

# NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

## MINUTES: MEETING NO. 19

25 - 27 AUGUST 1998

BAKER LAKE, NT

### Members and Staff Participating:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Pauloosie Keyootak	Member
David Tagoona	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Joan Scottie	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director of Wildlife Management
Gordon Tomlinson	Director of Finance and Administration
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Mary Nashook	Interpreter
Percy Tutannuaq	Interpreter

### Not Available:

Meeka Mike	Member (with cause)
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### Guests and Other Participants (at various times):

Stephen Atkinson	Asst Director Fisheries & Wildlife RWED, Iqaluit
Stephen Pinksen	Sr Advisor Legisl & Enforcement RWED, Iqaluit
Stuart MacMillan	Advisor Land & Park Devlpment RWED, Iqaluit
Mitch Campbell	Regional Biologist RWED Keewatin, Arviat
Gary Weber	DFO Area Manager, Iqaluit
Lynn Siegersma	DFO Land Claims Liaison Officer, Iqaluit
Ernie Carmichael	CIBC, Accounts Manager, Yellowknife
Martin Labrecque	TAL Investment Counsel Ltd., Montreal
David Ayriss	TAL Investment Counsel Ltd., Calgary
Louis Courtemanche	RBC, Iqaluit Branch Manager
Jerry Eil	President Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Iqaluit
David Alagalak	President KWF, Arviat
Raymond Ningeocheak	Second Vice-President NTI, Rankin Inlet
Bert Dean	Coordinator Hunter Support Pr NTI, Rankin Inlet
John Hickes	OIC, Rankin Inlet

Several other presenters and members of the public at large

**Tuesday, 25 August 1998**

## **1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries**

The Chairperson Ben Kovic convened the meeting at 8:20 a.m. in the Igloo Hotel Conference Room at Baker Lake. Pauloosie Keyootak led the opening prayer. Ben welcomed the Members to Baker Lake, and asked all persons present to introduce themselves.

Ben gave a brief overview of the agenda for the week. Ben noted that the meeting would be open to the public, and drew attention to the Board's new sound system which it is hoped will help make the meeting run more smoothly.

### **Welcome by Community Representatives**

His Worship, Mayor David Tagoona, welcomed the NWMB Members to Baker Lake on behalf of the Hamlet Council and the residents of the community. He stated that Baker Lake was proud to be hosting this meeting. He invited the Board to take advantage of amenities available in the Hamlet office, and also to visit the Inuit Heritage Centre and Visitors Centre, which provide a history of the area. David noted that there would be a combined community feast and public meeting with the NWMB on Wednesday evening. There would be community dances most evenings if Members wished to participate.

Silas Kenalogak, Chairperson of the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Association, was unable to attend the meeting. He asked the Mayor to welcome the Board Members to Baker Lake on his behalf.

## **2. Agenda**

Members reviewed the agenda for this the 19<sup>th</sup> regular Meeting of the NWMB. Jim Noble advised that some of tabs in the information binder were empty or had changed, and that no material had been submitted by DFO. The agenda was accepted with a few minor additions and deletions. **(Resolution 99-058)**

## **3. Minutes: Review and Adoption**

### **3.A Regular Meeting No. 18**

The Minutes for Regular Meeting No. 18, held on 10 - 12 May 1998, were adopted with minor additions and deletions. **(Resolution 99-059)**

### **3.B Conference Call No. 37**

The Minutes for Conference Call No. 37, conducted on 11 June 1998, were adopted as presented. **(Resolution 99-060)**

### **3.C Conference Call No. 38**

The Minutes for Conference Call No. 38, conducted on 12 June 1998, were adopted as presented. **(Resolution 99-061)**

### **3.D Conference Call No. 39**

The Minutes for Conference Call No. 39, conducted on 02 July 1998, were adopted as presented. **(Resolution 99-062)**

### **3.E Conference Call No. 40**

The Minutes for Conference Call No. 40, conducted on 20 July 1998, were adopted with minor amendments. **(Resolution 99-063)**

### **3.F Special Meeting No. 7**

The Minutes for Special Meeting No. 7, held on 10-11 March 1998, were adopted as presented. **(Resolution 99-064)**

## **4. Financial and Administrative Business**

### **4.A Audit/Variance Report for 1997/98**

Jim Noble introduced Gordon Tomlinson, the new Director of Finance and Administration. Gordon reported that the Auditors gave a positive opinion of the NWMB financial records for 1997/98. Gordon noted that the most significant change in reporting format from the previous year was that the NWRT funds have been transferred to a separate statement. Among the variances is a new item for depreciation that reflects a new accounting policy for not-for-profit organizations. An excess of revenue over expenses of \$150,516 was recorded. Kevin McCormick suggested that the two NWMB Advisors should be coded to the same budget line item. Kevin also asked Gordon to explain how depreciation can be

shown as a new expense when the depreciated items have already been shown as expenses in previous years.

Members applauded Gordon's explanation of variances for the financial report. Harry Flaherty requested that in future staff strive to eliminate or at least minimize any "miscellaneous" categories of expenditure. The 1997/98 Audited Financial Statement was accepted as presented. **(Resolution 99-065)**

#### **4.B Financial Report to 31 July 1998**

Gordon Tomlinson gave an overview of the NWMB financial situation as at 31 July 1998. Gordon reviewed and explained the major variances, noting for example that provision for staff salary adjustments was not factored into the original budget. Harry Flaherty expressed concern that the budget for Conservation Education is constantly under-spent, and suggested that the Board needs to do more work in this area. The Board accepted the 31 July 1998 financial statement as presented. **(Resolution 99-066)**

#### **4.C Funding Arrangement with DIAND: Update**

Jim Noble advised that the concerns of the NWMB concerning DIAND's proposed new Contribution Agreement were conveyed in writing to the Minister on 12 March 1998. The Minister responded by letter on May 21. The Minister agreed that the NWMB concerns were valid, indicated that action was being taken, and suggested that NWMB staff meet with DIAND officials in Ottawa. Jim subsequently called Leigh Jessen, the suggested contact person in DIAND. Ms Jessen advised that the Agreement revisions were still with DIAND Legal and had not yet been presented to the Treasury Board. Jim suggested to Ms Jessen that there would be no benefit in meeting until there was actual progress in revising the Agreement. Ms Jessen agreed.

Michael d'Eça reviewed the history of this controversy for the benefit of new Board Members. The problem started in February 1997 when DIAND tried to unilaterally introduce some new terms and conditions in the course of drafting a new Contribution Agreement for 1997/98. The NWMB objected, and DIAND ended up making some changes that they gave assurance would be interim. By September 1997 nothing had happened by way of a permanent solution and the NWMB brought the matter to the attention of the Implementation Panel. The NWMB declared its intention at that time to draft its own version of what such an agreement should say. This was done, and the NWMB proposal was sent to the Minister in November. No response was received. The events of the previous year were essentially repeated in March and April of 1998. DIAND again emphasized that their initiative would be only an interim solution. The Minister's letter of May 21 was very positive; however no progress has since been made.

The Board agreed that another letter be written to the DIAND Minister, with a copy to the MP for Nunatsiaq, in order to:

- Confirm the points to which the Minister agreed in May.
- Indicate that her officials are not being helpful.
- Express concern that the controversy could soon enter a third year.
- Stress that the NWMB is available at any time to discuss the issue.
- Volunteer the active participation of the NWMB.

## **5. Chairperson, Staff, and Members' Reports**

Ben Kovic referred to the reports by NWMB senior staff members and Advisors as set out in the briefing material provided for the information of the Board.

### **5.A Chairperson's Report**

Ben Kovic advised that since the last Board Meeting there have been fewer invitations that required his participation. Ben noted that he had written to the three RWOs for permission to communicate directly with the HTOs; however no responses were received. Ben advised that he plans soon to start regular calls to the HTO Chairpersons and/or Executive Directors.

Ben also advised that he and Michael d'Eça attended the Canada-Greenland Bilateral Fisheries Consultations in Ottawa in late May. These meetings are to discuss conservation, management and sharing of turbot and shrimp in the waters adjacent to Nunavut and Greenland. This was the third such meeting, and the first at which Ben was excluded from the actual consultation table.

In a letter to the NWMB prior to the Canada-Greenland consultations, the DFO Minister had indicated that the only possibility for an expanded turbot harvest by Nunavut interests during the next five years would be if the overall quota were increased or if Greenland were to reduce its share. Ben arranged for Michael to speak directly to the head of the Greenland delegation about this. It was hardly surprising to be told that Greenland would not consider decreasing its share of the turbot quota since that share continues to be fully allocated.

