

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. RM 001-2013

Iqaluit, March 11, 2013

Members and Staff Participating:

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Manasie Audlakiak | Acting Chairperson |
| Raymond Ningeocheak | Member |
| Peter Kusugak | Member |
| Peter Qayutinuak Sr. | Member |
| Winston Fillatre | Member |
| Harry Flaherty | Member |
| Jim Noble | Executive Director |
| Tom Demcheson | Interim Director of Finance |
| Rebecca Jeppesen | Director of Wildlife Management |
| Sarah Spencer | Wildlife Management Biologist |
| Peter Kydd | Wildlife Management Biologist |
| Tina Rose | Executive Secretary |
| Michael d'Eca | NWMB Legal Advisor |
| Evie Amagoalik | Interpreter |
| Letia Janes | Interpreter |

Participants at Various Times:

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| Chris Lewis | Fisheries and Oceans Canada |
| Zoya Martin | Fisheries and Oceans Canada |
| Sally Wong | Fisheries and Oceans Canada |
| Charlotte Sharkey | Fisheries and Oceans Canada |
| Jeff MacDonald | Fisheries and Oceans Canada |
| Graham White | University of Toronto |
| Peter de Groot | Queen's University |
| Lynda Orman | Government of Nunavut |
| Mitch Campbell | Government of Nunavut |
| Peter Hale | Government of Nunavut |
| Paul Irngaut | Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. |
| Leah Muckpah | Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Office |

Monday, March 11, 2013

Regular Meeting No. 001-2013

1. Call to order / Opening Prayer Regular meeting

2. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Board members were given the opportunity to declare any conflicts of interest based on the agenda.

Board member, Harry Flaherty, declared a conflict of interest for agenda items 5a and 8a.

3. Agenda: Review and Approval

The Board approved the agenda as presented (**Resolution RM 001-2013-01**)

4. Environment Canada: Issues/Decisions

The item has been deferred until a representative from Environment Canada is available to present the briefing note to the Board.

5. Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Issues/Decisions

a) Department of Fisheries and Oceans Update

Chris Lewis of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note updating the Board as to the current status of programs, staffing, and upcoming initiatives from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Central and Arctic Region offices located in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

The Board expressed their satisfaction at receiving a thorough report from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The Board recommended that Fisheries and Oceans Canada contact the three regional wildlife offices in Nunavut to explain the changing role of the Fishery Officer.

It was further recommended that Fisheries and Oceans Canada consult with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board when writing policy which will affect Nunavut-communities.

The Board discussed fisheries licensing and the need to establish a basic needs level, total allowable harvest and surplus management regime, necessary to fulfil the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

b) Science Emerging Fisheries Program in Nunavut

Zoya Martin of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note regarding the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Science Emerging Fisheries Program in Nunavut.

The Fisheries and Oceans Canada Science Sector under the Emerging Fisheries Policy has been completing research on licensed exploratory fisheries in Nunavut. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has provided advice on four exploratory stocks since 2004 and plans to provide advice on a further eight stocks by 2020.

Martin offered to provide an update on current and future research plans for exploratory fisheries at the next quarterly meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

- c) Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada status updates and Species at Risk Act listing process for Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Acadian Redfish – Atlantic population, Deepwater Redfish – Northern population, and Northern Bottlenose Whale – Baffin Bay – Davis Strait – Labrador Sea population.

Chris Lewis of Fisheries and Oceans Canada updated the Board about current marine species under consideration for listing under the federal Species at Risk Act. The five species are: Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Acadian Redfish – Atlantic population, Deepwater Redfish – Northern population, and Northern Bottlenose Whale – Baffin Bay – Davis Strait – Labrador Sea population.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada requested that the Board decide by September 2013 if they would agree to an abridged listing process.

- d) Approval of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Greenland Halibut (turbot) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Subarea 0 fishery (effective 2013)

Charlotte Sharkey of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note for decision in regards to the approval of an integrated fisheries management plan for Greenland halibut (turbot).

It is important for Canadian fisheries to be able to demonstrate sustainability. An up-to-date integrated fisheries management plan will help maintain and expand Subarea 0 Greenland halibut fishery's international market access as well as obtain eco-certification in the future. The Subarea 0 Greenland halibut integrated fisheries management plan has not been updated since 2007.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada requested that the Board consider approval of the Subarea 0 Greenland halibut integrated fisheries management plan in March 2013.

There was discussion about how comments Fisheries and Oceans Canada received on the draft management plan were reviewed and integrated into the plan presented to the Board, and whether any further changes would be considered by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

6. Department of Environment – GN: issues/decisions

a) Draft management plan for high arctic muskoxen of the Qikiqtaaluk region

Peter Hale of the Government of Nunavut presented a briefing note to the Board for approval of a draft management plan for high arctic muskoxen.

