

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Conference Call No. 109

Thursday, September 27, 2007, 3:00 pm (Eastern)

Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson/CEO
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Willie Nakoolak	Member
Robert Moshenko	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Joe Justus	Director, Wildlife Management
Tom Demcheson	Director of Finance & Admin
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Michael d'Eça	Legal Advisor

Other Participants:

Wayne Lynch	ED & T, Director, Fisheries/Sealing
Nicole Hines	ED & T, Fisheries /Sealing
Keith Pelley	DFO, Iqaluit
Sandra Courchesne	DFO, Fisheries Management Tech
Jeff Maurice	NTI Iqaluit
Ben Kovic	Baffin Fisheries Coalition

Not Available:

Kevin McCormick	Member
Peter Awa	Member

1. Opening Remarks by Chairperson

The Chairperson explained that Ben Kovic, from the Baffin Fisheries Coalition would be participating in Items 3 and 4 but would be required to leave the meeting room before the In-Camera Decision Making Session starts. One observer from each of GN, DFO and NTI are allowed to be present during the In-Camera Decision Making Session.

2. Review/Approval of Agenda

The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-096**) to accept the agenda for Conference Call 109 as presented.

3. Baffin Fisheries Coalition's Request to Use Gillnets on Turbot in Cumberland Sound

The Chairperson stated that all persons present can comment on the briefing note once its presented but then the BFC representative, Ben Kovic will have to leave the meeting. After the presentation and discussions, one representative from each of the GN-ED&T, DFO and NTI are allowed observer status when the Board moves In-Camera to make the decision for this topic. Joe Justus presented a brief for the NWMB. BFC has two fishing vessels in NAFO Division OA and would be available for 3 days to do exploratory turbot fishing with gill nets soon after September 24, 2007 if they received approval from NWMB. The existing exploratory licence lists gear type to be used in this management zone as "Longline (# 14 circle Hook)." The Pangnirtung HTO Board had approved BFC's request to use what remained of the 500t turbot quota from the management zone using gillnets and longline gear. The two vessels that BFC is using are only equipped with gillnet gear. The GN-ED&T and NTI do not favour the initiative but if NWMB were to approve it, they urge strict control so that there is no historical attachment with vessels conducting the fishing; that 100% observer coverage is provided; that no more than 50 nets are set out at one time; that net loss and by-catch are limited and that some of the remaining 2007 TAH is held back so that ice fishing by long-line can be carried out by the community of Pangnirtung if conditions allow. He also stated that DFO is adamantly opposed to use of gillnets in Cumberland Sound for several conservation reasons. Sandra Courchesne presented a brief for DFO. Traditionally Pangnirtung winter fishery for turbot utilized logline and hooks. However in recent years, ice conditions have been deteriorating and catches have been reduced from 2003 at 245t to 2006 at 70t. Since 2004, significant numbers of gillnets have been lost in OA and OB and only small numbers have been retrieved. In 1993 to 1994, exploratory fishing on the Baffin Coast using gillnets had caught seals and Greenland sharks and nets had been damaged. The significant shark by-catch (52 sharks in 11 sets) was a problem at depths greater than 400m. The lost (ghost nets) pose a risk to narwhal, beluga and bowhead whales. In Cumberland Sound beluga is considered "at risk" by COSEWIC. The recovery strategy for the CS beluga (not yet approved) recommends that the beluga population in Cumberland Sound be considered when assessing the licensing of new exploratory marine fisheries and that DFO develop appropriate restrictions to minimize net entanglements. Any bycatch of beluga in fishing nets in Cumberland sound would come off the harvest quota limit of 41 for Cumberland Sound. DFO recommends that any turbot fishing in Cumberland Sound be restricted to longline gear. Ben Kovic, from BFC stated that they were okay with 50 nets per vessel, no historical attachment but asked that the government look at the cost of fulltime observers and the cost of long-line versus gillnets. Gillnets are cheaper. Not accepting holdback for