Ben was also concerned that there may not have been any representation by Inuit, through NTI, at the Canadian internal discussions leading to Canada's position at these bilateral consultations. Michael referred to the Board's letter of August 7 to NTI, pointing out that NLCA 5.9.2 obliges the Government of Canada to take steps to include Inuit representation in discussions leading to the formulation of Canada's positions in matters such as developing resource-management and resource-sharing agreements with Greenland.

## **5.B Executive Director's Report**

Jim Noble referred the Members to his meeting reports in the information binder. Jim noted that an agreement was made with RWED for the NWMB to distribute administrative funding to the RWOs and HTOs on a trial basis for one year starting in August of 1998.

## **5.C Wildlife Management Director's Report**

Dan Pike referred Members to his briefing note in the information binder.

## **5.D Finance and Administration Director's Report**

Gordon Tomlinson referred to his briefing note in the information binder.

## **5.E Legal Advisor's Report**

Michael d'Eça referred Members to his briefing note. He mentioned that forms will soon be available to enable Inuit to formalize assignment of harvesting rights. Michael noted that he will be reviewing several Supreme Court of Canada decisions that pertain to the independence of members of tribunals. Such decisions are pertinent to Members of the NWMB in their relationships with their appointing agencies. Michael observed that all of his major activity items appear independently on the Meeting agenda.

## **5.F Fisheries Advisor's Report**

Dan Pike reviewed Ray Andrew's activity report as contained in his memo of August 14. Ray advises that the NWMB should consider and pursue DFO's Allocation Transfer Policy under the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy as a possible model or catalyst for obtaining groundfish licences for Inuit people in the Baffin region. Jim Noble noted that Ray was advocating that he and Ben Kovic attend the NAFO AGM in Portugal in September. Gordon Koshinsky reminded the Members about Ray's recommendation that a fall workshop be organized for all parties with an interest in the eastern Arctic fisheries. Gordon supported such a workshop and urged that it be structured to identify and assign ways of pursuing specific goals. Jim reminded the Members of an earlier decision to hold a workshop to conduct a review of Board operations, and proposed that the two workshops might be conducted together.

## **5.G Members' Reports and Concerns**

Joan Scottie reported that the implications of Nunavut and its boundaries was once again raised as a concern at the last meeting of the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board that she attended at Tadoule Lake.

David Tagoona reported that the Baker Lake HTO has been forced into a state of idleness due to lack of funds. (Jim Noble advised that a Contribution Agreement is now being developed to permit the flow of funds. This followed upon NWMB staff going to Baker Lake to clean up the HTO's accounting.)

Makabe Nartok reported continuing difficulties being experienced by polar bear hunters in his area in complying with the required sex ratios.

Pauloosie Keyootak enquired about the identity of researchers who have been studying lakes in his area for several years. They leave equipment in the lakes, which makes people curious and concerned. (Dan Pike undertook to try to discover who these people are and what their purpose is.)

## **6. Completion of Assignments and Resolutions from Last Meeting**

Jim Noble reported that he had tried to incorporate all NWMB Resolutions into the Assignments List, along with the other items. He then gave a status report on each item, with emphasis on items that had not been completed. Gordon Koshinsky suggested that a process was needed for considering the removal of assignments from the list if they remained undone for a long time. Perhaps the assignee could report to that effect after a certain period.

## **7. Environment Canada (CWS) Issues/Decisions**

### **7.A The Canada Endangered Species Protection Act (CESPA): Update**

Kevin McCormick advised that he and/or Michael d'Eça had participated in two recent meetings pertaining to this matter. Legislation may be re-introduced in the near future, at which time the Board would have further opportunity to respond.

At a meeting in late June that was organized by CWS and RWED, draft Terms of Reference were presented for two committees to be formed or re-constituted under this legislation: the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council, and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Michael noted that the NWMB responded to these draft Terms of Reference. While no formal acknowledgement has yet been received, informal indications are that the reaction to the NWMB's suggestions will be positive.

A second meeting organized by CWS was held in Ottawa on August 10. This three-day meeting was to consult with interested stakeholders. The third day was devoted to aboriginal groups (both with and without completed claims agreements), and to

Wildlife Management Boards. Groups without claims agreements took up most of the time, leaving little opportunity for discussion with the Management Boards.

### **7.B Status of Greater Snow Goose Population**

Kevin McCormick reported that greater snow geese nest in and around Bylot and Ellesmere Islands. This population of geese is growing approximately twice as fast (9%) as the mid-continent population. Habitat degradation is not yet as evident as that caused by the mid-continent population of lesser snow geese, but it is considered likely to be only a matter of time before this occurs. The Arctic Goose Joint Venture is recommending a doubling of the harvest.

### **7.C Sea Duck Joint Venture**

Kevin McCormick reviewed the briefing note provided on this matter. Most species of seaducks are declining in abundance, but are not receiving much attention. These ducks are not hunted as much as other duck species, and they do not migrate along the conventional flyways. Fifteen species of ducks, some of which are considered to be endangered, would come under this heading. A proposal for creation of a Sea Duck Joint Venture is now being circulated. The purpose of this venture would be to bring interested agencies together to pool resources and knowledge and to develop priorities for research. A meeting was conducted in late June to flesh-out the structure of such a venture; no funding arrangements have been made to date. A prospectus will be brought to the NWMB when it is available. Pauloosie Keyootak suggested that gulls, ravens and falcons are scaring sea duck species away from East Baffin communities. The effects of these predator birds should be considered in the design of any research on seaducks.

### **7.D Environment Canada Presence in Nunavut**

Kevin McCormick advised that CWS is considering the establishment of eight new positions in Iqaluit over the next four years. According to present plans, these would include four positions with hands-on duties in respect to population biology and habitat.

### **7.E Arviat Snow Goose Harvest**

Stephen Atkinson tabled a report from Joe Savikataaq, Renewable Resource Officer at Arviat, regarding the 1998 summer snow goose harvest. Joe reported that 1,000 geese were harvested. The harvest was filmed by CBC North, and exposure is expected at both the territorial and national levels. Harvest costs were

estimated at approximately \$10 per bird. The birds were distributed to four communities in the area.

## **7.F Possibilities for Management of Snow Geese in Nunavut**

Stephen Atkinson tabled an information item on the subject of options for the management of snow geese with the aim of increasing harvests in the NSA. RWED has begun identifying such options, with the idea of presenting them to DOE and to the Central Flyway Committee. Options identified include extended seasons, larger bag limits, fewer restrictions on hunting methods, and encouragement of a larger subsistence harvest. Greater commercialization of the use of snow geese by Inuit would depend in part on obtaining a favourable interpretation of the governing provisions of the MBCA.

## **8. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Issues/Decisions**

### **8.A Possible Illegal Fishing in Groundfish Sub Area OB**

Gary Weber advised that DFO launched an investigation, which is still underway, on possible illegal fishing in NAFO Division OB. Some charges have already been laid and more may be pending.

### **8.B Request for Quota Increase: Naqsaarluq Arctic Char**

Gary Weber advised that Clyde River HTA is requesting an increase of 2,300 kg in the commercial quota of arctic char for Naqsaarluq Lake. Gary noted that the current commercial quota is 2,300 kg and there is also a subsistence harvest, perhaps as much as 2,000 kg. The commercial harvest was 1,500 kg in 1993/94; 2,000 kg in 1994/95; 1,400 kg in 1995/96; and 1,700 kg in 1996/97. DFO Stock Assessment staff in Winnipeg conclude that natural mortality of char is usually about 20% per year. Most char systems can sustain harvests of approximately 5% per year. Indications are that commercial plus subsistence harvest in the Naqsaarluq system are already close to 30%. Doubling the commercial quota at this point could increase mortality rates to approximately 45%. The community has never harvested the full commercial quota to this point. DFO has identified three options:

1. Low Risk: Leave the commercial quota at the level of 2,300 kg.
2. Medium Risk: Raise the commercial quota to 3,000 kg.
3. High Risk: Double the current quota to 4,600 kg as requested.

Gordon Koshinsky asked if the request for a larger quota was to meet some operational threshold: was it integral to some particular mode of operation or fishing plan? Gary advised that he was not aware of the reason for the requested

increase. David Tagoona asked what type of gear is used in the fishery. Gary replied that 51/2-inch gill nets are used. Dan Pike suggested that Harvest Study data could/should be used in making this decision. He also suggested that there would be time to more critically examine char mortality rates pertinent to this system since the fishery does not start until late winter. Harry Flaherty suggested that the NWMB should hear from the HTO and not just from the Resource Officer. The Board decided to defer decision on this matter to the next meeting, in anticipation of having more information.

