



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #32

4 - 6 June 2002

Rankin Inlet

1. This was the 32nd meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, conducted in Rankin Inlet, June 4 • 6, 2002.



2. The Board reviewed the process for COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) designations and the need for better communication between NWMB and COSEWIC. Under Article 5.2.34 (f) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) the Board reviews and approves all such designations of endangered species. The Board reiterated their concerns that there was an urgent need to clarify the process and to ensure that the process is followed. Follow-up will be done with CWS and COSEWIC by NWMB staff.
3. The Board received information from COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) requesting Board approval of the changes in designation of 4 wildlife species: Harlequin Duck, Northern Wolfish; Spotted Wolfish; and Lynx. The Board deferred their decision pending the receipt of more information on the reasons for the changes from COSEWIC and clarification of the process to be followed with COSEWIC.
4. The Board was updated on the progress towards the new Species at Risk Act. It is anticipated that this new legislation will be passed in coming months.



5. The Board received an update from DFO on the community-based management system for beluga in Kimmirut and Iqaluit and were informed that additional efforts were being put forward for the coming year to improve the reporting process.
6. The Board received notification from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans that he had approved the Board's decision to continue the narwhal community-based management system, with harvest limits, for one more year while the review of the first 3 years is undertaken. The communities of Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk are participating in the community-based management of narwhal. Communities will be notified of their harvest limits for 2002, shortly.
7. The Board was informed by NTI that NTI was continuing to work with the three RWOs to plan for the next bowhead hunt and choose which community will host the hunt. The hunt will take place in 2002 or 2003 in the Foxe Basin / Northern Hudson Bay area.
8. The Board viewed a presentation by the Quebec Aquarium, outlining their work and their request for permission to harvest 2 young,

live walrus and 4 ringed seals, to be displayed in the new arctic exhibit at the aquarium. The aquarium is interested in harvesting these animals in the Nottingham and Salisbury Islands area. The Board noted that discussions would need to be held with the nearby Nunavut communities and the RWOs before any decision could be made.



9. The Board reviewed and approved the Terms of Reference for the Hudson Bay Narwhal Working Group. The Working Group, organized by DFO, has met twice and a draft management plan is well underway.
10. The Board reviewed several requests for new commercial fisheries quotas. The Board made decisions on these and will forward these decisions to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.
11. The Board discussed recommendations from their Legal Advisor on changes that should be made to the National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms, and approved the recommended changes.
12. The NWMB's Makivik members presented the Board with a request to consider the transplant to caribou onto Nottingham Island. Nottingham Island is in the Area of Equal Use and Occupancy, shared by Nunavik and Nunavut Inuit. Makivik is supporting this request and asked for the Board's support. The Board agreed that before making any longer term plans they would like to see some estimates of the costs and steps that would need to be taken to undertake this transfer.



13. DSD updated the Board on the development of a new Nunavut Wildlife Act. Community consultations are completed and it should be ready to be presented to the Territorial Legislature in the fall of 2002. A draft of the new act will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting in September, 2002.
 14. DSD updated the NWMB on Peary Caribou activities and their efforts to develop an MOU with Resolute Bay on management of the caribou. Recent research by the community and DSD has shown that the population on Bathurst Island is once again increasing.
 15. The Board received an update on the review and revision on polar bear MOUs in Nunavut and an outline of funding requirements to do the full community consultation. Community consultations should begin this fall. The Board approved in principle the provision of funds to cover the costs of participation of the NWMB and RWO representatives in the community consultation tour.
 16. The Board's Harvest Study Coordinator updated the Board on the progress to complete the Harvest Study data analysis and Final Report. The Coordinator also demonstrated the new computer application for displaying geographic data. The final report should be completed in the spring of 2003.
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17. The Board reviewed and approved the recommendations of the Big Game Guides Working Group setting minimum qualifications for Big Game Guides in Nunavut. The Working Group will likely meet again to review these and make formal recommendations to the NWMB. Under Article 5.6.41 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) the Board may establish minimum qualifications for Big Game Hunting Guides. The 3 RWOs had earlier approved these recommendations.
 18. The Board reviewed and approved revisions to the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Fund Policy and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Studies Fund Policy. These policies outline how funding for research by Government or communities will be funded.

19. The Board decided to permit the fisheries allocations in the Division 0A and 0B turbot fisheries and NSA and SFA 2 shrimp fisheries to be renewable for up to 3 years, conditional on satisfactory efforts being made to harvest the fish. This will allow the fishing interests to develop more long-term agreements with harvesting vessels and result in greater economic benefits for Nunavut.
20. The next (33rd) meeting of the NWMB will be in the Kitikmeot Region, the week of September 16, 2002.

For further information please contact:

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