

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: MEETING No. 44

KUGAARUK, 6-8 DECEMBER 2005

Members and Staff Participating:

Joe Tigullaraq	Chairperson/CEO
Harry Flaherty	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Robert Moshenko	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Paul Pemik	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Abraham Kaunak	Member
Pitseolak Alainga	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Joe Justus	Director of Wildlife Management
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Mary Nashook	Interpreter

Other Participants at Various Times:

Gabriel Nirlungayuk	Director of Wildlife, NTI
Keith Pelly	Area Chief Con/Enforcement, DFO
Andrejka Lokar	Land Claims Liaison Officer, DFO
Stefan Romberg	Fishery Management Biologist, DFO
Holly Cleator	Species at Risk Co-ordinator, DFO
Mitch Taylor	Manager, Wildlife Research, DOE
Dan Shewchuk	Wildlife Manager, Kivalliq, DOE

Tuesday December 6, 2005

1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries

The Chairperson welcomed the Members, staff, and guests to the 44th Meeting of the NWMB in Kugaaruk.

2. Agenda for Regular Meeting No. 44

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-107**) to accept the agenda for Meeting 44 after discussion on various items and plans to do some items in Executive Committee and others in camera.

3. Minutes: Review and Approval

All minutes for Regular Board Meetings and Conference Call were deferred to Meeting No. 45 in Iqaluit.

4. Financial and Administrative Business

4.A Variance Report as at October 31, 2005

The Chief Operating Officer reviewed the October 31, 2005 Variance Report with the Members. The COO explained all the changes made to the budget and the variances for each line item. Members reviewed and accepted (**Resolution 2005-108**) the October 31, 2005 Variance Report as presented.

4.B Interim Activity Report April 01 to October 31, 2005 and Request for Carry Forward of Funds

The Chief Operating Officer advised Members that the Interim Activity Report for April to October 2005 was in the binder for Member's review. It was noted that the Board met on October 26, 2005 Conference Call No.91 and approved the Variance Report and request to Carry Forward Funding. This item is providing the Board an opportunity to review the full submission to DIAND.

5. Chairperson, Senior Staff, Advisors' and Members' Reports

5.A Chairperson's Report

The Chief Executive Officer referred members to his report in the binder. He noted that Members should feel free to ask any questions with regards to these reports.

5.B Chief Operating Officer's Report

Members asked about Item 21 on the COO's Report regarding the request from COSEWIC for direction on how to collect polar bear IQ. After considerable discussion on this item, the Board requested staff to respond as soon as possible to COSEWIC. There were also questions with regards to the status of the Offshore Fishing Review and a recent meeting with Brian Wong.

5.C Wildlife Management Director's Report

No concerns.

5.D Finance and Administration Director's Report

No concerns.

5.E Wildlife Management Biologist's Report

No concerns.

5.F Legal Advisor's Report

The Legal Advisor referred members to his report in the binder.

5.F Members' Reports and Concerns

Nil Report

6. Completion of Assignments and Implementation of Resolutions

The Chief Operating Officer referred members to the task list in the binder. Items not completed or ongoing were reviewed with the members. Members noted that Item 9, review and comment on the proposed Marine Mammal Regulation changes should be completed as soon as possible. Members also noted that Items 19 and 20, letters to the Minister of DFO on various concerns on COSEWIC listings need to be treated as urgent and letters sent.

7. Environment Canada (CWS): Issues and Decisions

Parks Canada

A. Quttinirpaaq National Park: Draft Management Plan: Final Draft

The Director of Wildlife reviewed the briefing note with the Members. It was noted that staff had reviewed the Draft Management Plan and found it acceptable. The plan fulfills the NWMB mandate by managing the Park to protect and maintain ecological integrity. The NWMB's Legal Advisor noted that the Board would have to make two decisions, one to ban sports fishing in the Park and one to approve the habitat management plan. There was some concern noted with regards to HTAs possibly providing sport fishing trips to the park and that this closure would affect their chance to make income in the event of a decision to close the sport fishing. A call was made to Grise Fiord questioning this activity and it was determined that there was not commercial sport fishing and the HTA was more concerned with the

military activity in the area and wanted that controlled. The Board decided **(Resolution 2005-109)** to approve the Draft Management Plan as per the following:

- That the wildlife habitat management portion of the plan be approved;
- That the NWMB approve of the prohibition on sport fishing in the park; and
- That the NWMB requires a statement change on the signatory page.