### **8.C Walrus Sport Hunts**

Gary Weber provided an update on 1998 walrus sport hunting by community:

- Igloolik: Eight successful hunts completed this year
- Hall Beach: Probably will not proceed this year
- Salluit (Northern Quebec): Probably will proceed this year
- Cape Dorset: Still planning to proceed this year
- Coral Harbour: No information.

### **8.D Walrus Management Plan: Update**

Dan Pike briefed the Board on what he interprets to be a disjointed and largely unsatisfactory management system for walrus in the NSA. Efforts to stimulate DFO to draft an alternative walrus management system began two years ago but, despite repeated assurances from DFO officials, have been fruitless. Dan suggested that unless the present management system is substantially reformed the NWMB faces prospects of:

- Escalating requests for approval of sport hunts.
- Legal challenges in regard to the Board's ability to limit assignments.
- Criticism regarding the unsatisfactory control of harvesting.

Dan suggested that it was time for the NWMB to take decisive measures on this matter, and specifically suggested implementing a similar process for walrus management planning as was undertaken for narwhal. This would require setting up a Walrus Working Group to develop a set of walrus management options for the consideration of the NWMB. Dan estimated that the cost of an initial meeting of such a Working Group would be approximately \$14,000, plus the cost for an independent chairperson/facilitator. DFO would be asked and expected to prepare stock status reports and a framework of options for management and regulation as background for such a meeting.

Kevin McCormick asked if the deliberations of such a Working Group would be expected to produce results or products that were much different from the emerging products and decisions pertaining to narwhal. Dan suggested that the main difference would be to accommodate the requirement for walrus sport hunting. Kevin asked how DFO representatives viewed such a proposal. Gary

Weber suggested that this was the best way to address the matter. Harry Flaherty recommended that Arctic Bay hunters be considered when forming a Working Group. The Board approved the establishment of a Walrus Working Group to review and advise on the requirements for an effective system for walrus management in the NSA. **(Resolution 99-067)**

#### **8.E Narwhal Management Proposal**

Dan Pike reviewed the background, process and content for a proposed new system of narwhal management in the NSA. Dan noted that many resolutions of support have been received regarding the proposed new system. Gordon Koshinsky interpreted this to be a ground-breaking initiative, and asked about the DFO perspective on the matter. Gary Weber advised that DFO views on the concept are divided at the present time. He declared that for his part, he would like to see the proposal tried. Gary noted the excellent spirit of co-operation that prevailed in the Working Group.

Gordon asked if DFO has sufficient capacity at the local level to help implement the proposed narwhal management system. Gary advised that the Department is committed to making the effort. Kevin McCormick suggested that effective reporting of the hunt will be critical. Gary gave assurance that DFO will actively monitor that aspect. Gordon expressed concern about the ability of hunters to reliably predict if a particular narwhal that is struck but escapes will live or die. He also suggested that if the new management approach is to succeed, a research program will be needed to complement it.

Dan noted that HTOs will need guidelines for making and enforcing bylaws to regulate hunting at the local level. Michael d'Eça agreed that this will be crucial. He reminded Members that the NWMB was called upon to assist in this matter with respect to the new management system for Southeast Baffin beluga, and suggested that NWMB should also participate in the development of guidelines for the creation of local bylaws to govern narwhal hunting. The main reason is that such bylaws would in effect be "non-quota limitations", albeit applying only to HTO members and not to the entire public. The Board moved that steps be taken to implement a new management system for narwhal as developed by the Narwhal Working Group. **(Resolution 99-068)**

#### **Wednesday, 26 August 1998**

The Meeting re-convened at 9:00 a.m. The Board conducted a "Swearing-in Ceremony" for Ben Kovic as Chairperson for another four-year term.

## 8.F Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Proposal

Dan Pike advised that the SEBBM Committee met on June 16 and 17, 1998. DFO researchers provided information on genetic and contaminant studies. This work strongly suggests that the three communities hunt separate groups of belugas, which is in agreement with recent TEK studies. At present, all three communities have quotas. The Committee reviewed the original justification for quotas. There is no evidence that belugas at Iqaluit and Kimmirut have decreased under present levels of hunting. In any event, the present quotas have not been limiting the harvest, as quotas have never been reached and the harvest has not increased in recent years. Pangnirtung, however, still requires a quota since over-harvesting would occur if the present quota were removed. The Committee adopted a recommendation calling for elimination of beluga quotas at Iqaluit and Kimmirut. The Committee also recommended the continuation of genetic studies and other research to delineate the various Southeast Baffin stocks and relate them to other stocks.

Kevin McCormick asked if a monitoring program was feasible as a condition of removing the quotas. Gary Weber suggested that this would be less onerous than the previous sampling program; however it would depend on whether the HTOs and hunters would provide information. Dan Pike confirmed that the monitoring program is considered as a pre-condition and should be conveyed to the Minister as such. Gordon Koshinsky urged that there be a centralized approach to helping HTOs to develop local by-laws to control harvesting of whatever species, and that the NWMB probably should lead in this endeavour. Kevin McCormick suggested that developing such by-laws has two aspects:

- Board overview of feasibility and possibilities, to be led by the NWMB.
- Development of actual HTO-specific by-laws, to be led by DFO.

Michael d'Eça agreed; however he suggested that both aspects ("theory" and "practice") need to be co-ordinated. The Board decided to accept the Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee's recommendations to eliminate quotas for Iqaluit and Kimmirut, with conditions. **(Resolution 99-069)**

The Board also decided to approve and adopt the other research and management recommendations of the SEBBMC developed at its June meeting. **(Resolution 99-070)** In summary, these recommendations are that:

- A survey of Cumberland Sound beluga be conducted in 1999.
- DFO continue and expand its genetic and contaminant analyses, with the particular aim of determining the relationships between Southeast Baffin beluga and beluga from adjacent areas.
- DFO assess the feasibility and benefits of conducting fall and winter surveys in the area of outer Frobisher Bay and Resolution Island.
- NWMB coordinate production of a guide for HTOs on the development, use and enforcement of hunting by-laws.
- All parties conduct vigorous consultations with their constituents.

## **8.G 1998 Bowhead Hunt: Update**

Gary Weber reported that the 1998 bowhead hunt was a success. It was also a popular event: there were up to 82 tents at the hunt camp at one point and approximately 35 boats. Two Fisheries Officers monitored the hunt and a technician and a local casual worker sampled the whale. Hunters "herded" a whale towards the camp at Kekerten Island. The hunt took approximately two hours (including the drive). Three thousand feet of line was attached to the whale and then to a boat. The hunt crew began butchering in the early hours of Tuesday morning July 21, and completed the task by Thursday evening.

The Board also had the advantage of a preliminary report on the hunt tabled by the Qikiktaaluk Wildlife Board. The QWB also interpreted the hunt as a success. Approximately 200 people participated directly. The shoulder gun was used to make the actual kill. Costs incurred were in the range of \$85,000. No useable portions were wasted. About 3,000 pounds of edible products were distributed to other communities and regions. The availability of handling and storing facilities in the community at Cumberland Sound Fisheries was a distinct asset. There was good media coverage of the event. The Hunt Planning Committee will be preparing a formal evaluation of the hunt.

Ben Kovic expressed satisfaction about the good reports on the hunt. Lessons learned from this hunt will assist in future hunts. Some concern has been expressed about the commercialization of the baleen. Gary noted that planning was left uncomfortably late. When they departed for the Pangnirtung hunt site they did not yet have in their possession a licence that was signed by the Minister. Hunters in Pangnirtung would likely also do some things a bit differently next time. Gary suggested that there needs to be a more concrete mechanism for transmitting knowledge gained during each hunt.

## **8.H Bowhead Management Plan: 1998 Update**

Dan Pike referred Members to the 1998 Update of the Management Plan for Bowhead Whales in the NSA. The Plan was developed by DFO with input from himself, Keith Hay and Michael d'Eça. Dan suggested that one of the major uses of such plans is to provide a concise and cohesive way of responding to external requests for information. Dan urged that such plans be available prior to any future hunts. The Board approved the 1998 Update of the NSA Bowhead Management Plan as presented. **(Resolution 99-071)**

## **8.I Establishing the Next TAH for Bowhead Whales**

Dan Pike gave an overview of the fundamentals pertaining to establishment of total allowable harvests for bowhead whales. There are considered to be two stocks of these whales in the NSA: the Baffin Bay/Davis Strait stock, and the Foxe Basin/North Hudson Bay stock. Both stocks appear to be recovering despite minor harvests in recent years. By this reasoning, DFO has suggested that the following harvest levels should be “safe”:

- One bowhead every 19 years from the Baffin Bay/Davis Strait stock.
- One bowhead every 3 years from the Foxe Basin/Hudson Bay stock.

