



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING #34 10-12 December 2002

IQALUIT, NU

1. This was the 34th meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, conducted in Iqaluit, December 10-12, 2002.



2. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) updated the NWMB on ongoing research on Ivory Gulls on Ellesmere Island, Northern Baffin Island and nearby islands. Research in the summer of 2002 confirmed concerns of some nearby communities that numbers may be declining and the Board agreed to notify COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) of their concern.
3. CWS also presented findings of ongoing research on Northern Common Eiders. There are concerns that recent harvest levels in Greenland are not sustainable and that efforts to reduce Greenland harvest levels need to be continued. The Board agreed to send a letter to the Greenland government indicating their concern and the need to continue cooperative bilateral research on this species.
4. CWS updated the Board on progress towards passing the new Species at Risk Act. It was given Royal Assent on Friday, December 13 and its provisions will take effect in 2003.



5. The Board received an update from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) on progress towards developing new Nunavut Fisheries Regulations. The Nunavut Regulatory Review Committee will continue its work in the new year. The next meeting of the Committee will be in Ottawa, January 7-9, 2003.
6. The Board received an update on the community-based management of narwhals. The Community Based Management Review Committee has met several times and a Working Group of the Committee is in the process of visiting the 5 participating communities to hear their thoughts on community-based management. The community visits will be completed in January and a report is expected to be prepared in time for the next NWMB meeting.
7. The Board approved walrus sport hunt requests in the Baffin region. The relevant communities will be notified of their approvals.
8. DFO provided an update on the Oceans Program and Habitat Program and activities at DFO relating to these programs.



9. The Board received an update on the progress in the Division 0A Turbot fishery. Fishing is still underway for this year and it appears the total harvest will approach the full 4000 metric tones of Turbot.

10. DFO updated the Board on development of the Community Fisheries Management Plan for Pangnirtung. A map has been produced indicating the traditional fishing areas and work towards developing this plan is continuing with the community.
11. The Board reviewed several requests for changes in fishery quotas. The Board will be forwarding its decisions to the Minister and notifying the communities as appropriate.
12. DFO updated the Board on the establishment of a Wolfish Recovery Team developing a plan to address concerns over the declining number of wolfish in Canadian waters.
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13. The Board spent the best part of a day reviewing portions of the draft Nunavut Wildlife Act. The Board reviewed the draft sections relating to Non-quota limitations.
14. The Board received an update from the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) on progress towards decentralization of the Nunavut Wildlife Service to Igloodik.
15. The Board reviewed a request from Repulse Bay for a sport hunting quota for White Island Caribou. The Board's decision will be forwarded to the Minister of Sustainable Development.
16. The Board reviewed a presentation by DSD regarding several changes in Muskox quotas. The Board's decisions will be forwarded to the Minister of Sustainable Development.
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17. 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 the new MOUs, this winter.
18. 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 have been distributed to the communities and co-management partners. The Harvest Study Coordinator will be visiting each community between January and March, 2003 to review the preliminary reports.
19. The Board received an update on the efforts to develop a policy on reviewing and approving requests to live-capture wildlife in Nunavut. The summary of the consultations held at the recent Wildlife Symposia in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet were presented to the Board. Work on this policy continues.
20. The Board reviewed their participation in reviewing development proposals and land and water use permits and scientific / research permits. The Board expressed concern over the amount of time this activity required and also expressed concern that various other agencies' mandates were more directly related to these issues.
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21. NTI informed the Board that successful wildlife symposia were held in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet after weather forced the cancellation of the Nunavut-wide symposium in Cambridge Bay. A Kitikmeot region symposium will be planned for the coming months to address the same issues covered during the Baffin and Kivalliq symposia.
22. The Board received an update on plans by NTI to hold a workshop to discuss hunting techniques in the coming months. Further

information will be provided as plans are developed.

23. The next (35th) meeting of the NWMB will be in Rankin Inlet, the week of March 31st, 2003.



For further information please contact:

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