

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

REGULAR MEETING RM 002-2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Iqaluit, June 13-14, 2011

- 1.** This was the Regular Meeting number 002-2011 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) conducted in Iqaluit, June 13-14, 2011.
- 2.** The Board heard a presentation from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS; a division of Environment Canada) concerning a request for decision for approval of the Ivory Gull Recovery Strategy. A decision was deferred until September to allow for additional translation and a more in-depth review of the document.
- 3.** The Board heard a request from Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for support for the annual Northern Shrimp Research Foundation survey. DFO provided the Board with the option to consider providing support for the research for either a one-year or a three-year period. A decision was made during an In-camera session.
- 4.** DFO provided the Board with a presentation as to an update on the status of the CITES narwhal decision and relevant process. DFO provided a summary of the recent community consultations on narwhal.
- 5.** DFO presented information on the scientific results of recent narwhal research and on stock delineation of narwhal in Nunavut. DFO staff and NWMB members discussed perceived information gaps, research methodology, and potential directions for future research, including resurveying the North Hudson Bay stock and investigation into a potential stock in the vicinity of Resolute Bay.
- 6.** A general overview of the structure and objectives of the Nunavut General Monitoring Program (NGMP) was presented to the Board. It was explained that the NWMB is represented on the NGMP Steering Committee by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), and that if the NWMB has concerns or identifies what they feel are critical information gaps that they can be brought to the NPC or an NGMP representative to ensure they are addressed by the Steering Committee.
- 7.** NWMB wildlife section staff informed the Board of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 90-day petition regarding the proposed listing of Dolphin-Union and Peary caribou under the US Species Act. Staff will keep the Board updated as to the status of the listing, and may propose drafting a submission opposing the listing if

the USFWS proceeds with the listing process.

8. The Director of Wildlife Management (DWM) verbally provided the Board with information on the review and recommendations on the NWMB Interim Walrus Sport Hunt Policy. The interim policy has been drafted and is currently being revised; relevant parties will be advised that the call for applications will be sent out in September.
9. The DWM also updated the Board on the status of the Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) development of a caribou Management Plan for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Bluenose-West herds. There was discussion as to increasing the involvement of the Kugluktuk HTO in developing the Management Plan.
10. Wildlife staff provided the Board with information relating to the Narwhal Consultations recently held by DFO in Baffin communities, and advised the Board of comments that were heard consistently during the consultations.
11. The Board was advised of the current status of the Polar Bear Conservation Strategy by the DWM. The Board will be kept updated as the strategy develops.
12. Wildlife section staff provided a review of bowhead total allowable harvest (TAH) and non-quota limitations (NQLs), which are due to be revisited by the Board following the 2011 harvest season. The next steps towards fulfilling this commitment were discussed.

For further information please contact:

Mikidjuk Akavak,

Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Tel: (867) 975-7300

Fax: (867) 975-7320