Dan suggested that enough new information is available for the Foxe Basin/North Hudson Bay stock to justify a review of previous assumptions and a re-assessment of the safe harvest level, with the prospect of enlarging it. He recommended that DFO be encouraged to conduct such an analysis. In the meantime, and in consideration that the previous harvest was in 1996, Dan suggested that there was no good reason to preclude setting a total allowable harvest of one bowhead whale from this stock for 1999. It was noted that this should be done soon, if it is in fact going to be done, since planning will probably be more complicated with two Regions potentially involved. David Tagoona asked if Baker Lake would be eligible to participate. It was suggested that this would depend on an interpretation of whether Baker Lake community realistically had bowhead whales available to it.

Harry Flaherty asked if the DFO studies of bowhead whales in Foxe Basin have been completed. Dan advised that they are still ongoing, but that this should be the final year of field work. Ben Kovic asked when DFO could be expected to complete a stock status update. Gary Weber indicated that he would have to ask the Stock Assessment Group in Winnipeg. He doubted that there is much new information, so the task should be relatively easy. Dan took issue with this interpretation, suggesting that there should be a lot of new information based on all the recent DFO research. In any event, Dan suggested that the old stock status report would be adequate to set a TAH of one bowhead whale from this stock for 1999. Harry Flaherty indicated that he is not satisfied with continuing to rely on the old information, and would like to hear about the recent research. Raymond Ningeocheak (NTI) noted that the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study is supposed to be completed by now and asked when it will be available. Ben replied that the IBK Study is on the Meeting agenda, however reporting on this work has assuredly been delayed.

Gordon Koshinsky reviewed the history of the NWMB setting TAH for the two previous harvests. The first, and by some interpretations also the second, of those harvests were in fact mandated by the NLCA. The Board in essence had little choice but to follow the course that it did. In his view, however, Eastern Arctic bowhead whales are still a scarce resource, far below their historic levels even if they are recovering. He was not comfortable for the NWMB to lead the way in encouraging the harvest of these animals. Gordon asked if the Board had received any formal enquiries about another bowhead hunt. Ben Kovic replied

that Coral Harbour residents had approached him to that effect. Dan pointed out that establishing a TAH does not establish a requirement to harvest. He noted that Inuit have never wavered in expressing their desire to harvest bowhead whales, and he considered it incumbent on the NWMB to make the opportunity available if possible.

Gary Weber suggested that if the next hunt were delayed until at least the year 2000 it would give more reasonable opportunity for the other two Regions to plan for it, based on the hunt experience in 1998. Kevin McCormick suggested that the Board take more time to consider this matter. He interpreted that bowhead harvesting beyond what has already been approved would move the matter into a distinct new phase. He also noted that the NLCA directs that results of the IBKS be taken into account whenever the matter of setting another TAH for bowhead whales is revisited. Harry Flaherty suggested that the NWMB not establish another TAH earlier than the year 2000, in order to better enable harvest planning. Raymond Ningeocheak suggested that with two hunts now completed, a third hunt should be easier to plan. The Board decided to await an updated status report from DFO before proceeding further on the matter of establishing a TAH for a third bowhead harvest.

## **8.J Conservation Plan for Eastern Arctic Bowhead Whales: WWF**

Dan Pike advised that he was requested to make a presentation to the Meeting on behalf of Peter Ewins, Director of the World Wildlife Fund (Canada) Species Program. The WWF has conducted similar planning projects for other groups of animals and considers it useful to promote recovery of threatened or endangered populations. This type of plan identifies what needs to be done, by whom, and at what cost. It provides a blueprint for conservation. WWF will establish a conservation planning team and would hope to have a NWMB Board or staff member as part of the team. The NWMB is not being asked for funding; WWF expects to fund the work themselves along with DFO. They would however expect the NWMB to provide data and information and perhaps some support in kind.

Board staff expressed some concern that this project may overlap with other initiatives, and no real action may be possible in any event. Kevin McCormick questioned if DFO sees any value in developing such a plan. Gary Weber suggested that such a plan would demonstrate to the international community that everyone (DFO included) is giving full and serious consideration to the conservation of Eastern Arctic bowhead whales. Gary also noted that it is not an expensive proposition. Kevin asked if there is a status report or recovery plan for Eastern Arctic bowhead whales under COSEWIC. Dan replied that there is a very old status report, but no recovery plan. Kevin asked if a recovery plan developed as part of this exercise would be sanctioned by COSEWIC as per endangered species legislation. If not, maybe the Board should focus on one or the other exercise. Harry Flaherty expressed concern about providing unpublished TEK information. Michael d'Eça noted that the NWMB is required to

function as any government department in providing access to information, but can refuse to give access if it has valid reasons.

Gordon Koshinsky supported the proposal, suggesting that not to do so would cast the NWMB as unreasonably isolationist. He noted that the WWF has supported limited bowhead hunting. Michael d'Eça suggested that this item would be subject to Section 5.2.34(d) of the NLCA. That is, any conservation plan that was developed would be subject to NWMB approval, with that approval then forwarded to the DFO Minister. The Board decided to support the WWF proposal in principle, subject to clarification about the relationship of the initiative to the mandate of COSEWIC. **(Resolution 99-072)**

## **8.K Litigation Proceedings regarding Turbot: Review and Update**

### **In-Camera Session**

The Board decided to go *in-camera* to consider a briefing of a confidential nature on the litigation proceedings regarding turbot. No decisions were made *in-camera* that required subsequent referral to the open Board Meeting.

Resolutions passed in connection with this *in-camera* session were as follows:

- To go *in-camera* **(Resolution 99-073)**
- To close the *in-camera* session **(Resolution 99-074)**

## **9. GNWT Wildlife (RWED): Issues/Decisions**

Stephen Atkinson, Stephen Pinksen and Mitch Campell (Regional Biologist, Keewatin) made presentations on behalf of RWED.

### **9.A Polar Bear Harvest 1997/98: Final Report**

Stephen Atkinson advised that MOUs between RWED and the affected communities are in effect for all polar bear populations in the NSA. All communities in Nunavut have annual quotas for harvesting polar bears. A total of 414 bears were harvested during the 1997/98 season. Kill reports were much improved and no overall quotas were exceeded for any population. For four populations, however, the composition of the harvest did exceed the target sex ratio of two or more males for every female. Two particular communities harvested more bears than their allotted number of tags.

Joan Scottie asked why harvested bears are classified as female when the sex is not recorded. Stephen explained the logic for the incorporation of this provision in the MOUs. Ben Kovic reported that Igloodik indicated that almost all bears in their area are female and are worried that they will be penalized indefinitely. Stephen noted that Igloodik has the option of trading credits with other communities harvesting the same population. Igloodik will still be able to harvest polar bears, but not to the levels that would be permitted if males were taken in greater proportion. Pauloosie Keyootak suggested that elders should be teaching the ability to differentiate between male and female polar bears within the school system.

## **9.B Polar Bear Quotas for 1998/99**

Stephen Atkinson explained the rationale and operation of the Flexible Quota System for polar bears. Highlights of the 1997/98 season were as follows:

- Nine communities in 1997/98 over-harvested in some way.
- Four of these communities had adequate credits from the previous years.
- Of the remaining five communities, three obtained some credits (in two of these cases, not enough credits) from other communities.
- Four communities thus have a shortfall of credits and are accordingly recommended for quota reductions for 1998/99.

Recommended quota increases for 1998/99 are as follows:

- Pelly Bay, re. Gulf of Boothia population: Increase from 10 to 15.
- Grise Fiord, re. Kane Basin population: Increase from 1 to 5.
- Repulse Bay, re. Foxe Basin population: Increase from 5 to 12.
- Pangnirtung, re. Davis Strait population: Increase from 13 to 14.

Recommended quota reductions for 1998/99 are as follows:

- Clyde River, re. Baffin Bay population: Reduce from 21 to 8.
- Coral Harbour, re. Foxe Basin population: Reduce from 39 to 34.
- Igloodik, re. Foxe Basin population: Reduce from 4 to 1.
- Kimmirut, re. Foxe Basin population: Reduce from 9 to 8.

Makabe Nartok asked what occurs when a cub is harvested that is larger than the mother. Stephen replied that harvesting of a family group is illegal, regardless of whether the cubs are large or small. Harry Flaherty asked if all the communities were notified of the proposed quota changes. Stephen replied that all communities were notified; they needed to be aware of what was in store in order to make or respond to requests for transfer of credits. Dan Pike wondered why some communities are having problems: is it due to hunters not being aware of the requirement? Or is it due to hunters not being able to distinguish between the sexes? Or is it due in those instances to a relative scarcity of male polar bears? Pauloosie Keyootak suggested that the problem stems from inadequate training of young people.

