

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. 004 2011

Iqaluit, December 7, 2011

Members and Staff Participating:

Mikidjuk Akavak	Chairperson & CEO
Manasie Audlakiak	Member
Peter Kusugak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Colin Adjun	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Dave Rogers	Director of Finance and Admin
Adam Schneidmiller	A/Director of Wildlife Management
Sheila Pokiak Lumsden	Wildlife Communications / Admin Technician
Anna Magera	Fisheries Management Biologist
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor

Not Available:

Harry Flaherty	Member
Raymond Ningeocheak	Member
CWS Appointee	Vacant
DFO Appointee	Vacant
Rebecca Jeppesen	Wildlife Management Biologist-Terrestrial

Other Participants at Various Times:

Chris Lewis	DFO, Iqaluit
Amanda Currie	DFO, Iqaluit
Robert Weaver	DFO, Iqaluit
Zoya Martin	DFO, Iqaluit
Rory MacDonald	DFO, Iqaluit
Keith Pelley	DFO, Winnipeg
Maryse Mahy	Parks Canada, Iqaluit
Nancy Anilniliak	Parks Canada, Iqaluit
Andrew Maher	Parks Canada, Iqaluit
Lisa Pirie	Canadian Wildlife Service, Iqaluit
Siu Ling Han	Canadian Wildlife Service, Iqaluit
Paul Irngaut	NTI, Iqaluit
Glen Williams	NTI, Iqaluit

1. Opening Prayer

Manasie Audlakiak provided the opening prayer for all those in attendance.

2. Opening Remarks and Introductions

The Chairperson invited everyone to introduce themselves.

3. Review and approval of agenda

The Board approved the inclusion of an additional agenda item: A QWB request for the use of polar bear credits from the Kimmirut and Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Organizations.

The A/Director of Wildlife Management requested that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) be permitted a five-minute presentation on the status of the Non-Detrimental Finding (NDF) report on narwhal da, immediately following the DFO agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda with the two additional items described above. **(RESOLUTION RM 2011-_____)**.

4. Environment Canada (EC): Issues / Decision

a. Peary Caribou National Recovery Strategy

A Briefing Note was presented by Environment Canada (EC) who sought NWMB participation and the appointment of a member to the Peary Caribou Advisory Group for the development of the national recovery strategy for Peary Caribou.

In February 2011, Peary caribou were listed as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*. The Minister is required to develop a national recovery strategy for species listed as Endangered or Threatened. It was noted that the management plan for any species is conducted by the Government of Nunavut, and that the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is responsible for the recovery strategy.

CWS clarified that the Advisory Group is an administrative committee that would be made up of the NWMB, NTI, PC, EC and that it would be CWS coordinated. CWS will draft a plan based on input from the Advisory Group. The NWMB could assist in the development of a consultation process and how it will work on a national recovery strategy and also to assist in the existing knowledge base on the Peary caribou.

This Advisory Group is slated to formalize a Terms of Reference (TOR) and have its first meeting. Correspondence has been sent to this effect.

The decision was deferred to In-Camera No. 11-2011.

5. Parks Canada (PC): Issues / Decision

a. Proposed National Parks of Canada Wild Animal Regulations

Parks Canada (PC) presented a Briefing Note on proposed Wild Animal Regulations, which would replace the current National Park Regulations with respect on who qualifies to carry firearms within National Parks boundaries.

As with the current Regulations, the proposed Wild Animal Regulations provide Inuit the right to harvest in Parks, and the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement (IIBA), allows guides to carry firearms. Parks staff are the only other party permitted to carry a firearm.

NTI expressed their concern about a lack of duty to consult in a recent letter to the Minister, citing section 2.6.1 of the NLCA. Consultations on the proposed Wild Animal Regulations began in August 2011, and will continue until December 31, 2011. From January 2012 to March 2012, a Recovery Strategy will be drafted, followed by a 90-day period for public comment, prior to final approval.

