

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No.62

Yellowknife, December 2-3, 2009

Members and Staff Participating:

Harry Flaherty	A/Chairperson
Robert Moshenko	Member
Peter Awa	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Willie Nakoolak	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Mikidjuk Akavak	Chief Executive Officer
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Tom Demcheson	Director of Finance and Admin
Charlotte Sharkey	A/Director of Wildlife
Adam Schneidmiller	Wildlife Administrative Biologist
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor

Not Available:

Chairperson	Vacant
DIAND Appointment	Vacant

Other Participants at Various Times:

Eric Kan	DFO, Iqaluit
Joe Justus	DFO, Iqaluit
Chris Lewis	DFO, Iqaluit
Raymond Ratynski	DFO, Winnipeg
Tracy Allison	DFO, Ottawa
Bert Dean	NTI, Rankin Inlet
Glenn Williams	NTI, Iqaluit
Leslie Wakelyn	BQCMB, Yellowknife
Karen Clark	Wekeechii Renewable Resources
Donna Mulders	Government of the NWT-EMR
Bruno Croft	Government of the NWT-EMR
Sam Kapolak	Bathurst HTA
Lucassie Nakoolak	Taloyoak HTA
Ralph Porter	Gjoa Haven HTA
Vanessa Charlwood	CWS, YK
Joanne Tuckwell	Parks Canada, Winnipeg

Paul Quassa
Sharon Ehloak
Adrian Boyd
Steve Pinksen
Mathieu Dummond

NPC Member
NPC, Cambridge Bay
NPC, Yellowknife
DOE Nunavut, Iqaluit
DOE Nunavut, Kugluktuk

1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries

The A/Chairperson called the meeting to order, welcomed Board Members, staff and guests, to Regular Meeting No.62. Peter Awa was called on to open the meeting with a prayer.

2. Opening Remarks

The A/Chairperson reviewed the schedule for Wednesday and Thursday, December 2 & 3 and advised that there was a new member of the Board to be sworn-in.

3. Swearing In Ceremony for New NWMB Member

Peter Qayutinuak Sr. appointed by the Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association was officially sworn-in as a new member of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board by the NWMB's legal advisor, Michael d'Eça.

3. Agenda: Review and Approval

The Board decided (**Resolution 2009-066**) to adopt the agenda for December 2 and 3, 2009 as presented.

4. Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)

4. A Community Consultation on SARA Listing of Horned Grebe as "Special Concern"

The Horned Grebe (Western Population) was assessed as "Special Concern" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in April 2009. This note is to provide information on this listing and the results of community consultations on the listings that have occurred in Nunavut. The Horned Grebe is a small water bird that breeds in western Canada (extreme southern part of Nunavut) and winters along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The concerns for this species are loss of habitat, droughts, and increase in nest predators and pollution in wintering areas. In October, Environment Canada consulted Arviat via mail, as this is the only community close to the breeding range. The Arviat HTA sent in their official response (Do Not Support the Proposed Listing) as they see many of these birds in their area, further consultation with other Kivalliq HTOs resulted in no response. It is expected further consultations will occur with the provinces and other territories. Environment Canada will make a formal request for decision to the NWMB at a later meeting.

5. Fisheries and Ocean (DFO): Issues/Decisions

5. A COSEWIC Assessment Update for Aquatic Species

DFO informed the NWMB of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessment results on Bowhead Whale, Killer Whale and Roundnose Grenadier. DFO indicated that they would be waiting until a harmonized SARA listing process has been developed with Nunavik before moving forward with consultations on these three species.

The Eastern Canada-Western Greenland bowhead whale population has been reassessed as Special Concern. The previous COSEWIC assessment in 2005 considered the eastern arctic bowheads as 2 separate populations, the Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin population and the Davis Strait-Baffin Bay population. Both of these populations were assessed as Threatened. The 2009 COSEWIC assessment considers the eastern arctic bowheads as 1 single population. Thus, COSEWIC now considers the Eastern Canada-Western Greenland bowhead whale population to be less at risk ('Special Concern' rather than 'Threatened'). If this population were listed under the SARA, it would require the development of a Management Plan.

The Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic Killer Whale population has been reassessed as Special Concern. The previous COSEWIC assessment in 2001 assessed this killer whale population as 'Data Deficient'. Killer whales are thought to be expanding their range in the Canadian Arctic due to declining summer sea ice. The number of whales in this population is unknown, but is estimated to be fewer than 1000 mature individuals. If this population were listed under the SARA, it would require the development of a Management Plan.

The Roundnose Grenadier was assessed as Endangered. This fish species is most abundant at depth greater than 1000 m. Survey data shows the number of adults has declined by 98% from 1978 to 1994 with a further decline from 1995 to 2003. Roundnose Grenadiers used to be commercially harvested but this is no longer allowed. Even though there is no longer any directed harvest, this species is part of the by-catch of deepwater fisheries. This species is long-lived: 160 years. Long-lived species tend to be very susceptible to mortalities of individuals, for example due to by-catch. If this population were listed under the SARA, it would require the development of a Recovery Strategy and an Action Plan, which are written plans to help the species recover. As well, prohibitions on killing and damaging residences of the species, and protection of critical habitat (the habitat needed for survival or recovery of the species), would apply. The SARA states that prohibitions do not apply to a person who is engaging in activities in accordance with conservation measures for a wildlife species under a land claims agreement (Section 83.3). An example of this would be a person engaging in activities in accordance with a NWMB decision (e.g., a person following a Total Allowable Harvest or Non-Quota Limitations).

5. B Request for Arctic Char Exploratory Fishery

This is a request from Mr. Levi Evic for exploratory licence to fish for Arctic Char in eight water bodies in the Cumberland Sound area. Mr. Evic was previously approved in 2003 for a five-year study of eight waterbodies; this new application is a request for renewal of this licence for seven of the eight waterbodies plus one new lake. Mr. Vic has only provided partial information on four of the waterbodies fished in the past five years.

Based on a review by DFO it is recommended that there would be a moderate risk to the Arctic Char populations in the following waterbodies if harvest levels of 1000 kg were approved:

- Unnamed Lake – NW of Ijaruvaan Lake;
- Unnamed Lake – W of Ilikok Island;
- Unnamed Lake – N of Isuittuq;
- Unnamed Lake – W of Kangiaualaak;
- Unnamed Lake – Tupiling Bay; and
- Kairoluk Fiord – North Arm.

It is further recommended that emphasis should be put on harvesting Unnamed Lake – North of Isuittuq and Unnamed Lake – Tupiling Bay as some biological data has been provided for these two water bodies and this would advance the chance of establishing a commercial allocation on these two waterbodies.

DFO is recommending that the request for licence for Millut Bay and Unnamed Lake (65°-05' N, 68°-08' W) not be approved for an exploratory licence as Millut Bay was already fished this past summer and Unnamed Lake has no information available to assess.

5. C Padle Fiord Area Commercial Fishing

The Padle Fiord Area consists of seven small lakes and four of these lakes are currently harvested for subsistence. Even though the area was designated as a commercial waterbody, no commercial fishing has occurred since 1993/94. In 1994/95, a tagging project was conducted but no conclusive information was gathered as to whether there is one stock or multi-stocks of char in the area. The community of Qikiqtarjuaq would now like to re-open this area to commercial fishing. The community is planning to split a 3600kg total among the four lakes. DFO feels that this harvest plan is a precautionary approach and approves the plan based on the request that commercial fishing statistics should include the Lake's name and amount harvested.

5. D Narwhal and Beluga Stock Structuring

In preparation for establishment of Total Allowable Harvest for beluga, narwhal and walrus, the NWMB requested stock status reports. The NWMB also requested DFO to explain why they are giving advice on narwhal stock on the basis of summering stock aggregations rather than at the population level.

In response to NWMB's request for information, DFO Science has drafted a report explaining the different terms and further explains why this formula has been used on Iqaluit and Kimmirut beluga and narwhal stocks rather than the normal regional populations. This information will be forwarded to the NWMB following peer review.