The Board further decided **(Resolution 2005-110)** to approve the Quttinirpaaq National Park Draft Management Plan prohibition on sport fishing in all marine and fresh water bodies inside the park boundaries.

B. Draft Wild Animal Regulations for Parks Canada

Item was not discussed.

8. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Issues and Decisions

8.A Two Populations of Bowhead and Narwhal Addition to SARA

Holly Cleator reviewed the briefing note with Members; this note was an update of the consultation process since the last briefing note at the NWMB's September meeting. It was noted that DFO will be issuing a Response Statement outlining how the Minister of DFO will respond to COSEWIC's assessments and possible timelines for consultations. It has recently been decided to conduct consultations with selected communities early in the New Year, with a deadline of March 31, 2006 for comments. The Minister will then decide whether to recommend legal listing of these species. Members commented on the inconsistency of deciding whether a species should be divided into one or two populations. It was noted that COSEWIC has guidelines to follow when decided on one or more populations.

8.B Possible Listing of Atlantic Cod Under SARA

DFO staff reviewed the briefing note with Members, this note advised that Atlantic Cod had been withdrawn by DFO as there is concern that there is no definition between land-locked and salt water species nor any IQ in the assessment report.

8.C Cumberland Sound Beluga Recovery Strategy

The Cumberland Sound Beluga Recovery Strategy was originally presented to the NWMB in September 2005 with a request for approval of the Strategy by December 2005. The Pangnirtung HTA requested that a decision be deferred until the results of the August 2005 survey are presented. It was expected that these results would be ready sometime in the winter of 2006. DFO has since withdrawn their request for approval of this Strategy until there is a formal SARA listing.

8.D Possible Listing of Harbour Porpoises Under SARA

Similar to the Atlantic Cod (8.B), Harbour Porpoise were also withdrawn from the listing process until further information is provided. DFO will advise as soon as a new decision to proceed is announced.

8.E Regulatory Amendment for the Landing of Groundfish By-Catch

DFO staff reviewed the briefing note with Members. The proposal is to amend Section 93.3 of the Atlantic Fisheries Regulations to limit its application to only persons holding a commercial groundfish licence. This will allow for conditions on licences for the mandatory release of groundfish by-catch where necessary. All other fishers will be bound by the existing Section 33 of the Fishery (General) Regulations. It is felt that this will provide the necessary protection for species of groundfish listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

8.F Greenland Halibut Fishery Management Plan for NAFO Area 0

DFO staff advised that this was the final year of the 2003-2005 Management Plan for Greenland Halibut (turbot) and that a meeting is planned for Iqaluit, the week of January 23rd, 2006 to hear input for the next five year plan. Letters were sent out asking for review of the current plan and suggestions for items to be discussed at the meeting.

8.G Lomonosov Ridge Test for Appurtenance Project

DFO staff again reviewed the briefing note with Members. As both Canada and Denmark (Greenland) are interested in this area between the two countries for possible mineral/oil development, the parties have agreed to a joint underwater survey of this submarine mountain range. This survey will entail using explosives to survey the area and this may cause disturbance, injury or death to species in the area. Consultations have been conducted with the adjacent communities and the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) will make the final decision on whether this projects proceeds or not. It is suggested that the NWMB provide comments/concerns to the NIRB process.