The Board approved the RWED recommendation to increase polar bear quotas for four communities for 1998/99 as noted above. **(Resolution 99-075)**

The Board approved the RWED recommendation to decrease polar bear quotas for four communities for 1998/99 as noted above. **(Resolution 99-076)**

#### **9.C Polar Bear Handling Effects: Update**

Stephen Atkinson advised that the study on the effects of capture and handling techniques used during research on polar bears is continuing, albeit with some delay. Stephen noted that the Minutes from the last NWMB meeting indicated concern that hunter information is not being incorporated. Stephen explained that this was not the intention for the first phase of the study. If this emerged as a real concern, it would need to be incorporated into a succeeding phase.

#### **9.D Peary Caribou Research and Management: Update**

Stephen Atkinson advised that a survey of Peary caribou on the Eastern Queen Elizabeth Islands (Ellesmere and Devon) is planned for the spring of 1999.

Two groups of RWED staff were in the Western QE Islands this summer for other work. They saw indications that 80% of the adult females were accompanied by calves. No carcasses were sighted and it would appear that the caribou had a good winter. At least the situation has not deteriorated.

#### **9.E Caribou Calving Ground Protection Measures: Update**

Stephen Atkinson advised that a workshop on Protection Measures for Caribou Calving Grounds is being planned for November.

#### **9.F Population Status of Arctic Wolves: Update**

Stephen Atkinson advised that COSEWIC is currently revising its status report on the Arctic Wolf. RWED is contributing to this effort by updating information on harvest levels and trends in prey. The NWMB Harvest Study has been approached for data, and RWED is also planning a hunter survey.

#### **9.G Thelon Wildlife Management Plan: Update**

Stephen Atkinson advised that there were plans for a meeting between KIA, NWMB and RWED in conjunction with the current NWMB Baker Lake meeting. Just a few days ago KIA (the DIO for the plan) advised that they would not be able to attend. Concerns regarding the plan have been tabulated and appear less substantive than was initially perceived. Stephen stressed that this is not a RWED or Government plan, and the committee that prepared it was dissolved in

the belief that its task was complete. Stephen suggested that most of the remaining problems could be resolved in the course of implementation. He noted that the plan was expensive to prepare and it would be unfortunate to see this effort wasted. David Tagoona referred to a videotape that was prepared by the Planning Committee as a source of clarification of intent and process. The Board took time to watch the video.

#### **9.H Wildlife Resource Centre/Library: Update**

Stephen Atkinson noted that this was a joint project by RWED, NWMB, DFO and NRI to establish a resource centre for wildlife information. These agencies are currently cataloguing all the reports, books, journals, etc. in their collections. Nunavut RWED has a major thrust underway to transfer their archives from Yellowknife. Each agency will continue to house its own materials. Gordon Koshinsky asked if this cataloguing is just for material that is physically located in Nunavut. Dan Pike advised that it was for Nunavut-based material only. Gordon also asked about material from CWS. Kevin McCormick advised that CWS does not have resource material in the NSA.

#### **9.I Wildlife Research Partnership: Recommendation**

Stephen Atkinson advised that some RWED officials are planning a trip to Greenland in October to visit their counterparts there. They are also planning to visit the Greenland Natural Resource Institute. This institute is not part of government although it is funded by government. It seems to be cost-effective and might be a model for RWED in Nunavut. RWED is inviting the NWMB to consider being part of this tour.

#### **9.J Wildlife Act Revisions: Update**

Stephen Pinksen advised that a full review of the NWT Wildlife Act has been initiated. It will lead to an options paper for the new Minister on development of a Nunavut Wildlife Act. RWED hopes to start community consultations on this matter by November. The contractor has produced several small research papers for discussion. Michael d'Eça noted that the consultant's proposal for the next phase appears to leave little opportunity for consultation with partners such as the NWMB. Gordon Koshinsky urged that RWED not wait until the very end to seek collaboration on the drafting initiatives.

#### **9.K Shared RWED/NWMB Conservation Education Position: Update**

Stephen Pinksen advised that a job description was finalized for this position and a search for candidates has started. A similar position recently advertised did not produce any suitable candidates and will have to be advertised again. Stephen advised that a national conference on Conservation Education is coming up soon and it is hoped to have a person on staff to attend.

## **9.L Traditional Polar Bear Hunt Proposal: Final Decision**

Michael d'Eça reviewed the history of events stemming from the request by a resident of Coral Harbour to conduct a traditional polar bear hunt. He also reviewed the options available to the Board in light of the Minister's disallowance of the Board's affirmative decision in May. Michael reiterated the importance of classifying this as a policy decision. Kevin McCormick asked if changing the non-quota limitations would open this option to other proponents. Michael advised that it would open up the field but that the NWMB could put criteria in place for any future requests. Gordon Koshinsky noted that the NWMB made its decision before it received recommendations from all the RWOs. Members again noted that most people support the traditional hunt aspect, but tend to oppose the filming. The Board decided to reaffirm its initial decision to allow an Inuk to harvest a polar bear in the traditional manner, and to forward this final decision to the Minister. **(Resolution 99-077)**

### **Community Feast and Public Meeting**

A community feast followed by a public meeting and dance on Wednesday evening was well attended by the residents of Baker Lake.

### **Thursday, 27 August 1998**

Ben Kovic reconvened the meeting at 8:15 a.m. After devoting further attention to some items that had been deferred from earlier in the Meeting, the Members spent much of the morning in a meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust.

## **10. NWMB Internal Items: Issues / Decisions**

### **10.A Harvest Study: Update**

Dan Pike advised that a summer student hired to assist with data entry was proving to be very effective. The Harvest Study Database is now essentially caught up, and reports are starting to go out. Negotiations have begun with a

consultant to do a technical review of the Harvest Study. Kevin McCormick urged that the interested Government agencies have opportunity to see the Terms of Reference for this review.

#### **10.B Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study: Update**

Dan Pike advised that the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study is in the reporting stages but is moving slower than was previously expected. The IBKS Coordinator, Keith Hay, is back at work. Maps are ready to be contracted out for production. In May it was forecast that the first draft would be completed by August 31, when the current term of employment of the IBKS Coordinator expires. Various problems regarding the time-line for completion of the Study were discussed. The Board asked the Director of Wildlife Management to negotiate a contract with Dr. Hay for completion of the Study in a number of discrete modules. **(Resolution 99-078)**

#### **10.C Resource Centre: Update**

Dan Pike advised that development of the Resource Centre catalogue is well underway. All NWMB material and most DFO material has been catalogued and classified, with the RWED collection being the next target for attention. It is planned to make all the information available on computer disc, for the benefit of individual Board Members as well as other interested parties. The other component of the Resource Centre project is the Stock Database. RWED leads the development of this component; however staff turnover has delayed progress.

#### **10.D NWMB Public Hearing Process: Update**

Michael d'Eça advised that he aims to provide a final draft of the Public Hearing process by the next NWMB Meeting. Michael reviewed the changes to the document since the last examination, and the Board accepted these changes. Jim Noble asked if it would be necessary or useful to make these guidelines public. Kevin McCormick advised that it would not be necessary until an actual hearing was called. Michael noted that the document calls for an Inuktitut audio summary (cassette tape) to be available in several copies. Gordon Koshinsky suggested that formal hearings are more a part of the routine operations of the other IPGs than of the NWMB, and the NWMB should have enough time to print up its guidelines when they are actually required.

#### **10.E Formation of a Nunavut Marine Council: Update**

Dan Pike advised that he and Ben Kovic attended the inaugural meeting of the Nunavut Marine Policy Advisory Committee (NMPAC) in Winnipeg on June 25. The NWMB was invited to join as an Associate Member. Formation of the Committee was not contingent on the NWMB's participation. The DFO representatives were particularly curious about why the NWMB was reluctant to join an NMC. The other IPGs see the formation of an NMC as very important to them. They are especially concerned about shipping and new legislation, and want to be in a strong position to advise on such matters.

Dan explained that as an Associate Member of NMPAC the NWMB will be able to attend and participate in meetings and share documents, but not vote nor participate in funding of the Committee. NTI was invited to have similar status, and accepted the invitation. Dan suggested that there was no down-side to the NWMB being an Associate Member. The NMPAC anticipates hiring a policy analyst to examine impending legislation and to develop position statements. They will seek government funding for this position. Kevin McCormick noted that value for money and effort has always been the focus of the NWMB's concern about this issue, and that should continue to be the case.

Michael d'Eça noted that the other IPGs produced a joint position paper for the Winnipeg meeting, entitled *Nunavut Marine Issues Action Plan*. There are a number of questions about jurisdiction that do not seem to have been adequately thought through. The NWMB should be vigilant in safeguarding its role and jurisdiction, and its own direct access to Departments and Ministers.