5. E Implications of Eclipse Sound Narwhal Entrapment

An ice entrapment of over 629 narwhals occurred in the Eclipse Sound area in November of 2008. Local hunters humanely harvested narwhal during the entrapment under S.5.3.24 of the NLCA. That section of the claim requires the NWMB to "conduct a full review as soon as practicable thereafter." The NWMB has requested a science advice update regarding possible effects of this entrapment on the Eclipse sound narwhal stock. A science advisory meeting was held to review and develop advice on the impacts of this entrapment.

The analysis of this entrapment indicated that the mortality event probably had a small effect on the fairly large Eclipse Sound stock and little or no reduction in the catch would be required. However, if these entrapments were to become more common, the Total Allowable Land Catch (TALC) would need to be re-assessed.

5. F Northern Hudson Bay Narwhal Survey Results

In August 2008, DFO Science provided advice on Total Allowable Harvest levels for narwhal and beluga populations in Nunavut. This report was updated in September 2009 and calculations show that the sustainable levels of harvest for the Northern Hudson Bay (NHB) stock should be lower than current levels. This population is harvest by many Kivalliq and Baffin Island communities and in addition, Nunavik Inuit has requested a small allocation of NHB narwhal.

DFO Science conducted a survey of the summer range of NHB in 2008 to update the existing abundance estimate. The report from this survey is currently being peer reviewed and will be forwarded to the NWMB on completion.

6. NWMB Items: Review/Decision

6. A Beluga CBM Review/Decision

The second trial period for Beluga CBM expired in 2007, requiring that the trial system be reviewed and a decision be made on the future of CBM. A Beluga CBM Review Committee, including representatives from the NWMB, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) consulted with the two participating communities Iqaluit and Kimmirut from November 2nd- 4th, 2009.

The Review Committee presented and provided a report on the results of the consultations and provided recommendations to the NWMB on the future of the trial management system. The NWMB made an internal decision after consideration of all

the information received and the decision will be forwarded to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

6. B Muskox Issues

The Board provided the Board with a verbal update on a number of musk-ox management inquiries that had received the NWMB Wildlife Section. The Board was informed that these musk-ox management inquiries have been passed on to GN-DoE and that GN-DoE has been informed that resolutions to these issues must be done in consultation with the affected communities and RWO. The NWMB Wildlife Section also noted that the completion of the Special Meeting No. 12 decisions could potentially resolve a number of the musk-ox issues that have been specified.

6. C CITES Update

The NWMB Wildlife Section provided the Board with CITES updates on polar bear, narwhal and walrus. The Conference of the Parties to CITES is to take place in March 2010. The deadline for submitting proposals to change appendices was October 14th. There were no proposals to change the current appendices for narwhal or walrus; however, a proposal was received to transfer polar to appendix 1 (e.g., trade is banned). In March 2010, the parties will vote on whether to transfer polar bear to Appendix 1, a two-thirds vote is required for the transfer to proceed.

6. D Walrus Sport Hunt Application

This was a late walrus sport hunt application from Henik Lake Adventures of Arviat. The Arviat HTA supports this hunt and as the hunt is planned for the Coats Island area, the Coral Harbour HTA is planning to meet to discuss this application. The applicant is requesting 6 hunts, the average annual take for Arviat is one (1) animal per year. However as this request is for a hunt in the Coats Island area, DFO has no conservation concerns. The hunt plan addresses safety concerns, humane harvest concerns have been addressed and as the hunt is planned for Coats Island area, going over the annual average takes of 1 animal is not a concern. Board staff recommends that the applicant obtain the following:

- Written endorsement of the Coral Harbour HTA;
- That all struck, lost and landed animals be reported to DFO;
- That the hunt be conducted in compliance with all safety requirement ; and
- That there are no more than 2 strikes per walrus landed.

7. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated: Issues/Decisions

7. A Request for Muskox Regulation Change

Bert Dean reviewed a letter submitted by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board on musk-ox boundaries and changes required for the wildlife regulations. This topic was also discussed at the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Organization meeting in November 2009. It

was noted that there is a sense of urgency to review the musk-ox regulations. Ralph Porter suggested that there is plenty of musk-ox but the wildlife regulations limit the harvest. Lucassie Nakoolak advised that the musk-ox population is very healthy. Mathieu Dummond, GN Regional Biologist for the Kitikmeot Region noted that there were numerous changes in the draft wildlife regulations but this process is taking much longer than expected. Discussion followed on development of a management plan. It was reported that development of a musk ox management plan would probably occur in early January 2010. The NWMB's legal advisor noted that the musk ox regulations were addressed in Special Meeting 12 and a decision had been sent to the Minister almost two years ago, the Board is still waiting for a final decision from the Minister.