8.H DFO Recommendations on Gulf of Boothia Narwhal Harvest Levels

The Director of Wildlife reviewed the briefing note with Members. This item arose when the three Gulf of Boothia communities requested that the NWMB raise the combined quota to 75 whales. DFO was requested to provide their recommendations on whether or not this increase would be sustainable. The recommendation from DFO was that 75 whales was sustainable but that the current quota of 45 is a much safer limit and that communities on CBM can always borrow tags from future years. It was noted that the average harvest over the past years is lower than the current combined total. The Board decided to defer this item to the

next Board meeting and asked that NWMB and DFO staff review the new information and prepare a revised briefing note and new recommendation. Board members recommended staff move to establish TAHs and BNLs for narwhal and beluga.

8.I Walrus Sport Hunt Allocations - 2006

The Director of Wildlife reviewed the 2006 walrus sport hunt requests with the Board. The following applications were reviewed:

1. Aiviq HTA (Cape Dorset) with a request for two (2) walrus sport hunts
2. Igloodik HTA with a request for twenty-five (25) walrus sport hunts
3. Mayukalik HTA (Kimmirut) for two (2) walrus sport hunts
4. Hall Beach HTA for fifteen (15) walrus sport hunts

The Board reviewed the hunt plans for each of the communities, there was also an application from Salluit, Nunavik, but this item was deferred to the next Conference Call as Makivik alternate Members were not available to discuss this overlap issue.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-111**) to approve the following walrus sport hunt applications for the 2006 hunting season:

1. Aiviq HTA (Cape Dorset) for a total of two (2) walrus;
2. Igloodik HTA for a total of twenty-five (25) walrus;
3. Mayukalik HTA for a total of two (2) walrus;
4. Hall Beach HTA for a total of fifteen (15) walrus; and

Subject to conditions as outlined in the resolution. Joannie Ikkidluak suggested that the TAH/BNL System should be in place prior to the 2007 hunting season.

8.J Qikiqtarjuaq Walrus Sport Hunt Application

The Board was advised that Qikiqtarjuaq had made a late submission and hence this was a separate application. The Board reviewed the briefing note and application of Qikiqtarjuaq and decided (**Resolution 2005-112**) to approve five (5) walrus sport hunts for the 2006 season.

9. Nunavut Wildlife (DSD) Issues and Decisions

9.A General Status Rankings of Nunavut Flora and Fauna

Mitch Taylor reviewed the briefing note with Members advising that the Government of Nunavut as a commitment of SARA, is required to periodically update its general status assessments of all wildlife. The GN is requesting that the NWMB participate in this process by approving the list when completed. It was agreed that a listing would be provided to the NWMB for review.

9.B Polar Bear Quota Recommendations for WH and BB Populations

Gabe Nirlungayuk called on the NWMB to not make any decisions on these two polar bear populations until the Board has had time to consider all the new science and IQ information on these two populations. It was further noted that the BB communities of Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq do not want to change their quota. In the WHB it is felt that the survey area is too small and that the bears may be moving further north. Discussion continued on several other areas of concern.

Mitch Taylor reviewed his briefing note and community consultations reports with the Board. Meetings were conducted in both zones and communities were updated on the new scientific and IQ information. Members discussed this item at length and noted that this will be a difficult decision. The current recommendations are that:

- That Baffin Bay TAH be returned to the previous harvest level (before the last increase) (from 105 animals to 64); and
- That the Western Hudson Bay TAH be set at a level consistent with the most recent population estimate (from 56 to 16 animals).

No decision was required at this meeting.

9.C TAHs and BNLs

Check with NWMB Legal Advisor on this item.

10. NWMB Internal Items: Issues / Decisions

10.A BQCMB Management Plan 2005-2012

The Director of Wildlife Management reviewed the briefing note with the Members. The BQCMB Management Plan was reviewed by NWMB staff, it was found that the plan discusses “Action Plans” but does not actually provide details of these plans. It is therefore difficult for the Board to comment on these plans without seeing the whole picture. It was however noted that the general conservation goals of the BQCMBP are complementary to the mandate of the NWMB and should be commended. It was further noted that the old surveys of these herds are almost ten years old and require updating; a possible collaring project may be started in the spring of 2006. BQCMB is discussing contracting an economist to estimate the value of caribou meat today and for the future. Members noted that this plan was more like a strategic plan rather than a management plan.