The current deadline of December 31, 2012 provides roughly 2 weeks for discussions with co-management partners, drafting, and approval from NWMB. Parks Canada will ensure that an extension is put in place so that EC is able to hear from all affected and relevant parties to this proposed change in the Regulations.

The decision was deferred to In-Camera No. 11-2011.

6. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) – Issues / Decisions

a. Coral Harbour Emerging Char Fishery Application

DFO presented a briefing note on behalf of the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers' Organization (HTO) of Coral Harbour, Nunavut who made a license application for an Emerging Char Fishery.

The proposed lakes and exploratory harvest levels are Canyon Lakes (3) at 2,500 kg, and the Cape Donovan Area at 1,000 kg. The exploratory licence would be held by the HTO, and fishing would occur with a minimum gillnet mesh-size of 5.5 inches. A 5 year exploratory protocol would allow DFO science to verify sustainable harvest levels. The HTO has made arrangements to sell the fish to Kivalliq Arctic Foods in Rankin Inlet.

DFO recommended that the fishery proceed, provided that current subsistence harvests are moved and take place elsewhere. DFO also recommended that the fishery be monitored to assess the effect of the exploratory fishery on the stock.

The decision was deferred to In-Camera No. 11-2011.

b. Allocation Model for Baffin Bay Narwhal

DFO presented an information item on the allocation model for the 4 Baffin Bay narwhal summering stocks (i.e. Somerset Island, Admiralty Inlet, Eclipse Sound and East Baffin Bay).

The Board was informed that the model provides a tool to assist managers on the allocation of the total allowable harvest (TAH) of Baffin Bay narwhal stocks given that multiple communities harvest from the same summering stocks during different periods in a year. It was indicated that the model is based on the source and degree of stock mixtures and produces solutions in order to maximize take while also minimizing the risk of over-exploitation of any one summering stock.

DFO indicated that the allocation model would be presented at the co-management workshop in mid-December.

c. Walrus Sport Hunt Reporting for 2011

DFO presented an informational briefing note that detailed the Board approved sport hunt allocations for 2011 (i.e. Hall Beach-15; Igloolik-25; Keatainak-8; Emiktowt-6; Eetuk-6; Amarualik-3), the licenses provided and the total walrus that were harvested.

The Board was informed that during the 2011 walrus sport hunt season, seven walrus sport hunt licences were issued in the community of Coral Harbour; one to E & E Outfitters (Luke Eetuk) and six to Siku Tours (Aaron Emiktowt). A total of six (6) walrus were harvested, and one (1) hunt did not occur due to bad weather. In Hall Beach, two (2) licences were issued, and two (2) walrus were harvested. In Igloolik, six (6) licences were issued, six (6) walrus were harvested. No licences were issued for sport hunts in Resolute Bay or Salluit, Quebec.

DFO also indicated that for the reporting cards issued for 2011, they received a 100% return rate that detailed strikes, lost and landed walrus, and a 91% return rate on the provision of biological information.

d. Narwhal Non-Detrimental Funding (NDF) issue

This was a verbal informational item presented by DFO pertaining to an update on the 2012 non-detriment finding (NDF) report on narwhal. DFO informed the Board that it would be informing all co-management partners and exporters soon regarding the decision by phone and that a formal letter will be provided in early 2012.

7. NWMB Items: Issues / Decisions

a. Turbot and Shrimp Presentation

The Fisheries Management Biologist (FMB) gave a Power Point presentation reviewing research between 2007 and 2011 for shrimp and turbot in the waters off of Nunavut. The presentation gave a summary of the publications on shrimp and turbot, background information, the role and history of these species in Nunavut's commercial fisheries, and current management concerns.

