

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. RM 002-2013

Rankin Inlet, June 11, 2013

Members and Staff Participating:

Manasie Audlakiak	Acting Chairperson
Raymond Ningeocheak	Member
Peter Kusugak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Winston Fillatre	Member
Simeonie Keenainak	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Eric Kan	Director of Administration
Sarah Spencer	Terrestrial Management Biologist
Peter Kydd	Habitat Management Biologist
Anna Magera	Fisheries Management Biologist
Michael d'Eca	NWMB Legal Advisor
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Letia Janes	Interpreter

Participants at Various Times:

James Eetoolook	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Glenn Williams	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Jim Leafloor	Environment Canada
Chris Lewis	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jeff MacDonald	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ross Tallman	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Zoya Martin	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Lynda Orman	Government of Nunavut
Sarah Arnold	Government of Nunavut
Joni Mike	Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization
Levi Evik	Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization
James Qilaq	Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Joshua Kango	Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Kevin Hedges (via telephone)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Nigel Hussy	University of Windsor, Ontario

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Regular Meeting No. 002-2013

1. Call to order / Opening Prayer
2. Agenda: Review and Approval

The agenda was accepted as presented. **Resolution #RM 002-2013-01**

3. Environment Canada: Issues/Decisions

Jim Leafloor of Environment Canada presented a briefing note for decision to the Board regarding the overabundance of Ross's Geese in North America.

An overabundance designation would allow spring conservation harvests of Ross's Geese to occur in areas of Canada where overabundant snow geese may be legally harvested in spring. Spring harvest of Ross's Geese has been legal in the United States since 1999. The Canadian Wildlife Service requested comment or support from the Board for this recommendation.

4. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO): Issues/Decisions

- a) Department Update

Chris Lewis and Jeff MacDonald of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note to the Board regarding recent updates to the department.

- b) Emerging Fishery Update

Ross Tallman and Zoya Martin of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented to the Board information regarding arctic char monitoring and research programs. Fisheries and Oceans Canada aims to develop new methods for the assessment and monitoring of arctic char resources in Nunavut.

There was discussion by the Board regarding the methods used to sample arctic char, shrimp and turbot.

- c) Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery Application

Chris Lewis of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note for decision to the Board regarding Mr. Charlie Inuarak's application for an exploratory license to fish Arctic char from locations in the Pond Inlet area.

Based on a review of the best available information and past science advice, Fisheries and Oceans Canada recommended a modified version of the proposed fishing plan to

ensure that the fishery would be sustainably harvested and that the fishing pressure would not have a negative impact on Arctic char stocks and subsistence fisheries in the Pond Inlet area.

Due to the lack of science information for many of the fishing locations, and the number of fishing locations proposed, Fisheries and Oceans Canada suggested a two-phase approach for the exploratory license. The fishing plan for Phase 1 was presented; it would allow for exploratory fishing to start in the summer of 2013 at up to 13 of the 17 proposed locations. A letter from Mr. Inuarak also indicated that he would like to fish one additional location (i.e. 14 locations total).

There was discussion by the Board and meeting participants about harvesting as outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement versus Fisheries and Oceans Canada's expectations for licensing. Fish sampling was also discussed, in particular, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's requirement of following a five-year exploratory protocol of collecting biological and catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) information that would allow sustainable harvest levels to be evaluated.

5. Past Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Decisions on Cumberland Sound Fisheries Management Lines

The Fisheries Management Biologist presented to the Board an overview of decisions made by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board regarding the establishment of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area.

6. Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area Line Change

Joni Mike and Levi Evic of the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization made a presentation to the Board requesting that the inshore fishing boundary for the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area be extended to include all of Cumberland Sound up to the Nunavut Settlement Area boundary at the mouth of Cumberland Sound. The request was made because Pangnirtung fishermen want to develop a summer fishery, and it is believed that turbot in Cumberland Sound move in and out of the current Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary.

