



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #28

19 • 23 March 2001

IQALUIT

1. The 28th meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) was held in Iqaluit over the week 19-23 March 2001.
2. The Board reviewed 16 new research proposals from Government agencies for funding from the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust. The Board approved 14 of these new projects and, along with two other projects approved previously, allocated a total of approximately \$700,000 from the Trust for 2001/02. New or ongoing projects include studies pertinent to management of narwhal in the High Arctic, bowhead whales in Foxe Basin and Committee Bay, Arctic charr at Pangnirtung, turbot in Davis Strait, eider ducks in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions and at Sanikiluaq, caribou in the Kitikmeot region, and walrus in Foxe Basin and in the High Arctic.
3. The Board reviewed nine new proposals directed to the NWMB Study Fund, which the NWMB makes available to non-government agencies. The Board approved four of these proposals for a total of approximately \$107,000. Approved projects pertain to studies of caribou and muskox near Resolute Bay, bowhead whales near Clyde River, and caribou in the Kivalliq.
4. The Board heard a presentation from Dr. Peter Usher with respect to the new Species at Risk Act. Dr. Usher outlined how the wildlife management boards, including the NWMB, can expect to participate in the process of designating species at risk, in accordance with their land claims and the new Act.
5. Kevin McCormick of CWS updated the Board on implementation of the new spring sport-hunting season for snow geese, which is about to take effect in Nunavut. The Nunavut season will be from May 1 to June 7, and the limit will be 15 geese per day (no possession limit) for Canadian residents and 5 geese per day (possession limit of 10) for non-residents. Kevin stressed that the season and limit restrictions are pertinent to non-beneficiaries of the NLCA.
6. Kevin McCormick advised the Board that his agency is mounting a program to inform residents of Nunavut, among others, that the recent amendments to the Migratory Birds Convention make it legal for aboriginal people to hunt migratory birds year-round.
7. The Board reviewed the preliminary report prepared by the NWMB Legal Advisor on the pre-hearing consultations held on the future of the community-based management system for narwhal and beluga in Nunavut. A full report on the consultations will be completed by late April. The members and staff who participated in the community consultation meetings agreed that it was a very useful exercise and that many valuable insights were obtained.

8. DFO provided an update on the initiative to develop an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Pangnirtung. DFO has begun consultations with the Pangnirtung HTO on this project.
9. DFO gave the Board updates on the progress of research projects funded by the Department's Nunavut Implementation Fund. DFO has 22 projects on fish and marine mammals currently underway in Nunavut.
10. The Board received a progress report on the effort underway to develop new Fisheries Regulations for Nunavut. The next meeting of the Nunavut Regulatory Review Committee (involving DFO, NWMB, DSD and NTI) will be held in Iqaluit in early April.
11. DFO and the Department of the Environment updated the Board on plans to implement the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program in Nunavut.
12. Mitch Taylor from DSD updated the Board on the analysis of population boundaries for polar bear populations in Nunavut based on satellite telemetry. This information will be taken to the communities for review and comment in the process of reviewing the current MOUs on polar bear management with respect to the various polar bear populations.
13. Mitch Taylor outlined a possible alternative approach to setting and managing sustainable harvest quotas for polar bears. This approach is based on the concept of risk management; it will be presented to the communities as part of the review of MOUs governing polar bear management.
14. DSD informed the Board of the intention to develop an overall co-management plan for polar bears in Nunavut, with provision for a dedicated schedule for monitoring the status of the various populations.
15. DSD reported that work is underway with Greenland to develop a polar bear MOU between the two jurisdictions for shared polar bear populations in Kane Basin, Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. The NWMB endorsed this initiative.
16. DSD provided an update on work in progress or being planned to further assess the McClintock Channel polar bear population. Current plans are to continue the mark-recapture study in 2002. DSD is working with the KHTA to develop a traditional knowledge study in the communities that harvest from this population.
17. DSD reported that the Department is funding an analysis of polar bear sport hunting and the value and potential of this enterprise to Nunavut communities.
18. Siu-ling Han of DSD informed the Board that DSD is beginning to work on a MOU for the management of grizzly bears in the Kitikmeot region.
19. The Harvest Study Coordinator advised that work on the database is continuing, with collection of data still scheduled to end in May. Interim community reports will be released in regional groupings over the next few months, starting with the Kitikmeot region in April or early May.
20. The Board reviewed applications for allocations in the Nunavut Settlement Area shrimp fishery and awarded allocations to three

applicants. Notification letters have been sent out to the applicants this week and a table outlining the allocations is attached.

21. The Board reviewed applications for allocations in the Shrimp Fishing Area 2 exploratory shrimp fishery and awarded allocations to seven applicants. Notification letters have been sent out to the applicants this week and a table outlining the allocations is attached.
22. The Board reviewed applications for allocations in the Division 0B turbot fishery and awarded allocations to six applicants. Notification letters have been sent out to the applicants this week and a table outlining the allocations is attached.
23. After reviewing applications for turbot allocations in the new Division 0A turbot fishery, the Board decided to invite potential participants to a workshop in April to discuss this new fishery. The aim will be to develop a coherent approach at the outset to maximize the long-term benefits to Nunavut fishing interests.
24. The Board heard that NTI has allocated substantial funds to hire and deploy liaison officers in several, perhaps eventually all, Nunavut communities. There is considerable optimism that these officers could play key roles in enhancing the administration and accountability of the HTOs. Improvements in these areas would be of vital interest to the NWMB.
25. The Board heard a request from NTI for formal intervention in the ongoing dispute concerning the application by a Nunavut beneficiary to hunt a polar bear by traditional means and to film the hunt commercially. The Board decided to refer this matter to the consultation process leading to development of a new Wildlife Act for Nunavut.
26. The Board heard a progress report from the consultant who has been retained to help develop a workplan and budget pertinent to the next (2003 • 2013) contract period. This material is due to be submitted to the Implementation Panel by March 31. The Board, in conjunction with the other IPGs, has requested the Panel to grant an extension. The Board discussed its strategy for completing this documentation and also for the ensuing negotiations.
27. A community meeting that had been announced for Wednesday evening was called off for lack of participation. Only two local HTO members showed up.
28. The next (29th) meeting of the NWMB will be in Kugluktuk, the week of June 4, 2001.

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