7. B Polar Bear Management Review

Bert Dean noted that there was a letter and resolution from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board about polar bear allocations and management. It was noted that it is difficult for the communities to follow the polar bear MOU process of a fifteen-year rotation on polar bear population research. The KWB is calling on DOE to possibly shorten this process to seven years, and calling for further surveys to review the Western Hudson Bay population allocation. The KWB has agreed to follow the new allocation for Western Hudson Bay polar bear and have re-allocated the eight polar bears tags provided as follows:

- Arviat – 4
- Whale Cove – 2
- Rankin Inlet – 2

Mathieu Dummond noted that the Department is attempting to develop a less obstructive way of surveying polar bear; some interesting results have been produced. Lucassie Nakoolak voiced concern over various aspects of the current polar bear MOUs. He suggested there are concerns with removing defence kills from the quota; the male/female ratio aspect should also be reviewed. Mathieu Dumond noted that there is a process to review the MOUs every seven years, that time is fast approaching and the communities should be getting prepared to re-negotiate these agreements. KWB also provided a resolution calling on NTI to initiate a full review of the Government of Nunavut's polar bear management program.

7. C Wildlife Policy Advisory Committee Resolutions

Bert Dean noted that Resolutions from the Wildlife Policy Advisory Committee, conducted in Quebec City, October 10-11, 2009 were included in the binder for Board review. This included resolutions regarding:

- EU ban on trade restrictions with regards to seal products;
- Provisions to exclude Canada from seal product trade restrictions;
- Call for a full review of the Government of Nunavut's polar bear research program; and

- Call for a workshop on Bowhead whale hunts experience and recommendations for future hunts.

8. Other Presentations

8. A Nunavut Planning Commission – Presentation on Nunavut Marine Council

Paul Quassa, member of NPC and Sharon Ehaloak and Adrian Boyd staff members of NPC attended the NWMB meeting to discuss implementation of the Nunavut Marine Council. It was noted that a draft Memorandum of Understanding had been drafted and sent around to the Institutions of Public Government to review and approve. It was noted that NIRB, NWB and NPC boards had all approved this MOU. It was further noted that the objective of this Council would be to monitor marine traffic, cruise ship movement and possible oil and gas development projects. It was further noted that NPC is developing a complete land-use plan for all of Nunavut. Paul called on the NWMB members to approve establishment of the Nunavut Marine Council, as this was a major negotiation issue and should be implemented as soon as possible. The Board noted that the NWMB legal advisor would be tasked to review the MOU and report back to the NWMB.

8. B Government of the NWT- Bathurst Caribou Herd Concerns

Leslie Wakelyn, Biologist with the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) provides a brief overview of the BQCMB mandate and membership. Leslie reviewed the calving, wintering and summering areas of the three caribou herds, Bathurst, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds, noting that all three seem to be reducing in number. There is a chance that during the survey work, cows may have been arriving late to the calving areas. Leslie called on the NWMB and Government to provide assistance to monitor these herds. Members had questions on wolf predation and survey results. It was noted that there are cycles that the caribou follow but today there are added concerns from roads, exploration, hunters and global warming/fires/ice rain. The most important question is how we can change these trends to prevent loss of animals. It was noted that almost 60% of the benefit of these herds goes to Nunavut. It is important that a few of the following factors be considered in management of these herds:

- Education and enforcement;
- Reduce wastage;
- Harvest more males than females; and
- Monitor exploration on caribou grounds

It was noted that a stakeholder's workshop is scheduled before Christmas 2009 and BQCMB is calling on the NWMB to provide funding assistance for stakeholders travel to Saskatchewan. Board participant questioned about food sources, and Leslie mentioned that forest fires may be a factor in winter feed areas.