the winter fishery as the new season begins in December. BFC is only interested in using what is left after the winter fishery is done. Ben also stated that there is no evidence of gillnet concern or by-catch within Cumberland Sound. Sandra said yes that their evidence is based on other nearby areas outside Cumberland Sound. Wayne Lynch from ED&T said that the Pangnirtung HTO winter fishery was set up for the fishers of Pangnirtung but now it appears that the HTO is interested in getting royalties from this quota. He said that ED&T supported limited gillnet fishing with observers and a strict regime to control net-loss. They had been getting feedback from the community, people are concerned. Joe Justus stated that there are lots of beluga in Cumberland Sound at this time of year and this could be a problem. Ben Kovic stated that BFC had asked DFO to make changes in the size of nets in OA so as to lose less nets but is disappointed that no action seems to have been taken. There were questions on the size of the gill nets and the number of nets. Sandra responded that each fishing vessel carries about 500 nets and they are 100m long and 13ft deep.

4. **NWMB Response to DFO – Enterprise Allocations in the Division 0B 600t Competitive Turbot Quota**

Joe Justus presented a brief on this item. The Board had previously commented on EAs in the turbot fishery in 2000 and 2002. The Board had opposed such a change to the management of the Fishery and had responded by resolutely opposing such a change. GN-ED&T and NTI share a similar position with the NWMB and also do not support the establishment of EAs in this competitive fishery. There was a question as to whether or not this topic was within the mandate of the Board. Michael d'Eca explained that the NLCA, Section 15.3.14 requires the government to seek advice from the NWMB on the substance and value of Inuit harvesting rights. Also in 15.4.1 NWMB may provide advice depending on what happens in the NSA and may make decisions effecting marine areas. Joe Justus stated that NWMB, ED&T and NTI will each be responding separately. Harry Flaherty said that NWMB must respond (comment) to reiterate the role and responsibility of NWMB. The recommendation was to approve of a response letter to DFO (Barry Rashotte), Associate Director General, Resource Management/Operations. Ben Kovic from BFC said that if the Board was to comment, he would like NWMB to state that the fishing industry in Nunavut has the capacity and so should have the access. That would make the letter stronger. The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-097**) to respond to DFO stating that NWMB recommends that DFO reject the request from the Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council to provide enterprise allocations to the six non-Nunavut fishing companies that currently have access to this mobile gear competitive turbot fishery.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2007-098**) to move to an in camera session.
The Board decide (**Resolution 2007-099**) to close the in camera session.

5. **Other Business**

No other business.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:


A/Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2007-096: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty
Carried

Seconded by: Willie Nakoolak
Date: 27 September 2007

Resolution 2007-097: RESOLVED that the NWMB respond as follows to the request from DFO regarding the establishment of Enterprise Allocations for existing fishers in the NAFO Division 0B mobile gear competitive 600t turbot fishery:

- Acknowledging the primary role played by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. in providing advice regarding fisheries development issues in Zone I, and recognizing the essential NWMB advisory functions - set out in Sections 15.3.4 and 15.4.1 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* – regarding wildlife management decisions in Zone I and Government decisions affecting marine areas, the NWMB recommends that DFO reject the request from the Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council to provide Enterprise Allocations to the six non-Nunavut fishing companies that currently have access to this mobile gear competitive turbot fishery. The reasons for the NWMB recommendation are those set out in the September 26th Briefing Note and draft letter prepared by the NWMB's Director of Wildlife Management.

Moved by: Willie Nakoolak
Carried

Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Date: 27 September 2007

Resolution 2007-098: RESOLVED that the NWMB move to an in camera session.

Moved by: Willie Nakoolak
Carried

Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Date: 27 September 2007

Resolution 2007-099: RESOLVED that the NWMB move out of in camera session.

Moved by: Willie Nakoolak
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Date: 27 September 2007