7. Science Presentation on Turbot Movement Data

Nigel Hussy from Windsor University and the Ocean Tracking Network delivered a presentation on acoustic tagging data that showed the movement of Greenland halibut (turbot) in Cumberland Sound. Only one year of data from the project was available, but it indicated a seasonal movement of turbot in and out of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area.

There was discussion by the Board about how or if the listening devices used by the Ocean Tracking Network to track the movement of ocean wildlife might disturb the wildlife.

8. Turbot Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit – Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory

Sarah Arnold of the Government of Nunavut presented a briefing note to the Board regarding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Traditional Knowledge) gathered by the Government of Nunavut's Fisheries and Sealing Division for the Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory.

Individuals interviewed through the Pangnirtung Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory identified turbot locations in Cumberland Sound. Areas of occurrence were noted both inside and outside the current Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area. The presentation also included information on Government of Nunavut research on turbot locations in Cumberland Sound.

9. Foxe Basin Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest Increase

Joshua Kango, Vice-Chairman of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, presented a briefing note to the Board requesting an increase in the Total Allowable Harvest of polar bears in the Foxe Basin population.

The polar bear tags allocated to Igloodik and Hall Beach were applied against nuisance bears. Due to recent science which indicated the Foxe Basin polar bear population is at approximately 2,500 bears, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, on behalf of the communities of Hall Beach and Igloodik, requested an increase in the Total Allowable Harvest.

The Board asked that a formal request be made to the Board stating the exact number of bear tags requested.

10. M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Update

At the request of the Board, the Terrestrial Management Biologist presented an information item regarding the M'Clintock Channel polar bear subpopulation.

In 2004, in response to science that indicated the population was in steep decline, The Total Allowable Harvest of polar bears of the M'Clintock Channel subpopulation was set at three bears a year for the communities of Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven.

The Government of Nunavut planned a survey of the M'Clintock Channel and Gulf of Boothia polar bear subpopulations in 2014. In the past, there has been concern from the communities that the polar bears not be handled or drugged.

The Board discussed the need for data on both the M'Clintock Channel and Gulf Of Boothia polar bear subpopulations while recognizing that the affected communities were reluctant to agree to population research which would require drugging and handling polar bears.

11. Clyde River Polar Bear Overharvest Tag Request

James Qillaq, Chairman of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and Joshua Kango, Vice-Chairman of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, presented a briefing note for Board decision on a request from the Pangnirtung Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Organization for one additional polar bear tag.

Members of the Pangnirtung Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Organization accidentally overharvested their polar bear quota by one bear. As there remained 19 male polar bear credits for Nangmoutaq; the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board supported the request for an additional allocation of one polar bear tag.

12. Request to Fish Quota outside of Nunavut Settlement Area

Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson of the Arctic Fishery Alliance, along with the Fisheries Management Biologist, presented a briefing note on behalf of the Nattivak (Qikiqtarjuaq) Hunters and Trappers Organization for Board decision requesting modification of the conditions for harvesting the 100 tonne Qikiqtaaluk regional exploratory allocation. The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division 0A allocation was only permitted to be fished inside the Nunavut Settlement Area and was not transferable outside the Nunavut Settlement Area. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board sub-allocated to Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization for 2013. Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization would like permission to use the 100 tonnes to conduct an exploratory fishery in conjunction with Arctic Fishery Alliance in the area adjacent to Broughton Island (Qikiqtarjuaq), but outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area, in the summer/fall of 2013.

13. Turbot Test Fishery in Jones Sound

The Fisheries Management Biologist presented a fishing plan for a test fishery in Jones Sound from the Iviq (Grise Fiord) Hunters and Trappers Organization.

Iviq Hunters and Trappers Organization wished to conduct an exploratory vessel-based long line fishery in conjunction with Arctic Fishery Alliance in the summer of 2013 to determine the extent of the turbot resource in Jones Sound adjacent to the community of Grise Fiord.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada was in support of the test fishery, but requested the approval of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

14. Fish of Nunavut Book

Zoya Martin of Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a brief information item to the Board regarding the progress on the Fish of Nunavut book. The Fish of Nunavut book should be in print by the spring of 2014.