The management plan presented for Board approval was modelled on the Kivalliq region's consensus-based draft management plan for muskox. The proposed draft management plan for high arctic muskoxen of the Qikiqtaaluk region was developed in conjunction with input from the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord, as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Although the management plan was presented to the Board in draft form; Hale does not anticipate any changes in the final plan.

There was discussion by the Board regarding the appropriateness of referring to the high arctic islands as part of the Qikiqtaaluk region or whether those islands, including Devon Island, should be named separately.

b) Dolphin and Union caribou herd

Peter Hale of the Government of Nunavut presented a briefing note to the Board requesting financial support in conducting research and population monitoring of the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

Local knowledge from hunters reports that animals are in poor physical condition with signs of disease. Additional stresses to the Dolphin and Union caribou herd include an increase in predators and an increase of activities connected with mining.

The Department of Environment plans to support a regional workshop to discuss a management plan for the Dolphin and Union herd.

There was discussion by the Board about what numbers constitute a healthy population for the dolphin union herd as well as the cyclical nature of all caribou populations.

There was further discussion about the Dolphin and Union caribou herd's species at risk listing as, "special concern" and whether that would impact or affect the drafting of a management plan.

c) The Beverly mainland migratory barren-ground caribou subpopulation status

Mitch Campbell of the Government of Nunavut presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the potentially decreasing population of the Beverly mainland migratory barren-ground caribou.

Population estimates were undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories in 2007 and 2008, but were not completed due to the extremely low numbers of caribou encountered.

New scientific analysis and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit indicate that the Beverly mainland herd population is decreasing and also has shifted its calving grounds to the coastal lowlands of the Queen Maud Gulf area a distance of between 200 and 300 kilometers.

d) The Qamanirjuaq mainland migratory barren-ground caribou subpopulation status

Mitch Campbell of the Government of Nunavut presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the decreasing population of the Qamanirjuaq mainland migratory barren-ground caribou.

Early results of the Qamanirjuaq Reconnaissance Survey indicate that the Qamanirjuaq caribou population may have declined since the last population survey, conducted in 2008.

The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment has informed all Kivalliq Hunter and Trappers Organizations of the suspected decline in Qamanirjuaq caribou.

The Government of Nunavut recommends conducting a population estimate of the Qamanirjuaq caribou population at the earliest possible time.

There was discussion by the Board about mineral exploration which had been permitted to occur at the Qamanirjuaq caribou calving grounds.

Campbell explained that within the last five years, survey techniques have vastly improved with the addition of more spotters on each survey flight, surveying larger land areas, and seeking assistance from the Hunters and Trappers Organizations and local hunters who are able to direct the surveyors to where the animals are located.

e) Kivalliq ecological land classification project map atlas

Mitch Campbell presented an information item about the Kivalliq Habitat Mapping Project which began as a pilot study in the summer of 2000.

The purpose of the Kivalliq Habitat Mapping Project is to identify and map plant types in the Kivalliq region.

The Board discussed future plans for habitat mapping in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot.

7. Other presentations

- a) Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area total allowable harvest of 500 tonnes in winter fishery – request for increase

Paul Irrngaut of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. presented a letter from the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Association requesting an increase of 500 tonne total allowable harvest in the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area.

Legal Counsel explained that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board would require a proposal for decision which sets out precisely what the community wants and any evidence or arguments in support of that proposal for increase.

- b) Increase in harvest of muskox in the Kivalliq

Mitch Campbell of the Government of Nunavut presented an item for decision to the Board requesting a temporary increase in the total allowable harvest of muskoxen in the Kivalliq region.

The current population of Northern Kivalliq muskox is 2,341. The current population of Central Kivalliq muskox is 4,736.

- c) Larry Dow – Regional Manager, Northern Operations - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Larry Dow, who was unable to attend the beginning of the Regular Meeting, introduced himself and shared with the Board his enthusiasm to work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

- d) Permission for Graham White to sit in during the in-camera meetings.

The Executive Director sought permission from the Board and co-management partners for Graham White of the University of Toronto to observe the in-camera meetings.

The Board agreed with the understanding that White would maintain strict confidentiality of the meeting proceedings.

- e) Permission for Leah Muckpah, Kivalliq Liaison Officer, to sit in during the in-camera meetings

The Director of Wildlife Management sought permission from the Board and co-management partners for Leah Muckpah, Liaison Officer from the Kivalliq region, to observe the in-camera meetings.

The Board agreed with the understanding that Muckpah would maintain strict confidentiality of the meeting proceedings.

10. Date and location of next meeting

The Board decided to hold the next quarterly meeting in Rankin Inlet in June, 2013. **(RM 001-2013-02)**

Regular Meeting No. 001-2013 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution RM 001-2013-01: RESOLVED that the Board adopt the agenda for RM 001-2013.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty
Carried

Seconded by: Winston Fillatre
Date: March 11, 2013

Resolution RM 001-2013-02: RESOLVED that the Board hold its next quarterly meeting in Rankin Inlet in June, 2013.

Moved by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.
Carried

Seconded by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Date: March 12, 2013