

10.C Conservation Concerns for WH and BB Polar Bear Zones

The Director of Wildlife Management reviewed the briefing note with the members. Recent analysis of information on both the WH and BB polar bear populations indicates that there may be concern for both populations. Western Hudson Bay shows a decline from 1200 to 950 bears over the past twenty years. New information on the Greenland harvest of bears causes concern for the sustainability of the Baffin Bay polar bear population also. It is recommended that a public hearing should be held with regards to these two populations. It is further recommended that the NWMB write the Minister of DOE Nunavut outlining options available under the NLCA to ensure a prudent management response to the conservation concerns for these polar bear populations. The Board decided **(Resolution 2006-104)** to write the Department of Environment requesting an updated stock status report on both the West Hudson Bay (WH) and Baffin Bay (BB) polar bear populations.

10.D GN DOE Funding Support for Western Hudson Bay Survey

The NWMB Director of Wildlife reviewed the briefing note with members. Recent analysis of Western Hudson Bay polar bear indicates a decline from 1200 to 950 bears over the last twenty years. CWS suggests this decline is due to the combined results of climate change and harvesting. An alternate hypothesis is that the observed WH decrease is not a reduction in bears but rather a migration of bears out of the WH geographical range for ecological reasons. To test these hypotheses, a mark-recapture survey needs to be conducted along the Nunavut western coastline of Hudson Bay. CWS have agreed to conduct the survey in cooperation with GN-DOE however \$40,000 is required to complete the work in August 2006 GN-DOE is requesting financial support from NWMB and NTI to share equally in the cost of supporting this survey work. Gabriel Nirlungayuk noted that NTI was happy to support this work; his only concern was that the proposal called for drugging the bears. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-105**) to support facilitating the CWS mark-recapture survey of polar bear along the northwest Hudson Bay coast and to contribute one-third of the \$40,000 required for August 2006.

10.E Pond Inlet Request for Carryover of Narwhal Tags

The NWMB has received a request from the Pond Inlet HTA to carry over unused narwhal tags due to weather and ice condition this past year. Pond Inlet has a quota of 130 narwhal tags. In 2005 they harvested 62 whales and are now requesting that 50% of their annual harvest be carried over to 2006 giving them a new quota of 195 whales. The Community-Based Management program permits communities that do not harvest their full allocation in a hunting season to request a carry-over of up to 50% of its tags to the following year, NWMB members questioned if any harvest had occurred this year, DFO advised that no whales had been harvested to date. The Board – emphasizing that this was not a quota increase - decided (**Resolution 2006-106**) to approve the Pond Inlet HTA request to carry 50% of their annual harvest not used, a total of 65 narwhal tags.

10.F Hall Beach Request for Increase to Narwhal Tags

The NWMB received a request from the Hall Beach HTA to increase their narwhal quota from 10 to 25 whales per year. DFO advises that they are not sure which population of whales Hall Beach is harvesting as they hunt from three different areas. As the NWMB recently increased the harvest for the Gulf of Boothia stock to 75 whales shared between Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Kugaaruk, it was suggested that an increase for Hall Beach may have a detrimental impact on the Gulf of Boothia stock. Gabe Nirlungayuk questioned whether Hall Beach could harvest from the Boothia stock if the other three communities did not harvest the full 75 whales. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-107**) to postpone the decision on increasing the quota for Hall Beach until more information is received to make an informed decision and that in the letter to the community, they be encouraged to contact the Gulf of Boothia communities for more tags.

10.G Peary Caribou Harvest in Nunavut

Erin Calder reviewed her briefing note with the members. Current information estimates the Peary caribou at approximately 2-3,000 animals. COSEWIC has designated Peary as endangered since May 2004. Grise Fiord hunters are estimated to harvest between 15-20 caribou per year. Resolute Bay reported about 12 caribou harvested from Bathurst Island in 2005. 10 animals were reported harvested from Boothia Peninsula however biologists are not sure of the status of these animals as there seems to be mixing between Peary and Island caribou.

10.H Uranium Mining in Nunavut

Erin Calder reviewed the briefing note with the members. It is noted that this is a very controversial subject and requires much consultation. The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan calls for prohibition against uranium development in the Kivalliq Region until the four Institutions of Public Government have reviewed all the issues relevant to uranium exploration and mining. The NWMB is currently being asked to comment on the NTI Draft Uranium Policy, and staff questioned whether they should comment on this policy.