Ben Kovic reported that considerable enthusiasm was expressed in Winnipeg for a face-to-face meeting of IPG members, with emphasis that the discussions need not be confined to the formation of an NMC. Gordon Koshinsky urged that any such meeting be combined with another event such as the next Board meeting, and that it would be necessary to have an agenda. Michael listed some possible agenda items identified in previous deliberations. Jim Noble noted that a previous meeting in Yellowknife disintegrated when the NWMB refused to confirm intention to join an NMC. Jim considered that formation of an NMC would inevitably become the main focus of any joint meeting. Dan Pike suggested that this was not necessarily so, because the Winnipeg meeting did end with a distinctly different orientation. The Board asked the Executive Director to explore options for a joint meeting of the IPGs in Yellowknife in conjunction with the next NWMB meeting. **(Resolution 99-079)**

## **10.F Establishing Qualifications for Big-Game Hunting Guides**

Jim Noble advised that he decided that it would not be cost-effective for the consultant to attend this meeting in Baker Lake. Ben Kovic suggested that the Members identify and consolidate their comments and concerns for discussion at a later opportunity. Kevin McCormick mentioned that he would be very interested

to hear the perspective of Board members who had hands-on experience working as or using guides. Michael d'Eça noted a small section in the report pertaining to liability concerns, which he thought to be wrongly addressed. Pauloosie Keyootak requested opportunity to review the document with the outfitters in Broughton Island. The Members endorsed Pauloosie's request. It was decided to defer further consideration of the matter to the next Board meeting or to a conference call.

### **10.G Implementation of NWMB Strategic Plan: Update**

Jim Noble referred the Members to the summary of progress on implementing the Strategic Plan contained in the briefing binder. He suggested that the Board should decide what particular focus to adopt for the next phase of implementation. Ben Kovic suggested the Board take on item 1.B.8, which has implications for his own role with the Board. Michael d'Eça noted that this item is linked to the concern about the Board apparently needing to make confidential decisions while at the same time holding public meetings. Gordon Koshinsky noted that item 1.C.11 calls for a mid-term self-evaluation, which would be appropriate to do about now. The Board deferred any specific decision on how to proceed with further implementing its Strategic Plan.

### **10.H NWMB Training Policy Proposal: Review**

Jim Noble noted that the Executive Committee was to review this document and report to the Board. Jim also noted that NITC had contracted the consulting firm "Concilium" to develop a series of workshop modules "Board-Builder Workshop Series" that are available to the NWMB. Jim advised that he had module 4 (Financial Management) for review by the Board. This series has not been translated as yet, but should be completed in the near future. NITC will provide \$15,000 per module to help cover costs of airfare, hotels, facilitators, etc. Jim suggested that the Board might like to consider various modules as part of their regular meetings or as a separate workshop. RWOs and HTOs can also access this or other training through NITC.

### **10.I CFI Initiative: Enhancing Research Capabilities in Nunavut**

Jim Noble reminded the Board that it earlier donated \$5,000 to Arctic College, to contribute to a fund to hire a consultant to assess research capabilities in the NSA. This was part of a preparatory initiative pertaining to the new Canada Foundation for Innovation. The lone bidder came in well over-budget and this put the project on hold. The hope now is that Arctic College can be recruited to help fund the project and make up the shortfall. Jim advised that the Committee would like to retain the Board's funds, until the matter can be discussed with Arctic College. The Board gave its approval for the Committee to retain these funds until further information is acquired. **(Resolution 99-080)**

## **11. Applications for NWMB Funding: Reviews and Decisions**

### **11.A NWMB Research Funding Proposals**

#### **11.A.1 Char Tagging Project Proposal, Back River: Gjoa Haven HTA**

Dan Pike referred to his briefing note on this item. The study would aim to learn more about the size and discreteness of the char stock in the Back River. Studies were done in this area previously in cooperation with DFO, and about 900 fish were tagged in the Back River last year. Few if any of the previous data have been analyzed to date. Dan suggested that the need for a second year of tagging at the Back River is not demonstrated in the proposal. Kevin McCormick asked how time-sensitive the project might be. Dan advised that the project is very time-sensitive and would have to be started immediately. Makabe Nartok suggested that the funds might be wasted unless the project was re-designed, including clear provision for use of the data obtained earlier. Dan noted that DFO has no staff members left who have first-hand knowledge of this project. The Board decided not to approve funding for the project.

#### **11.A.2 Bowhead Research Proposal: Clyde River Area**

Dan Pike reviewed the request from the Igalirtuuq Steering Committee (a sub-committee of the Clyde River HTA) for funding support. The Committee is seeking funding assistance to conduct observational work from cliffs at Isabella Bay and Cape Eglington. There is no indication of funding input by Government. Dan noted that the NWMB rejected a similar (but smaller) proposal in June. Pauloosie Keyootak noted that researchers working in this area previously have not provided final reports and information back to the community. Harry Flaherty suggested that the NWMB might assist by (perhaps) developing data analysis and reporting systems. The Board decided not to approve funding for the project.

### **11.B Requests for Donations and Other Miscellaneous Support**

#### **11.B.1 Proposal to Develop a New Method for Propelling a Harpoon**

Jim Noble advised that the Renewable Resource Officer in Clyde River, on behalf of the Clyde River HTA, submitted a proposal to test two methods of self-propelling a harpoon for application to the hunting of narwhal, and by extension also to the hunting of beluga. The proposal is to evaluate a high-powered spear gun and a shotgun-powered launching system to attach a float by means of a harpoon. The underlying objective is to encourage and facilitate the attachment of floats in order to reduce struck-and-loss rates. The funding requirement pertains

to the purchase of the experimental equipment, the availability of all of which has been confirmed by the proponents.

Jim advised that he had approved this donation request (in the amount of \$3500) on his own authority prior to consideration by the Board because there was an element of time-sensitivity. Gordon Koshinsky applauded both the initiative and the Executive Director's handling of it. If successful, it would constitute a neat marriage of ancient and modern technologies for a conservation purpose. Harry Flaherty asked for assurance that the equipment would remain with the HTA. Jim agreed to make sure that this occurs.

## **12. Other Presentations**

### **12.A Keewatin Wildlife Federation (KWF)**

David Alagalak, President of KWF, provided a status report on wildlife activities and concerns in the Keewatin Region. David noted that the KWF would like to work more closely with the NWMB. He reported that there has been considerable discussion on the proposed new management system for narwhal, and the Region is likely to support it. David observed that walrus are becoming more numerous in the Region, and requested that the NWMB give due consideration to the development of walrus sport hunting. Traditional hunting methods also need to be promoted, and need to be practiced more consistently. There is disappointment about the small quantity of bowhead muktuk that arrived at Arviat this summer from the Pangnirtung harvest.

David asked about the arrival of some scientific equipment in the RWED Office in Arviat. There are rumours that this equipment is (or can be) used to frighten whales, and there is local speculation that this is somehow related to the scarcity of beluga at Arviat this summer. Jim Noble agreed to look into the matter. David reported that two KWF staff members recently resigned: Tommy Owljoot (Executive Director) and Ian Ellsworth (Resource/Program Specialist). Both have already been replaced. Financial management in the HTOs is continuing to improve, but given turnover and other realities there will always be a need for training and other assistance. Kevin McCormick noted that it is not in the NWMB's mandate to train HTO Directors and staff. However it is in the NWMB's mandate to flow funds to these organizations, and there is a vital interest that this be undertaken within an appropriate accountability framework. Ben Kovic noted that other agencies do have resources for training programs to promote such accountability, and urged RWOs such as KWF to help the HTOs to access such programs. Gordon Koshinsky invited the help and participation of all the RWOs in urging HTO Directors to encourage their staff to work hard to meet basic financial and administrative requirements.

### **12.B Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)**

Raymond Ningeocheak, Second Vice-President of NTI, advised that he had recently taken over the NTI Wildlife Portfolio from James Eetoolook. At the same time the Hunter Support Program was moved from his portfolio to that of the NTI Secretary Treasurer, Bernadette Tungilik. Raymond advised that NTI expects to implement Land Claims Membership Cards this autumn, for people over sixteen years of age. Part of the impetus for this initiative is to provide identification for Inuit engaged in subsistence harvesting. Raymond noted that many people feel that not enough attention is being given to ensure the inclusion of TEK in wildlife research in the Arctic. Raymond also suggested communities undertaking bowhead whale harvests should not keep inordinate amounts of meat and muktuk, and that more equitable distribution among communities in the future would be appropriate.