11. NTI Wildlife Division

11.A DOE Polar Bear TAH Recommendations

This item was covered under Item 9B.

11.B Public Hearing on Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations

The Director of Wildlife for NTI reviewed the briefing note provided to the Board. NTI is calling on the NWMB to consider conducting a Public Hearing on the TAH and NQL decisions to be made with regards to the Nunavut Wildlife Regulations. It is further recommended that the NWMB notify all affected parties as soon as possible on the schedule and procedures that will be followed when the Board is making these decisions. The NWMB Legal Advisor suggested that there would have to provide 60 days notice of a Hearing and find the funds for such an undertaking. It was further noted that Inuit were involved in the development of the regulations as each RWO had a member present and meetings were held in the Regions. NTI provided some examples of Regulations that are in question due to various concerns. One example was the fact that muskox and grizzly bear are covered under Article 24 of the Nunavut Act and therefore DOE has no authority for these species. The Board decided **(Resolution 2005-113)** to move to an in camera session. The Board consulted in camera and decided **(Resolution 2005-114)** to not hold a public hearing on the proposed Nunavut Wildlife Regulations. It was further decided that staff be directed to draft a letter to all co-management partners outlining the process the NWMB will follow in conducting these consultations. The Board decided **(Resolution 2005-115)** to move out of in camera session.

12. Applications for Funding

12.A Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat Request for Funding Assistance

Item deferred to next conference call.

12.B Bowhead Whale Harvesting Equipment Upgrade

Item deferred to next conference call.

12.C Harvesting Equipment and Methods Workshop

Item deferred to next conference call.

12.D Bowhead Recovery Planning Workshop

Item deferred to next conference call.

13. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations

- The Board decided **(Resolution 2005-116)** to nominate Chairperson/CEO Joe Tigullaraq as Canadian representative on the Canada Greenland Joint Commission on Management of Beluga and Narwhal replacing previous NWMB Chairperson, Ben Kovic. It was further decided that staff be

requested to review membership on the Commission to see if one NWMB Board Member could also attend these sessions.

- The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-117**) to defer the drafting of the Fisheries Allocation Policy due to a delay in finalization of the Organizational and Performance Review of Nunavut's Offshore Fishing Industry and that all fishers be informed of this delay as the Allocation Policy was to be finalized in time for the 2006 fishing allocation process.
- The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-118**) to transfer (at no cost) the old NWMB translation equipment to the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat (NIWS) to be used for RWO and HTO meeting as required.

14. Meetings, Workshops and Other Pertinent Events

14.A Past Events: Reports and Briefings

The Chairperson noted that there were several meeting reports from staff for review by the Members in this section.

14.B Upcoming Events: Review and Participation

Item was deferred to next regular meeting.

16. Date and Location of Next Meeting


The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-119**) to hold a Special Meeting on the TAHs and NQLs in the draft Wildlife Regulations and Orders during the week of January 16, 2006.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2005-120**) to conduct its next (45th) Regular Meeting in Iqaluit, March 28 – 31, 2006

17. Adjournment

The Chairman thanked members, translators and NWMB staff for their work in preparation for and at the meeting. The 44th Meeting of the NWMB was adjourned.

Minutes Approved by:


Chairperson


Date

RESOLUTIONS: MEETING No. 44

Resolution 2005-107: RESOLVED, that the NWMB approve the agenda as presented with some time changes on several items.

Moved by: Paul Pemik	Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried	Date: 6 December 2005

Resolution 2005-108: RESOLVED, that the NWMB accept the October 31, 2005 Variance Report as presented.

Moved by: Abraham Kaunak	Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried	Date: 6 December 2005

Resolution 2005-109: RESOLVED, that the NWMB approve the Quttinirpaaq National Park Draft Management Plan as per the following:

- That the wildlife habitat management portion of the plan be approved;
- That the NWMB approve of the prohibition on sport fishing in the park; and
- That the NWMB requires a statement change on the signatory page.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick	Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Carried	Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-110: RESOLVED, that the NWMB approve the Quttinirpaaq National Park Draft Management Plan prohibition on sports fishing in all marine and fresh water bodies inside the park boundaries.

