

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna's (CAFF) Canadian National Network on Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program - Marine Plan (CBMP)

Background: The CBMP has been presented to and endorsed by Arctic Council Ministers in spring 2011. The overall goal of the CBMP-Marine Plan is to improve our collective ability to detect and understand the causes of long-term change in the composition, structure and function of Arctic marine ecosystems, as well as to develop authoritative assessments of key elements of Arctic marine biodiversity (e.g., key indicators, ecologically pivotal and/or other important taxa).

Overview: Each participating country is now expected to establish a National Network to help coordinate marine biodiversity monitoring activities nationally, support domestic involvement at the international level, and ensure that the monitoring program is being implemented consistently for each discipline and across Arctic Marine Areas.

It is anticipated that the Canadian National Network will undertake the following during 2011-2012:

- oversee and contribute to implementing the circumpolar CBMP-Marine Plan;
- determine the scope and timing of delivering Canada's contribution to CBMP-Marine Plan implementation (e.g., which priority marine regions and indicators to focus on first);
- update the inventory of existing and historical datasets, including those with community-based monitoring;
- participate in a domestic workshop to review and refine the (longish) list of parameters and indicators contained in the CBMP-Marine Plan (s.5.4 starting on p.32), as well as determine the sampling scheme;
- develop and finalize a Canadian Arctic marine biodiversity monitoring plan;
- communicate with northern communities about the CBMP-Marine Plan;
- contribute data and metadata to specific databases;
- data analysis, calculating indicators, and producing baselines would likely begin in 2012-2013.

Recommendation: For the Director of Wildlife Management to sit on the national CBMP network. Participation in the network would translate into regular conference calls of approximately 2-3 hours duration, once per month. A Terms of Reference will be discussed at the initial meeting.

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