Raymond referred to the unsatisfactory arrangements for subsistence harvesting by Nunavut and Nunavik beneficiaries in each other's territory. People often travel or change residence between the two regions and there has been a long-standing problem in that Nunavik beneficiaries have not been allowed to conduct subsistence harvesting in the NSA when visiting or working there. Harry Flaherty reminded those present that the matter was examined in some detail when the NWMB met with Makivik last year. Harry expressed the view that the problem stems in part from the fact that there are harvesting quotas in place in some situations in Nunavut but not in Nunavik. Raymond suggested that the matter be examined in detail, taking appropriate account of what transpired at the joint meeting with Makivik. Ben Kovic urged NTI to take the lead in resolving this issue.

Bert Dean advised that NTI is planning to dedicate a full-time position to wildlife issues, and possibly a biologically-oriented support position as well. Bruce Gillies will be the new Implementation Director, and NTI plans to become more supportive of the RWOs and HTOs. Part of this task will be to help ensure that local and regional wildlife management issues get to the attention of the NWMB. Gordon Koshinsky reminded Bert and Raymond of the continual problems encountered in keeping RWOs and HTOs operational, along with the need for NTI assistance in that regard. Bert acknowledged the need to work together on this matter. He noted that it may be possible in future to access Implementation Funding to assist these organizations.

Bert reported that work is progressing well on the development of procedures for assigning harvesting rights; when this process is in place it may help to address the reciprocal harvesting issue with Makivik. Bert also advised that NTI is working with ITC in an effort to get the Marine Mammal Protection Act (USA) amended to allow importation of seal products into the USA. A number of wildlife harvest overlap issues are being examined at the present time. Besides the general issue of reciprocal rights to subsistence harvesting with Makivik, these include Sanikiluaq beluga (with northern Quebec), Cape Dorset eiderdown (with Nunavik), and hunting rights in the Keewatin (with the Dene).

Bert noted that the new firearms control legislation is to be in place October 1; this will have a definite impact on hunters. Bert also reminded the Board about the legal challenge that has been brought against this legislation by some of the Provinces and the GNWT. The GNWT has refused to administer the program, and the RCMP will be doing it instead. Makabe Nartok asked what is actually expected to happen “on the ground” on October 1. Bert advised that hunters will need a permit (which will not be free) for each of their guns. Aboriginal exemptions are available, but to obtain one an individual will be required to fill out numerous forms. If applicants for permits do not provide correct information, long delays and extra costs are foreseen. There is provision to waive the registration fees for subsistence hunters, but the designation of such hunters is (currently) discretionary. Ben Kovic suggested that the NLCA should exempt the need for payment of registration fees. Bert advised that staff at the Firearms Centre (a bureaucracy within Justice Canada in Ottawa) were of the opinion that there would be no fees for NLCA beneficiaries, but the anticipated exemption ultimately did not survive the attention of the Minister’s Office. David Tagoona indicated that he anticipates receiving many requests for references from applicants in his capacity as a Mayor. He asked if there might be a way to alleviate that situation. Bert advised that consideration has been given to setting up northern registries, and the phase-in period is being telescoped. It is also of much concern that there will be only one centre in all of Canada to handle all registrations; serious back-ups can be anticipated. QWB is encouraging compliance with the new legislation, despite not being in complete agreement with it.

## **12.C Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)**

Louis Courtemanche, Manager of the Iqaluit Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, thanked the Board for allowing him time to present an outline of the Royal Bank’s services. Louis advised that the Iqaluit Branch now reports to Winnipeg rather than to Montreal, and the new reporting linkages are an improvement. The Royal Bank has been in Iqaluit for 41 years, and now has branches in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet as well. All services offered by the Royal Bank are available through the Nunavut branches. Ben Kovic asked if Royal Trust could improve the earnings performance of the NWRT. Louis advised that he (personally) was not an expert in investments, but that Royal Trust certainly has staff and capability in that area.

## **12.D Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)**

The CIBC made its presentation to a meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust on Thursday morning.

## **12.E Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC)**

Jerry Ell, President of QC, addressed the Board on fishery development needs and opportunities in the Eastern Arctic. Jerry drew the attention of the Board to the present and potential importance of the shrimp fisheries in the area, and asked for the Board's assistance in realizing greater benefits. He stressed that larger shrimp allocations to Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Broughton Island, and Pond Inlet in particular would have the potential to create considerably more employment. The viability of the fish plant in Pangnirtung could be substantially improved if a summer shrimp fishery could be initiated, with local fishers using boats just large enough to fish in that local area. Crabs, kelp, and perhaps other marine resources may also offer harvesting opportunities on a commercial scale in this region.

Dan Pike suggested that the role of the NWMB would not extend to being the catalyst for new fisheries, not even a summer fishery in Cumberland Sound. However the NWMB would obviously take very seriously any proposal that was developed and brought forward. Gordon Koshinsky returned to the suggestion of having a workshop to provide opportunity for all the players to sort out their roles and develop a plan of action for the increased development of these fisheries for the benefit of people in the Eastern Arctic. Jerry declared himself to be in favour of such an initiative, and noted that he had in fact already started trying to identify necessary funding for it. Stephen Atkinson advised that Henry Copestake, in consultation with Ray Andrews, has started working on a background document that would be relevant to such a workshop, focussing on the question of roles. Jerry offered the input of the Baffin fishery interests in developing another discussion paper outlining their particular point(s) of view. Jerry doubted that a highly unified paper could result, but suggested that it should be possible to identify a general goal along with options for achieving it. Gordon stressed the importance of good preparation for such a workshop, including the preparation of background papers on objectives, roles, and developmental possibilities.

It was recognized that there was a need to establish a steering committee to make or ensure the necessary preparations. It was agreed that RWED should lead in the formation of the steering committee and should chair it.

## **13. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations**

Gordon Koshinsky reported to the Board in his capacity as Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Gordon explained that the Executive Committee met on Tuesday evening, August 25. The Committee developed a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Board. Matters discussed and decisions made by the Board in respect to the Committee's recommendations were as follows:

### **13.1 Replacement of NWMB Vehicle**

Gordon advised that the Committee recommended replacement of the 1994 Chevrolet Astro Van. Harry Flaherty requested the rationale for replacing a vehicle that was only four years old. Jim Noble replied that problems were starting to develop with the main seal and with the rear door hinges, but that the vehicle could probably still command a fairly good price. Jim suggested that waiting much longer would make the resale value much lower. Harry declared that he was satisfied with this justification. The Board approved the sale of the 1994 van with a reserve price of \$7,000, as well as the purchase of a replacement vehicle of similar size and configuration. **(Resolution 99-081)**

### **13.2 Computer Services Contract**

The Executive Committee recommended that the NWMB tender locally for an ongoing computer maintenance contract as well as computer training for staff. The Board gave approval for a new contract to provide ongoing computer maintenance and related staff training. **(Resolution 99-082)**

### **13.3 Computer Hardware Upgrade for NWMB Network**

The Executive Committee recommended purchase of computer hardware and software to upgrade the current NWMB computer network. The Board approved the expenditure of up to \$15,000 for computer upgrades to address the requirements identified by the Executive Committee. **(Resolution 99-083)**

### **13.4 Rationalizing the 1998/99 Budget**

The Executive Committee conveyed the observation of the Director of Finance and Administration that the current NWMB budget presentation should be amended in order to more realistically reflect the Board's expenditure projections by category. No change to the overall funding allocation is proposed. In response to a question on the matter, Michael d'Eça advised the Board to take the position that there is no requirement for the Board to obtain DIAND's permission to make internal changes of this nature. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate to have the current budget presentation amended as recommended by the Director of Finance and Administration.

### **13.5. Items Under Consideration by the Executive Committee**

Gordon Koshinsky identified the following items as being on the Executive Committee's active agenda:

- Training Policy and Plan
- Asset Disposal Policy
- Insurance Policy

- Signing authorities

## **14. Meetings, Workshops and Other Pertinent Events**

### **14.A Reports and Briefings: Past Events**

Jim Noble referred the Members to the notes contained in the briefing material pertaining to events that Board Members and/or staff attended since the last Board Meeting in May. These items included:

- Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board AGM (June 1-6, Iqaluit)
- Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee (June 16-17, Iqaluit).
- Meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (July 26, Iqaluit).
- Meeting of the Inuit Traditional Knowledge ad hoc Working Group for the Nunavut Social Development Council (August 12-14, Igloolik).

