

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #33 17-19 September 2002

Ikaluktutiak, NU

1. This was the 33rd meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, conducted in Ikaluktutiak, September 17-19, 2002.



2. The Board received an update on progress towards negotiating the funding agreement with DIAND for the next 10 year contract period. Negotiations will continue in coming months.

3. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) updated the Board on progress towards passing the new Species at Risk Act. It is currently at second reading in the Senate and could be proclaimed in the new year.

4. The CWS notified the Board of concerns that have arisen over the level of harvest of some wildlife, especially Common Eider ducks, in Greenland. These birds summer in Nunavut and winter primarily in Greenland. Current harvest levels in Greenland are at a level that raises concerns about the long-term viability of the population if harvests continue at those levels. More information on efforts of the Greenland government to address these concerns will be coming soon. The NWMB will keep a watching brief on this issue to ensure that any potential impact on Inuit harvesting in Nunavut is addressed.



5. The Board received an update from DFO on progress towards establishing new Nunavut Fishing Regulations. The Board reviewed the drafting guidelines developed by the Nunavut Regulation Review Committee and gave approval in principle to the drafting guidelines. The Board will have the opportunity to review these further as the actual fisheries regulations are developed.

6. The Board received an update on the community-based management of narwhals. This system has been extended for a fourth year while a committee conducts an in-depth review of the successes and difficulties encountered during the initial trial period. The committee, consisting of representation from DFO, NWMB, NTI and the three RWOs will provide recommendations to the Board on the future of community-based management for narwhals in Nunavut. Plans are underway for community visits to review the past 3 years in each participating community.

7. The Board also received an update on the community-based management of belugas in Iqaluit, Kimmirut and Pangnirtung. The communities have made some modifications for this year and final numbers are expected this fall.

8. DFO updated the Board on the bowhead hunt, hosted by Igloolik and Hall Beach in early August. The hunt was successful, with a 46

foot female bowhead being harvested. Both DFO and the host HTOs will submit reports to NWMB on the hunt and any recommendations that might improve future hunts.



9. DFO provided an update on the Oceans Program and noted that the Minister had released the Oceans Strategy in July.
 10. DFO noted for the Board that a number of habitat issues of concern to DFO are in the works including the decommissioning of the Polaris and Nanisivik mines and the proposed Bathurst Road and Port development.
 11. The Board considered an official request from the Quebec Aquarium to harvest 2 live walrus and 3 live ringed seals from Nunavut waters for the aquarium. The Board postponed any decision on the request until after the Board has finalized the live-capture policy currently under development.
 12. DFO updated the Board on the 2002 fisheries in waters adjacent to Nunavut. The Division 0A turbot fishery is ahead of last year, having got an earlier start this year. Exploratory shrimp, crab and turbot fisheries are also underway inside the NSA.
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13. The Department of Sustainable Development updated the Board on progress towards developing the new Nunavut Wildlife Act. The Board reviewed a draft of the act and will continue to work on this draft with DSD and NTI.
 14. The Board was updated on the progress of the Polar Bear MOU Working Group and was informed of plans to begin community visits to discuss this issue, this fall.
 15. The Board approved polar bear quotas for 2002/03 and will forward its decision to the Minister of Sustainable Development.
 16. The NWMB received an update on the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study. The data has now all been verified and preliminary reports on the full 5 years of data will be distributed to the communities shortly. The Harvest Study Coordinator will visit each community in the coming months to review the preliminary reports.
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17. The Board discussed the development of its live-capture policy and agreed to present it to the upcoming Wildlife Symposium and follow up with co-management partners to gather feedback on the draft policy. An update will be provided to the Board at the next meeting.
 18. NTI updated the Board on plans for the Nunavut Wildlife Symposium to be held in Cambridge Bay, October 21 to 24. This will be the third such meeting and will include participation from all the HTOs and RWOs as well as NWMB, NTI and the relevant federal and territorial government departments.
 19. The next (34th) meeting of the NWMB will be in Cape Dorset, the week of December 9, 2002.

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