Moved by: Robert Moshenko	Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Against (3) Harry Flaherty, Joannie Ikkidluak, Pitseolak Alainga	
Carried	Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-111: RESOLVED, that the NWMB approve the following walrus sport hunts for the 2006 hunting season:

- Aiviq(Cape Dorset) HTA – Two hunts
- Igloolik HTA – Twenty-five hunts
- Hall Beach HTA – Fifteen hunts
- Mayukalik (Kimmirut) HTA – Two Hunts

Further that these hunts be subject to the following conditions:

- That the total walrus harvest in 2005 not exceed the average annual harvest by the community over the last five years.
- That the allocation of the right to sport-hunt each walrus be made by way of an assignment, executed in writing.
- That the numbers of walrus landed and the number struck and lost be reported at the time of the next application for a sport-hunting quota.

- That the hunts be conducted according to the hunt plan submitted.
- That no bows or cross bows be permitted and rifles used must be of 243 calibre or larger.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded: by Paul Pemik
Carried Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-112: RESOLVED, that the NWMB approve the application of Qikiqtarjuaq HTA for five (5) walrus sport hunts for 2006 hunting season subject to the following conditions:

- That the total walrus harvest in 2005 not exceed the average annual harvest by the community over the last five years.
- That the allocation of the right to sport-hunt each walrus be made by way of an assignment, executed in writing.
- That the numbers of walrus landed and the number struck and lost be reported at the time of the next application for a sport-hunting quota.
- That the hunts be conducted according to the hunt plan submitted.
- That no bows or cross bows be permitted and rifles used must be of 243 calibre or larger.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-113: RESOLVED, that the NWMB move to an in camera session.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Carried Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-114: RESOLVED, that the NWMB not pursue a public hearing in respect to the TAHs and NQLs in the draft Nunavut Wildlife Regulations and Orders, but engage in a process to help mediate the current disagreement between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, culminating in a meeting of the co-management partners in January 2006. It was further decided that staff be directed to draft a letter to all co-management partners outlining the process the NWMB will follow in conducting these consultations.

Moved by: Paul Pemik Seconded by: Pitseolak Alainga
Carried Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-115: Resolved, that the NWMB move out of in camera session.

Moved by: Abraham Kaunak Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-116: RESOLVED, that the NWMB nominate Chairperson/CEO Joe Tigullaraq as Canadian representative on the Canada Greenland Joint Commission on Management of Beluga and Narwhal replacing previous NWMB Chairperson, Ben Kovic. It was further decided that staff be requested to review membership on the Commission to see if one NWMB Board Member could also attend these sessions.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Carried

Seconded by: Abraham Kaunak
Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-117: RESOLVED, that the NWMB defer the drafting of the Fisheries Allocation Policy due to a delay in finalization of the Organizational and Performance Review of Nunavut's Offshore Fishing Industry and that all fishers be informed of this delay as the Allocation Policy was to be finalized in time for the 2006 fishing allocation process.

Moved by: Robert Moshenko
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-118: RESOLVED, that the NWMB transfer (at no cost) the old translation equipment to the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat (NIWS) to be used for RWO and HTO meeting as required.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty
Carried

Seconded by: Makabe Nartok
Date: 7 December 2005

Resolution 2005-119: RESOLVED, that the NWMB hold a Special Meeting on the TAHs and NQLs in the draft Wildlife Regulations and Orders during the week of January 16, 2006.

Moved by: Abraham Kaunak
Carried

Seconded by: Paul Pemik
Date: 8 December 2005

Resolution 2005-120: RESOLVED, that the NWMB conduct its next (45th) Regular Meeting in Iqaluit, March 28 – 31, 2006

Moved by: Makabe Nartok
Carried

Seconded by: Joannie Ikkidluak
Date: 8 December 2005