15. Baffin Island Caribou Update

Lynda Orman of the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment presented to the Board the results of the 2012 South Baffin Island Caribou Abundance Survey and proposed management recommendations.

From March 27 to May 27, 2012 the Department of Environment led a quantitative caribou abundance aerial survey of South Baffin Island. An abundance estimate was derived for South Baffin Island of between 1,065-2,067 caribou one year or older during late winter 2012. The results confirm Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit gathered from harvesters who had been reporting low population numbers.

The Department of Environment planned to engage and consult with communities, share knowledge about Baffin Island Caribou, and develop interim, short-term caribou conservation measures while developing a longer-term Caribou Management Plan with the communities.

16. Kivalliq Muskox Boundary Change

Lynda Orman of the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment presented a briefing note to the Board for decision regarding a request to change the boundary of a muskox management zone in Northern Kivalliq and Eastern Kitikmeot regions, and to change the total allowable harvest.

Following a joint meeting of the three Regional Wildlife Offices, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., co-management partners proposed to change the boundary and the total allowable harvest for muskoxen in the Northern Kivalliq and Eastern Kitikmeot regions. The new management zone would be called MX/10. Contrary to original assessments, best knowledge indicates that the muskoxen are part of one large population. The amended total allowable harvest would be set as the sum of the previously recommended total allowable harvests in each of the two areas being merged, totalling 42 muskoxen.

17. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Glenn Williams of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. presented to the Board information regarding Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.'s progress on drafting fishing regulations for the Nunavut territory.

Williams explained that new fishing regulations are necessary for a number of reasons, such as allowing communities to conduct test fisheries, or to control the sales of fish.

The right of Inuit to sell fish from the Basic Needs Level fishery has been a major stumbling block in the development of fishing regulations. Fisheries and Oceans Canada have said that they will not consider commercial sale of fish harvested from the Basic Needs Level fishery, while Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. wants to include the right to sell from the Basic Needs Level fishery.

18. Community-Based Monitoring Network Workshop Summary

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's Terrestrial Management Biologist presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the Community-Based Monitoring Network Co-Management Partner Workshop held in Iqaluit in March, 2013.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide co-management partners with a summary of the pilot study, to have focused discussions on data collection and data usage, to find common ground in community-based monitoring, and to discuss ways to optimize opportunities for co-management partners to share resources.

19. Bathurst Caribou Gathering Summary

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's Terrestrial Management Biologist presented a briefing note to the Board about the Bathurst Caribou Gathering held in Behchoko, Northwest Territories in January, 2013.

The meeting brought together harvesters from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to gather information which will be used to write a management plan for the Cape Bathurst caribou herd.

20. Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Progress Update

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's Terrestrial Management Biologist presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the January 2013 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management, held in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

The purpose of the meeting was to work on management plans for the Bluenose and Cape Bathurst caribou herds.

21. Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board Progress Update

The Habitat Management Biologist presented a briefing note to the Board regarding the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board's May 2013 meeting held in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories.

One main objective of the May meeting was to discuss the draft 2013 Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan. The management plan will be substantially modified from previous versions and will include, but will not be limited to: principles, goals and objectives; herd condition and vulnerability assessments; and communication and education strategies.

22. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The Board moved to hold the next Regular Meeting during the second week of September, in Iqaluit. **Resolution #RM 002-2013-02**

23. Adjournment

The Board moved to adjourn Regular Meeting 002-2013. **Resolution #RM 002-2013-03**

Regular Meeting No. 001-2013 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution RM 002-2013-01: RESOLVED that the Board adopt the agenda for Regular Meeting 002-2013.

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Winston Fillatre
Date: June 11, 2013

Resolution RM 002-2013-02: RESOLVED that the Board hold its next quarterly meeting in Iqaluit in September, 2013.

Moved by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.
Carried

Seconded by: Simeonie Keenainak
Date: June 11, 2013

Resolution RM 001-2013-03: RESOLVED that the Board adjourn Regular Meeting 002-2013.

Moved by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.
Carried

Seconded by: Simeonie Keenainak
Date: June 11, 2013