

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Regular Meeting
RM 004-2015 Highlights Iqaluit, Nunavut

1. Regular Meeting RM 004-2015 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was conducted in Iqaluit, Nunavut on December 1, 2015.

2. Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment:

No submissions were presented for this meeting.

3. Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented the following items to the Board:

Operational updates

Marine Mammals:

Narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan:

- Implementation of year 3 of the *Narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan* was discussed during post-season reviews at each of the three Regional Wildlife Organization's Annual General Meetings in October and November 2015.
- The Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Advisory Report regarding the tag transfer policy and abundance estimates and total allowable landed catch recommendations of narwhal stocks in the Canadian High Arctic was published in November 2015.

Harvest Reporting:

- Coral Harbour and Hall Beach were approved for a total of 27 walrus sport hunts in 2015. A total of 21 licences were issued to sport hunters. At least 18 hunters were successful.
- In September and October, technical staff from the Iqaluit office were in contact with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), requesting mid-season harvest updates for beluga, walrus, and narwhal.

Arctic Char:

Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:

- 2015 was year 3 of an Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery near Pond Inlet. Initial reports indicate that the third year of this fishery was successful.
- The Department is working with Mr. Inuarak and his crew to summarize the details and samples that were collected this year. A quick review suggests that 5 waterbodies and 999 fish were sampled.

Northern Shrimp:

- Fishing in Shrimp Fishing Area Davis Strait and Shrimp Fishing Area Nunavut started on July 14, 2015.
- Total harvest for Nunavut sub-allocations as of October 28, 2015 was 1267 mt.

Greenland Halibut:

Inshore Emerging Fisheries:

- In September 2015, the Arctic Fishery Alliance carried out an emerging fishery for turbot using longlines and whelk pots. Once again ice conditions hampered the fishing efforts of the crew in some areas; although, fishing did take place adjacent to Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay.
- In October fishing commenced outside the Nunavut Settlement area in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Division 0A near Qikiqtarjuaq using longlines, turbot pots, and whelk pots.

Offshore:

- As of October 30, 2015, the total harvest for Nunavut sub-allocations in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Division 0B and 0A were 1142 mt and 6374.3 mt, respectively.

Conservation and Protection:

Highlights for this past season include:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada worked extensively with Government of Nunavut and Royal Canadian Mounted Police on the narwhal tusk certification process in communities.
 - There was Conservation and Protection presence in Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay, and Sanikiluaq periodically during the year.
 - The bowhead whale hunt licences were delivered to community officials in Hall Beach and Naujaat.
 - Conservation and Protection had two Fishery Officers visit the community of Cambridge Bay to monitor and observe the commercial and recreational Arctic Char fishing activities, meet with the local fish plant and follow up on outstanding files.
 - Several aerial surveillance flights occurred to monitor the offshore Greenland halibut and northern shrimp fisheries.
 - A recreational fishing file on the Sylvia Grinnell River resulted in a significant penalty to two individuals charged.
4. Environment Canada presented the following items to the Board:
- Update on the Species at Risk Program.
 - Update on the proposed listing of Red-necked Phalarope as a species of Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act*.
 - Proposal for decision regarding the final *Management Plan for Peregrine Falcon in Canada*.
 - Little Brown Myotis – Engagement for Species with Unknown/Extralimital Ranges in Nunavut.

5. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated:

No submissions were presented for this meeting

6. NWMB Staff update:

Staff presented walrus sport hunts applications for Coral Harbour for 2016 and two (2) Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Research Fund applications.

7. The next Regular Meeting of the NWMB will be held in Iqaluit during the third week of March, 2016. Please refer to the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) for updates.

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