10.I Polar Bear Update

Members requested that staff provide them with a summary of the world's polar bear populations. The Wildlife Management Biologist prepared a summary and presented same to the members. It was noted that approximately 19 subpopulations are noted in the Arctic regions. Some populations are well documented, others are not, but it is estimated that there are between 20,000 and 25,000 bears in total.

10.J Special Meeting 12

Michael d'Eça reviewed the briefing note provided to the members. It was suggested that Special Meeting 12(A) be held in Iqaluit September 18-21, 2006, with a second session Special Meeting 12(B) scheduled for October 16-18, 2006 with October 19th and 20th as decision making days. It was also noted that the NWMB website was being upgraded to include the Special meetings/Public Hearing information and should be operating by the end of August 2006. The Board decided **(Resolution 2006-108)** to approve September 18-21, 2006 as the date of Special Meeting 12 (A) and October 16-20, 2006 as the date for Special Meeting 12(B).

11. NTI Wildlife Division

11.A Wildlife Department Report

Gabriel Nirlungayuk reviewed NTI Wildlife Department's Report with the NWMB Board members. An update on the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat (NIWS) and HTOs status was provided. NIWS is staffing up and providing service to the RWOs

and HTOs, centralized payroll system is starting to work well, which will decrease problems with Revenue Canada. HTOs are being reviewed and assistance offered to get them up and running. The main focus of NIWS for the next few months will be to clear up old HTO payables, develop financial recovery plans, and plan for Manager training.

With regards to polar bear management, TAH increases approved by the NWMB are being put into place by the GN but this has brought concerns from outside agencies. DOE has since conducted community consultations in the West Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay communities to discuss these Total Allowable Harvests.

The Wildlife Act and Regulations development is continuing; informal hearings were held with all the RWOs and HTOs in Iqaluit in November 2005. NTI called on the NWMB to establish proper hearings on this issue and to ensure "procedural fairness."

NTI noted that they had attended a sealing meeting where plans were discussed about establishment of a National Sealing Committee under the Fur Institute of Canada. It was noted that a more proactive approach needs to be taken to make Nunavut's position known.

Work continues on the Species at Risk Act and NTI continues to push for inclusion of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in all status reports.

Work on the Nunavut Fisheries file continues, with work being done on the Nunavut Offshore Fisheries Review and development of a Nunavut Allocation Policy. Reports on NTI's activities with regards to fisheries were summarized in this report. Reports on the bowhead hunt, polar bear user to user agreements with Inuvialuit and Inupiat, Community Based Management, BQCMB activities and other reports were also summarized.

12. Applications for Funding

12.A DFO Application Review

Erin Calder reviewed the briefing note with the members. It was noted that Project No. 3-05-03 – Ringed Seals in Western Hudson Bay was accidentally left off the agenda for the March NWRT meeting reviewing research proposals. This project was approved for multi-year funding and this was the third year of the project. Full community support was received with regards to this project and all reports were provided as required. It was recommended that the Board consider funding this project for its final year. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-109**) to approve Project No. 3-05-03 for funding in the amount of \$42,000 for the 2006/07 research season.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-110**) to move to an in camera session at 1:30 p.m. Thursday to make decisions on outstanding items.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-111**) to close the in camera session.

13. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations

Board returned to Regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday with Executive Committee recommendations.

13.A Funding Assistance for Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-112**) to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to provide a contribution of \$60,000 to NIWS to assist with its review of and assistance to HTOs.

13.B Consultant for New Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-113**) to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to use an independent consultant for development and operation of the new Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study.

13. C Contract for Review of First NWMB Harvest Study

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-114**) to approve a \$25,000 contract to Nunaworks to complete an extensive review of the NWMB's Harvest Study and provide recommendations for a new study.

13.D NWMB Website Upgrade to Include Decision Component

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-115**) to approve \$35,000 for an upgrade to the NWMB's website to include a NWMB Decision component for use by the public.

14. Meetings, Workshops and Other Pertinent Events

14.A Past Events: Reports and Briefings

The Chairperson noted that there were several meeting reports from staff for review by the Members in this section.

- JCNB Meeting in April 2006
- Harvesting Techniques and Equipment Workshop
- 11th North American Caribou Conference

14.B Upcoming Events: Review and Participation

The Chief Operating Officer reviewed the upcoming meeting list with the members and discussions followed on which meetings would be attended and who would attend.

15. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-116**) to conduct its 47th Regular Meeting in Iqaluit, November 21-23, 2006.

17. Adjournment

The Chairman thanked members, translators and NWMB staff for their work in preparation for and at the meeting. The 46th meeting of the NWMB was adjourned.

Minutes Approved by:


Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS: MEETING No. 46

Resolution 2006-089

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the agenda as presented, noting that some items maybe moved to ensure the more urgent items are considered first.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-090

RESOLVED that the NWMB adopt the Minutes of Regular Meeting No.45 conducted in Iqaluit, March 28-30, 2006 with the understanding that errors in the Inuktitut translations will be corrected.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-091

RESOLVED that the NWMB adopt the Minutes of Conference Call No. 96, conducted April 7, 2006 with noted corrections.\

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-092

RESOLVED that the NWMB adopt the Minutes of Conference Call No.97, conducted April 25, 2006 as presented.

Moved by: Paul Pemik
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-093

RESOLVED that the NWMB adopt the Minutes of Conference Call No. 98 conducted, May 4, 2006 as presented.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-094

RESOLVED that the NWMB adopt the 2005/06 Financial Audit Report as

presented.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-095

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve a pre-emptive by-catch of 400 tonnes for pink shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) inside the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) and recommend to DFO the same by-catch limit for pink shrimp in Shrimp Fishing Area 3 (SFA 3) outside the NSA for the 2006 fishing season only.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-096

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the application of the Northern Shrimp Research Foundation's (NSRF) request to continue its shrimp and turbot survey in OA be approved for the 2006 fishing season, subject to the following conditions:

1. That the research licence indicates that no historic attachment to this fishing area will be considered as a result of this test fishery;
2. That a member of DFO Nunavut be on the NSRF Board as a regular member; and
3. That the NSRF agree to these conditions prior to approval of their research licence.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-097

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the proposed plan – as generally outlined in DFO's submission to the NWMB dated April 24/06, and as agreed to by DFO and the Pond Inlet HTO – concerning char harvests by Charlie Innuarak in Koluktoo Bay/Milne Inlet for the 2006 season, at a harvest level not to exceed 3,000 kg of Arctic char.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-098

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the plan agreed to between DFO, the HTOs adjacent to the exploratory waters and BFC, allowing three vessels to use 12 crab

pots each to test for crab in Sub Area 0 - including waters of the NSA. The approval also includes the following conditions:

- A record of any species caught should be kept indicating: the date, location (lat. and long.), sex, carapace width, water depth, species and number caught.
- The number of any undersized, female or soft-shelled crabs should be recorded.
- Catch per unit effort be recorded.
- All females, undersized crabs and any moulting (white) crabs must be released promptly, avoiding any rough handling of the crab on-board and in returning them to the ocean.
- Only males over 95mm may be harvested for Snow and Northern Stone crab species.
- For species other than Snow and Northern Crab, only the males may be harvested.
- Five males and five females of each species of crab randomly chosen from the traps must be sent to DFO Science in Winnipeg to confirm identification. (sent frozen whole)

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-099

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the proposed plan as generally outlined in DFO's submission to the NWMB dated April 24/06, and agreed to by DFO and the Pangnirtung HTA, concerning char harvests for the 2006 harvest season in the following lakes:

- Targiokuk
- Abituajuit - Chidlak Bay
- Iqaluit Lake - Robert Peel Inlet
- Iqaluit Lake - Exaluin Fjord
- Nauliniavik
- Kanayuktuuq - Ikipit Bay
- Anaktuayuit
- Isuituq
- Qasigiyat
- Kipisa
- Qasigialiminiq Lake

And, that the NWMB continues its commitment to hold a public meeting to consider the establishment of a TAH/BNL for these fisheries as soon as is practicable, taking into account public notice and procedural fairness requirements.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak

Opposed: One (1) - Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Resolution 2006-100

RESOLVED, that the NWMB temporarily move out of Regular Meeting No. 46 at 4:15 p.m. June 6, 2006

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-101

RESOLVED that the NWMB accept the NWMB Legal Advisor's five recommendations on the Thelon Management Plan as follows:

