

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Draft Minutes Conference Call No. 107

Thursday, July 12, 2007; 1:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson/CEO
Kevin McCormick	Member
Willie Nakoolak	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Pitseolak Alainga	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Erin Calder	Wildlife Biologist
Paul Frame	Wildlife Administrative Biologist
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter

Not Available:

Harry Flaherty	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Robert Moshenko	Member
GN Nominee	Vacant

Guests:

Keith Pelley	DFO, Iqaluit
Sandra Courchesne	DFO, Iqaluit

1. Opening by Chairperson

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed Members to the Conference Call.

2. Review/Approval of Agenda

The members decided (**Resolution 2007-070**) to approve the agenda as presented.

3. DFO-Narwhal Over-wintering Grounds and Deep Sea Corals – Closed Area

The Wildlife Biologist reviewed the briefing note with Members; it was noted that the NWMB with DFO created a restricted zone in 1998 in the southeast portion of Division 0A to protect narwhal over-wintering grounds including deep sea corals.

This zone restricted the amount of time a fishing vessel could fish within the zone to a maximum of four days. DFO is now proposing to close the restricted zone to all ground fish fishing. This closure would be in keeping with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-071**) to recommend to DFO that they develop a closed area in Division 0A to protect deep sea corals and narwhal over-wintering areas.

4. Draft 2006/08 Greenland Halibut Subarea 0 Management Plan

The Draft management plan was developed following a consultation meeting with fishery participants and other stakeholders held in Iqaluit February 7-8, 2006. The goal of this meeting was to review the previous management plan, discuss management issues and provide management recommendations to the Minister. Consultation on the plan continued until March 2007 when the final draft was circulated. No comments were received. The Board is now called upon to approve the plan. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-072**) to approve the proposed Management Plan as it applies to the NSA, and recommends approval of the Management Plan for those waters of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait that lie beyond the NSA. In addition, pages 35 to 38 of the Management Plan (*Part "8. Management Measures"*) include a number of non-quota limitations (NQLs). The Board approves all the NQLs within the NSA and recommends their approval in those waters of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait that lie beyond the NSA.

5. DFO-Conversion of Division 0A Greenland Halibut Fishery from Exploratory to Commercial

The exploratory Greenland halibut (turbot) fishery has taken place in NAFO Division 0A since 1996; since the start of this fishery, the total allowable catch (TAC) for Canada has grown from 300t to 6500t in 2007. Catch records along with survey data from 1999, 2001 and 2004 surveys support a commercial fishery. DFO sent out a letter in early April to stakeholders that had received a Greenland halibut allocation from the NWMB in the past few years asking for their views on this conversion. From the comments received, DFO is now proposing to convert the fishery from exploratory to commercial starting in January 2008. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-073**) to approve the conversion of the Division 0A Greenland halibut fishery from exploratory to commercial starting in 2008 and to recommend to DFO the conversion of the fishery from exploratory to commercial in the waters that lie beyond the NSA in Zone 1. The Board further recommends that in conjunction with the conversion that DFO commit to the development and implementation a Fisheries Infrastructure Plan and increased budget for scientific/exploratory research on the marine resources adjacent to Nunavut.

6. Harvest Study Update

Item deferred.

7. Decision on Re-Profiling Funds for 2007/08

Item deferred.

8. Quota Reconciliation Process Halibut and Shrimp Fisheries

DFO implemented quota reconciliation in a few fisheries during the 2005/06 fishing season. DFO is now planning on implementing quota reconciliation across all fisheries starting in 2007. This process is designed to cover off inadvertent quota overruns at the end of the season. Quota holders will have 30 days after the end of the season to reconcile any quota overruns, if the process cannot be completed in the 30 days adjustments will be made on a 1:1 basis from the subsequent year's allocation. Stakeholders were sent a letter asking for comments by May 31, 2007 however, no comments were received. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-074**) to recommend approval of the proposed quota reconciliation process, as described by DFO, for Greenland halibut and shrimp fisheries in Nunavut's adjacent waters.

9. Fish-Out Protocol for Meadowbank and Doris North Mining Projects

DFO is requesting approval of a fish-out protocol for the Meadowbank and Doris North mining projects. Mining development often requires that lakes close to the site require de-watering to allow for access to mining resources. Mines are required under the Fisheries Act to develop and conduct a fishout program for each lake to be lost. The objectives being:

1. Avoiding the wastage of fish
2. Determining the actual size, distribution and density of fish in the lake
3. Testing lake production models which predict fish population density and production from limnology
4. Determining the linkages between habitat characteristics and fish populations.

Although it is preferable to not fish-out a lake, there is tremendous opportunity to gather data on lake ecosystems in this process. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-075**) to accept the evidence presented by DFO, and makes the following decisions:

1. To the extent that DFO's *General Fish-Out Protocol for lakes to be lost to mining developments* (Protocol) constitutes a management plan, the Board approves the Protocol.
2. The NWMB approves the level of harvest of all fish species from the water bodies identified as Second Portage Lake, Third Portage Lake, Vault Lake and Trail Lake in DFO's submission to the Board; and
3. The NWMB approves the NQLs described in subsection 3.1.3.1 (*Fishing Gear and Deployment*) of the Protocol.

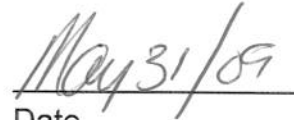
10. Meeting adjourned

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Chairperson



Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2007-070: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Date: July 12, 2007

Resolution 2007-071: RESOLVED that the NWMB recommend to DFO that they develop a closed area in Division 0A to protect deep sea corals and narwhal over-wintering areas in the current restricted zone.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Willie Nakoolak
Date: July 12, 2007

Resolution 2007-072: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the proposed Management Plan as it applies to the NSA, and recommends approval of the Management Plan for those waters of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait that lie beyond the NSA. In addition, pages 35 to 38 of the Management Plan (*Part "8. Management Measures"*) include a number of non-quota limitations (NQLs). The Board approves all the NQLs within the NSA and recommends their approval in those waters of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait that lie beyond the NSA.

Moved by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried

Seconded by: Willie Nakoolak
Date: July 12, 2007

Resolution 2007-073: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the conversion of the Division 0A Greenland halibut fishery from exploratory to commercial starting in 2008 and to recommend to DFO the conversion of the fishery from exploratory to commercial in the waters that lie beyond the NSA in Zone 1. The Board further recommends that in conjunction with the conversion that DFO commit to the development and implementation a Fisheries Infrastructure Plan and increased budget for scientific/exploratory research on the marine resources adjacent to Nunavut.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: July 12, 2007

Resolution 2007-074: RESOLVED that the NMWB recommend approval of the proposed quota reconciliation process, as described by DFO, for Greenland halibut and shrimp fisheries in Nunavut's adjacent waters.

Moved by: Willie Nakoolak
Carried

Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Date: July 12, 2007

Resolution 2007-075: RESOLVED that the NWMB accept the evidence presented by DFO, and makes the following decisions:

1. To the extent that DFO's *General Fish-Out Protocol for lakes to be lost to mining developments* (Protocol) constitutes a management plan, the Board approves the Protocol.
2. The NWMB approves the level of harvest of all fish species from the water bodies identified as Second Portage Lake, Third Portage Lake, Vault Lake and Trail Lake in DFO's submission to the Board; and
3. The NWMB approves the NQLs described in subsection 3.1.3.1 (*Fishing Gear and Deployment*) of the Protocol.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Second by: Pitseolak Alainga
Date: July 12, 2007