

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Renewal of Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) Memorandum of Understanding

Background:

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting No. 65 held May 27th 2008, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish an Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM). The MOU is attached in Appendix 1 to this briefing note.

The parties to the MOU include the following: the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Tuktu Nogait National Park Management Board, the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council-NWT, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, and the NWMB.

The ACCWM was essentially created to share information and coordinate wildlife management between inter-jurisdictional wildlife management boards, with a particular focus on the management of trans-boundary caribou herds. The current priority for the ACCWM is to oversee the development and implementation of a management plan for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose East caribou herds.

The calving grounds for the Bluenose-East herd reside within Nunavut and the herd is harvested by Nunavummiut of the Kitikmeot region. As such, conservation and management issues surrounding the herd, and participation in the ACCWM, appear commensurate with the NWMB's status and responsibilities. Pooling resources and sharing information among the organizations within the jurisdictions comprising the herd's geographic range will facilitate prudent management decision making by the NWMB (e.g. Article 40 NLCA considerations) for Bluenose caribou.

Organizational representation on the Committee is at the Chairperson level for most parties. However, unlike the other participating co-management boards, the NWMB is a decision making body and will likely be asked to approve plans or levels of harvest recommended by the Committee for Bluenose caribou within the NSA. To avoid conflict of interest issues, the Director of Wildlife Management represents the NWMB on the ACCWM.

As per clause 5.1 of the MOU, the MOU is valid for a period of 3 years from September 2008 through until September 2011. During the most recent ACCWM meeting on April 27th 2011 all parties identified that they would bring the issue of extending the MOU for an additional five year period to their respective agencies.

Recommendation:

NWMB Wildlife Section staff recommend that the Board approve an extension of 5 years from September 2011, subject to any recommended changes to the MOU from the NWMB. Board members should be aware that all other parties would prefer not to re-engage modifications to the MOU.

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