

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Conference Call No. 99

Friday, June 16, 2006; 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson
Abraham Kaunak	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Pitseolak Alainga	Member
Jim Noble	COO
Joe Justus	Director of Wildlife Management
Erin Calder	Wildlife Management Biologist
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter

Guests:

Glenn Williams	NTI
Stephan Romberg	DFO
Andrejka Lokar	DFO Liaison Officer

Not Available:

Kevin McCormick	Member
Paul Pemik	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
DFO Nominee	Vacant

1. Opening by Chairperson

Chairperson Joe Tigullaraq called the meeting to order; welcomed members and introduced the participants.

2. Review/Approval of Agenda

The members decided (**Resolution 2006-117**) to approve the agenda with the addition of one item to Other Business (HTO approval of Research Licenses).

3. Fin Whale Listing Under SARA

Stephan Romberg reviewed the briefing note on fin whale with the members. COSEWIC designated the Atlantic population of fin whale as Special Concern in May of 2005. The primary reason for this listing is the historic commercial whaling and current threats such as ship strikes and entanglements in fishing gear. No community consultations were considered as this species is not hunted for subsistence purposes. The DFO recommendation is for the NWMB to respond to the Minister prior to April 28, 2006 (deadline long passed).

When the NWMB first received notification of this listing, the Board wrote the Minister noting that the NLCA requires specific times for the NWMB to make such decisions. Procedures on how the NWMB plans to review these designations were also laid out in the same letter. At its June 2006 meeting the Board learned that the Minister had postponed the decision on five beluga populations, but had not postponed the decision on fin whale. The Board decided (**Resolution 2006-118**) to approve the listing but with objection to the fact that no consultation was conducted and that the Minister should have postponed the fin whale also as the NWMB was not provided sufficient time to deal with this listing as per the NLCA.

4. Harvest Study Update

The Chief Operating Officer provided a brief update on progress towards development a new Harvest Study. Several decisions are facing the Board with regards to the Study. Five phases have been suggested:

- The Board needs to decide whether the new harvest study will be run internally or by an external consulting team hired to conduct the study.
- Conduct a review of the past study and do a needs assessment for future collection of harvest data
- Start-up survey design and preparation, community consultation
- Pilot project – data collection, analysis, reporting and redesign if necessary
- Data collection, analysis and reporting

At Regular Meeting No. 46 in Churchill, the Board approved Nunaworks Inc. bid to develop the new Harvest Study. The Board also approved a contract to Nunaworks to conduct a review of the past harvest study and provide recommendations for a new study. This project is underway and will be presented to the Board in the near future.

5. Special/Regular Meeting Dates

The Chief Operating Officer provided a brief update on future meeting dates. Staff was asked to contact all Members to confirm their attendance. It was noted that assurance needs to be given that members will be available for these meetings. Special Meeting No 12 A regarding the Wildlife Regulations and Orders is scheduled for Iqaluit, September

25-28 and Special Meeting 12 B is scheduled for Iqaluit, October 23-27. The next regular meeting was scheduled for November 28-30, 2006

6. Offshore Fisheries Review

The Chief Operating Officer advised the members that the Offshore Fisheries Review had been completed by the consultants. The next steps in the process would be to inform the co-management partners, fishing industry representatives and public of the report and ask for comments/review. Following this the next step will be to conduct a meeting with the fishing industry representatives to receive further recommendations and to decide on how to proceed.

7. Other Business

Nil

7.A HTO Support Letters for Research

Stephan Romberg advised that DFO researchers are having difficulty getting support letters from the HTOs, Currently fourteen researchers have not been able to get support letters. It was suggested that moving the application period and funding approval timing ahead, might assist the HTOs to review and approve these research permits. Stephan suggested another option might be to give a time limit and if no response has been received by the deadline, the permits will be issued. The NWMB Legal Advisor suggested that maybe the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat could assist in this endeavour.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:


Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2006- 117

RESOLVED that the Agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Date: June 16, 2006

Resolution 2006- 118

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the listing of fin whale but with objection to the fact that no consultation was conducted and that Minister should have postponed the fin whale listing also as the NWMB was not provided sufficient time to deal with this listing as per the NLCA.

Moved by: Abraham Kaunak
Opposed: One (1) - Harry Flaherty
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: June 16, 2006