1. That the NWMB request, by formal letter in June of 2006, that the GN and DIAND provide the Board – in time for its September 2006 quarterly meeting – with a report on progress achieved to date in implementing the June 2004 NWMB recommendations which accompanied the NWMB's Plan approval:
 - (a) Providing necessary financial and human resources for the Management Authority; and
 - (b) Developing/enacting/amending legislation to implement the Plan;
2. That in the June letter, the NWMB announces its intention to commence in December of 2006 an examination of the unresolved issue of harvesting restrictions on Inuit in the Sanctuary. At the same time, the Board remind the parties to the Plan of the various limitations it is operating under in conducting that examination;
3. That as a preliminary step in its examination of the issue, the NWMB request that DIAND and the GN provide the Board – in time for reviews by the NWMB members at their September 2006 meeting – comprehensive information concerning wildlife harvesting and population statistics in the Sanctuary, as well as information concerning which Aboriginal groups are harvesting in the Sanctuary, what the special purposes and policies are relating to the Sanctuary, etc;
4. That in June 2006, the NWMB send a similar letter to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean concerning aquatic species/populations/stocks in the Sanctuary; and
5. That once in receipt of the responses to the request set out above, and after having engaged in discussions with other relevant agencies, the NWMB:
 - (a) Decide whether to proceed by way of its own or a joint public review, in examining what harvesting restrictions, if any (including fishing restrictions for non-Inuit), are warranted – either within the NSA portion of the Sanctuary or within the entire Sanctuary;
 - (b) Develop and circulate a draft schedule in October of 2006 for the conduct and completion of the public review; and
 - (c) Commence the public review by December of 2006

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-102

RESOLVED that the NWMB be prepared to unilaterally initiate a public consideration of the establishment of a TAH/NQL, or the modification/removal of an existing TAH/NQL, where the most current Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and/or scientific information reasonably indicates a TAH/NQL may be required – or may need to be modified/removed - pursuant to NLCA S.5.3.3, but where no proponent has made a submission to the Board requesting that such a decision be made.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-103

RESOLVED that - in the circumstances described in Res. 2006-102 - where no proponent has come forward, the NWMB approach the most likely potential proponent concerning the matter, and also seek the views of its other relevant co-management partners.

Moved by: Abraham Kaunak
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-104

RESOLVED that the NWMB write a letter to the Minister of Environment for up-to-date stock status reports on both the West Hudson Bay (WH) and Baffin Bay (BB) polar bear populations, with the intention of publicly examining as soon as reasonably possible, the conservation status of the two populations at an NWMB meeting.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-105

RESOLVED that the NWMB support facilitating the CWS mark-recapture survey of polar bear along the northwest Hudson Bay coast and to contribute one-third of the \$40,000 required for August 2006.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-106

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve, pursuant to the terms of the CBM program, the Pond Inlet HTA request to carry into the 2006 harvesting season 50% of their narwhal tags not used in 2005 - a total of 65 narwhal tags.

Moved by: Abraham Kaunak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-107

RESOLVED that the NWMB postpone the decision on increasing the narwhal quota for Hall Beach until it has received sufficient information to make an informed decision. In the interim – and keeping in mind that individual community allocations are not often reached in this fishery - the NWMB letter to the community will encourage Hall Beach to contact the other communities harvesting from the Gulf of Boothia population regarding a potential tag-borrowing system with them.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-108

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve September 18-21, 2006 as the date of Special Meeting 12 (A) and October 16-20, 2006 as the date for Special Meeting 12(B).

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-109

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve Project No. 3-05-03 *Ringed Seal in Western Hudson Bay* for funding in the amount of \$42,000 for the 2006/07 research season.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 6, 2006

Resolution 2006-110

RESOLVED that the NWMB move to an in camera session at 1:30 p.m. Thursday June 8, 2006, to make confidential decisions on various matters.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-111

RESOLVED that the NWMB close the in camera session.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-112

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to provide a contribution of \$60,000 to the NIWS to assist with its review of and assistance to HTOs.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-113

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to use an independent consultant for development and operation of the new Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-114

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve a \$25,000 contract to Nunaworks to complete an extensive review of the NWMB's Harvest Study and provide recommendations for a new study.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-115

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve \$35,000 for an upgrade to the NWMB's website to include an NWMB Decision component for use by the public.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Date: June 8, 2006

Resolution 2006-116

RESOLVED that the NWMB conduct its 47th Regular Meeting in Iqaluit, November 21-23, 2006.

Moved by: Abraham Kaunak
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 8, 2006