8. Nunavut Tunngavik In. (NTI): Issues / Decisions

a. Bowhead Whale Total Allowable Harvest Review

NTI presented a briefing note and recommended that the NWMB set a TAH on Bowhead Whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) for the 2012 and 2013 seasons at 3 Bowheads per year, prior to the 2012 bowhead hunting season. NTI also requested that the NWMB review the three recommendations that were included in the March 2009 NWMB decision, which includes that:

- i) DFO and NTI engage in appropriate discussions with neighbouring jurisdictions (Nunavik and Greenland) concerning both the sharing and responsible stewardship of Eastern Canada – West Greenland bowhead whale population,
- ii) DFO continue its efforts to a) re-examine in light of new information, the historic, pre-commercial whaling population numbers, b) seek a reconciliation of its current population estimates with those of the International Whaling Commission, and
- iii) NTI to continue to ensure that necessary equipment and training needs keep pace with the number of hunts undertaken in the NSA.

NTI indicated that they will be seeking a bowhead TAH increase in the future as bowhead have been up-listed from threatened to special concern under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). NTI will also look to improve kill methods as they feel that the traditional equipment is more effective than using exploding grenades.

It was noted that the 2009 TAH decision of the NWMB identified a self-imposed obligation to review the TAH following the 2011 harvesting season, although the current TAH will remain in place until modified by the Board. The NWMB's next step will be to consult DFO and the RWOs for their position on the issue, and follow up with a formal review process after which the TAH can be considered.

b. Section 5.6.25 of the NLCA, Basic Needs Level (BNL) for Beluga, Narwhal and Walrus

NTI presented a briefing note requesting the NWMB to establish basic needs level for beluga, narwhal and walrus as per section 5.6.25 of the NLCA. NTI recommended that Inuit need the total allowable harvest established by the NWMB of all beluga, narwhal and walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

It was noted that this was not a joint proposal from DFO and NTI. NTI indicated that it did not wish to provide a formal Request for Decision and be the proponent for the public hearing.

The decision was deferred to In-Camera No. 11-2011.

9. Other Presentations

a. Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) Request for Quota Increase for Narwhal

The briefing note was presented by the A/Director of Wildlife Management of the NWMB on behalf of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB). The KRWB requested an increase in quota for narwhal from 75 to 250 (as per a KRWB AGM resolution #KRWB-AGM-2011-001). The request was substantiated by DFO's scientific information on the Somerset summering stocks that indicates a large and healthy population.

It was noted that the narwhal workshop was to take place within the week, followed by DFO consultations in March 2012. The target date for a narwhal management plan, which will include TAH, is January 2013.

It was decided that the NWMB would draft a letter to the KRWB in response to their request indicating that co-management partners are currently engaged in the development of a management plan that will include the establishment of TAHs.

b. Request for use of polar bear credits

The A/Director of Wildlife Management verbally presented the requests from the Resolute Bay HTO and Kimmirut HTO.

Resolute Bay requested the use of 10 credits from the Lancaster Sound subpopulation for the 2011/2012 season. The Board was informed that the government of Nunavut-Department of Environment (GN-DoE) supports the request.

The Kimmirut HTO is requesting the use of 6 credits from the Davis Strait subpopulation; a request which is not supported by GN until a final decision is made on the TAH for the subpopulation.

The decision was deferred to In-Camera No.11-2011.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting – March 12-16, 2012 in Iqaluit

The Board decided to hold the next regular meeting from March 10th to March 15th, in Iqaluit, Nunavut. (**RESOLUTION RM 2011-_____**).

11. Adjournment

Manasie provided the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned (**RESOLUTION RM 2011-__**).

Regular Meeting No. 004-2011 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the agenda for RM004-2011 as presented, with the addition of 1) the QWB request for the use of polar bear credits from Kimmirut and Resolute Bay HTOs; and 2) a brief presentation by DFO on the status of the non-detrimental finding report on narwhal

Moved by: Manasie Audlakiak
Carried

Seconded by: Colin Adjun
Date: December 7, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the NWMB conduct the next regular meeting from March 10th, 2012 to March 15th, 2012 in Iqaluit, Nunavut

Moved by: Manasie Audlakiak
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.
Date: December 7, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the NWMB to close the Regular Meeting 004-2011.

Moved by: Peter Kusugak
Carried

Seconded by: Colin Adjun
Date: December 7, 2011