### **14.B Review and Participation: Upcoming Events**

Jim Noble led the Board through the tabulation of forthcoming items as at August 24. The following decisions were reached regarding attendance:

- Coastal Zone Canada '98 Conf, Aug 30–Sept 3, Victoria: Gordon to attend
- NAMMCO, Eighth Meeting, Sept 1-4, Oslo: Dan to attend
- High North Alliance, Sept 1-6, Oslo: Dan to attend
- NAFO Scientific Council Mtg, Sept 9, Lisbon: Ray and Ben (tent.) to attend
- Prospects North '98 Conference, Sept 21-23, Yellowknife: Harry to attend
- Keewatin Wildl Fed Mtg, Sept 21-25, Chesterfield: David and Jim to attend
- Qikiqtaaluk Inuit Association AGM, Oct 5-7, Iqaluit: Pauloosie to attend
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association AGM, Oct 6-8, Kugluktuk: Makabe to attend
- DFO (Cst Grd) Ocean Strategy Mtg, Oct 7-9, Iqaluit: Ben and Dan to attend
- Greenland wildl mgmt tour, with RWED, October: Dan to participate (tent)
- Canadian Marine Adv Council Natl Mtg, Nov 3-5, Ottawa: Michael to attend

## **15. New List of Assignments**

Jim Noble announced that the list of assignments arising from this meeting would be completed and distributed within the next couple of days.

## **16. Date and Location of Next Meeting**

It was decided to hold the next (20<sup>th</sup>) regular meeting of the NWMB at Yellowknife the first week of December 1998. **(Resolution 99-084)**

**17. Adjournment**

The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NWMB adjourned at 8:30 p.m. (**Resolution 99-085**)

**Minutes Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson** **Date**

Document updated (GK) 08 February 1999

# NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

## RESOLUTIONS: MEETING No. 19

Baker Lake, 25-27 August 1998

### Resolution 99-058

Resolved that the agenda for NWMB Meeting No. 19 be accepted with noted amendments.

Moved by: Joan Scottie  
Carried

Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
Date: 25 August 1998

### Resolution 99-059

Resolved that the minutes for NWMB Meeting No. 18 conducted at Broughton Island on May 12-14, 1998 be adopted as amended.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty  
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
Date: 25 August 1998

### Resolution 99-060

Resolved that the minutes for NWMB Conference Call No. 37 conducted on 11 June 1998 be adopted as presented.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty  
Carried

Seconded by: Joan Scottie  
Date: 25 August 1998

### Resolution 99-061

Resolved that the minutes for NWMB Conference Call No. 38 conducted on 12 June 1998 be adopted as presented.

Moved by: Makabe Nartok  
Carried

Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
Date: 25 August 1998



### **Resolution 99-067**

Resolved that the NWMB initiate a management planning process for walrus similar to the planning process that was recently initiated for narwhal.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty                      Seconded by: Pauloosie Keyootak  
Carried    Date: 26 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-068**

Resolved that the NWMB take steps to implement a new management system for narwhal as developed by the Narwhal Working Group, in summary to eliminate community quotas for narwhal subject to hunt and harvest monitoring programs being in place and all other non-quota limitations being retained.

Moved by: Gordon Koshinsky                      Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
Abstention: 1 (Joan Scottie)  
Carried    Date: 26 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-069**

Resolved that the NWMB approve the recommendation of the Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee to eliminate quotas for beluga whales for the communities of Iqaluit and Kimmirut, pending the initiation of appropriate hunt and harvest monitoring programs.

Moved by: Makabe Nartok                      Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
Abstention: 1 (David Tagoona)  
Carried    Date: 26 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-070**

Resolved that the NWMB endorse the recommendations developed by the Southeast Baffin Beluga Management Committee at its June meeting, in summary that:

- A survey of Cumberland Sound beluga be conducted in 1999.
- DFO continue and expand its genetic and contaminant analyses, with the particular aim of determining the relationships between southeast Baffin beluga and beluga from adjacent areas.
- DFO assess the feasibility and benefits of conducting fall and winter surveys in the area of outer Frobisher Bay and Resolution Island.

- The NWMB coordinate production of a guide to HTOs on the development, use and enforcement of hunting bylaws.
- All parties conduct vigorous consultations with their constituents.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick      Seconded by: Pauloosie Keyootak  
 Carried                              Date: 26 August 1998

**Resolution 99-071**

Resolved that the NWMB approve the Management Plan for Bowhead Whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as updated for 1998 by DFO with editorial input from NWMB staff.

Moved by: Gordon Koshinsky      Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
 Carried                              Date: 26 August 1998

**Resolution 99-072**

Resolved that the NWMB give its support-in-principle to the proposed initiative of World Wildlife Fund Canada to produce a conservation plan for the Eastern Arctic population of bowhead whales, pending clarification of the relationship of this initiative to the mandate of COSEWIC under incoming legislation pertaining to wildlife species at risk.

Moved by: Gordon Koshinsky      Seconded by: Pauloosie Keyootak  
 Abstained: 1 (David Tagoona)  
 Carried                              Date: 26 August 1998

**Resolution 99-073**

Resolved that the NWMB meet *in-camera*.

Moved by: David Tagoona      Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
 Carried                              Date: 26 August 1998

**Resolution 99-074**

Resolved that the *in-camera* session be closed.

Moved by: David Tagoona      Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
 Carried                              Date: 26 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-075**

Resolved that the NWMB approve the DRWED recommendations to increase polar bear quotas for four communities for the 1998/99 season as follows:

1. For the community of Pelly Bay, for hunting the polar bear population known as Gulf of Boothia, to increase the quota from 10 to 15.
2. For the community of Grise Fiord, for hunting the polar bear population known as Kane Basin, to increase the quota from 1 to 5.
3. For the community of Repulse Bay, for hunting the polar bear population known as Foxe Basin, to increase the quota from 5 to 12.
4. For the community of Pangnirtung, for hunting the polar bear population known as Davis Strait, to increase the quota from 13 to 14.

Moved by: Pauloosie Keyootak      Seconded by: Joan Scottie  
Carried      Date: 26 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-076**

Resolved that the NWMB approve the DRWED recommendations to decrease polar bear quotas for four communities for the 1998/99 season as follows:

1. For the community of Clyde River, for hunting the polar bear population known as Baffin Bay, to decrease the quota from 21 to 8.
2. For the community of Coral Harbour, for hunting the polar bear population known as Foxe Basin, to decrease the quota from 39 to 34.
3. For the community of Igloolik, for hunting the polar bear population known as Foxe Basin, to decrease the quota from 4 to 1.
4. For the community of Kimmirut, for hunting the polar bear population known as Foxe Basin, to decrease the quota from 9 to 8.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick      Seconded by: David Tagoona  
Carried      Date: 26 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-077**

Resolved that the NWMB reaffirm its original decision (Resolution 99-018) to allow an Inuk to harvest a polar bear in the traditional manner, and forward this final decision to the DRWED Minister.

Moved by: Joan Scottie      Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
Carried      Date: 27 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-078**

Resolved that the NWMB's Director of Wildlife Management be directed to negotiate a contract effective September 1, 1998, with the Coordinator of the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study for completion of the Study.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick      Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
Carried                              Date: 27 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-079**

Resolved that the NWMB instruct the Executive Director to attempt to arrange a joint meeting of the IPGs in conjunction with the next NWMB Board meeting.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick      Seconded by: Pauloosie Keyootak  
Carried                              Date: 27 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-080**

Resolved that the NWMB approve the NRI/CFI Committee to retain NWMB donation funding in the amount of \$5,000 until further arrangements can be made to complete a feasibility study on research capabilities in Nunavut.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty                      Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
Carried                              Date: 27 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-081**

Resolved that the NWMB approve the sale of the 1994 Chevrolet Astro van for a reserved price of \$7,000, and that the NWMB purchase a new replacement vehicle of comparable capacity and characteristics.

Moved by: Pauloosie Keyootak              Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
Carried                              Date: 27 August 1998

### **Resolution 99-082**

Resolved that the NWMB contract for services to provide ongoing computer maintenance as well as computer training for staff.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick      Seconded by: Harry Flaherty  
Carried:                              Date: 27 August 1998

**Resolution 99-083**

Resolved that the NWMB approve the purchase of computer hardware and software to upgrade the current NWMB computer network estimated at approximately \$15,000.

Moved by: David Tagoona              Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
Carried                                  Date: 27 August 1998

**Resolution 99-084**

Resolved that the next (20<sup>th</sup>) regular Meeting of the NWMB be conducted at Cambridge Bay the week of 16 November 1998, this in the event that plans for a joint IPG/NWMB meeting in Yellowknife in late November/early December do not materialize.

Moved by: David Tagoona              Seconded by: Makabe Nartok  
Carried                                  Date: 27 August 1998

**Resolution 99-085**

Resolved that the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NWMB be adjourned.

Moved by: Gordon Koshinsky          Seconded by: Kevin McCormick  
Carried                                  Date: 27 August 1998

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