

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #26 26 - 28 September 2000

Taloyoak, NU

1. This was the 26th meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board conducted in Taloyoak, September 26-28, 2000.



2. The Board heard an update on developments on the new federal Species at Risk Act. A review of the Board's jurisdiction with respect to species at risk was presented. A brief history of the legislation along with highlights of the Bill with respect to land claims rights and traditional knowledge were reviewed. Criticisms and main concerns were discussed with the Board.

3. The Board reviewed a proposal from the Canadian Wildlife Service to allow a "spring conservation hunt" of snow geese in Nunavut.

The following regulations were recommended by CWS to the Board, for all regions of Nunavut:

- o That this spring hunting season be from 1 May through 7 June each year;
- o That residents of Nunavut be allowed 15 snow geese per day with no possession limit;
- o That other residents of Canada be allowed 15 snow geese per day with no possession limit;
- o Non-residents of Canada (e.g. US citizens) 15 snow geese per day with a possession limit of 30 geese.

The Board will forward its decision to the Minister of the Environment.



4. The Board received information on the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program which is jointly administered by Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Environment Canada. The main aim of this Program is to ensure that risk to human health from the consumption of shellfish is low; that environmental quality at shellfish growing areas is monitored; and that all shellfish sold commercially are harvested, transported, processed and tested in an approved manner. Shellfish fisheries developed in Nunavut will require CSSP approval. The next step for Nunavut is to establish a Regional Classification Committee, which will review data and make recommendations on safe areas of harvest.

5. Representatives of DFO updated the NWMB on work to develop new Nunavut Fisheries Regulations. A committee has been established with representatives of DFO, NWMB, DSD and NTI. Terms of Reference have been developed.

6. DFO reported that their habitat biologist is working to identify mining sites in Nunavut and conducting inspections of those sites. DFO will keep the Board updated on this activity.



7. DFO updated the Board on activity to do with the Oceans Program. The Board was reminded that DFO will be holding the Western

8. DFO reported back to the NWMB on the success of the bowhead hunt held in Coral Harbour in August. The hunt was successful, with the whale under tow back to camp less than 2 hours after the start of the hunt. Muktuk has been distributed to most Nunavut communities.
9. The Board received updates from DFO on the community-based management systems for narwhal at Repulse Bay, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay and Qikiqtarjuaq and for beluga at Kimmirut, Iqaluit and Pangnirtung.
10. DFO indicated that they are hoping to increase their presence in the Kitikmeot in the near future. DFO will keep the Board and KHTA informed on progress on this matter.
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11. The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) reported on their polar bear population studies in McClintock Channel. The research indicates that the polar bear population is lower than what was previously thought. DSD has begun consultations with the communities that harvest from this population (Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay) on how to adjust the current harvest levels to ensure that the population is not harvested above sustainable levels.
12. DSD updated the NWMB on their plan to have consultations on revising the current Polar Bear MOUs. DSD will be asking community HTOs for their input and holding meetings and workshops. A variety of background information will be distributed in advance of the meetings.
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13. The Board reviewed material supplied by DSD regarding Arviat's request to use snowmobiles to conduct sport hunts for polar bears. The legislation currently does not allow motorized vehicles to be used for polar bear sport hunts. This has caused some concern for the community of Arviat, because conditions there are not suitable for dog teams during the time the polar bears are near town. The restriction is the result of international agreements and there are many implications of making changes. The Board agreed to review this further.
14. The Board received information from DSD on the harvest levels of polar bears throughout Nunavut for the previous year and recommended quota levels for the coming year. The Board will forward its decision to the Minister of DSD.
15. DSD updated the Board on the new Nunavut Wildlife Act. A MOU has been signed between DSD, NTI and NWMB and a working group has been formed to develop the new Act.
16. The final draft of the Thelon Sanctuary Management Plan has been completed. It is now awaiting approval from GNWT and the community of Lutselk'e before it is brought to the NWMB for approval.
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17. DSD is following up on the NWMB's request to work with the Sahtu on developing a management plan for the Bluenose East herd of caribou. Further discussions are planned.
18. The Board was updated on progress to develop a Bathurst Caribou Management Plan. The Planning Committee has developed a workplan and meetings will be held later this year.

19. The Board received an update on the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study. A new Co-ordinator has been hired and the Study is back on track. It is hoped that interim community reports will be distributed in the coming months. The Study will finish data collection in May, 2001.

20. The Board approved funding for a feasibility study - to be funded jointly with government departments - on the future of the Harvest Study. The Board's Harvest Study Committee will be working out the details.

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21. The Board received an update on the Big Game Guides Working Group. Feedback is awaited from the Regional representatives on the working group. Another meeting will be held this winter.

22. The NWMB accepted a proposal to change the method of establishing wildlife management priorities within the Nunavut Settlement Area. A new policy is being developed.

23. The Board reiterated its support for the Articles 5.2.38 (b) and (c) of the NLCA, which deal with Inuit employment and training in research. The NWMB will continue to promote and encourage such employment and training as components of projects funded by the NWMB.

24. NTI presented a report on the recent Nunavut Wildlife Symposium and the resolutions that were made there. The meeting was a success and similar meeting will be held every 2 years.

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25. NTI reported that they are still trying to make arrangements for a meeting between hunters in Grise Fiord and Qanaaq, Greenland. A meeting is planned for this winter.

26. The NWMB received a presentation from Parks Canada, highlighting the Agency's staffing and identifying projects that are underway.

27. The Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association updated the NWMB on the activities of member HTOs and their concerns.

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28. The next meeting of the NWMB will be in Rankin Inlet, the week of November 27, 2000.

For further information please contact:

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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