

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. RM 003-2013

Iqaluit, September 9, 2013

Members and Staff Participating:

Peter Kusugak	Acting Chairperson
Raymond Ningeocheak	Member
Simeonie Keenainak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Jason Akearok	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Eric Kan	Director of Administration
Anna Magera	Acting Director of Wildlife
Michael d'Eça	Legal Advisor
Peter Kydd	Habitat Management Biologist
Sarah Spencer	Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist
Karla Letto	Wildlife Biologist
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Leetia Janes	Interpreter
Aaron Ejetsiak	Casual

Participants at Various Times:

Chris Lewis	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jeff MacDonald	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Elizabeth Patreau	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Zoya Martin	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Lisa Pirie	Environment Canada
Drikus Gissing	Government of Nunavut
Mitch Campbell	Government of Nunavut
Gabriel Nirlungayuk	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
David Lee	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer
2. Opening Remarks and Introductions
3. Swearing-in Ceremony

The swearing-in of new Board Member Jason Akearok.

4. Agenda: Review and Approval

Resolution

The Board moved to approve the agenda as presented and open meeting RM 003-2013.
Resolution # RM 003-2013-01

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No declaration of conflict of interest was presented

6. Environment Canada (EC): Issues/Decisions

Discussion

Lisa Pirie discusses in detail the following 3 subjects:

1. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) Assessment and Status Report for Buff-Breasted Sandpiper;

-The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was assessed by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in May 2012. The Committee recommended that this species be listed as Special Concern because the species which was once common and possibly even abundant suffered big declines due to intense market hunting.

-The Canadian Arctic supports about 87% of the North American breeding range of this shorebird, and about 75% of its global population. The species was once common and perhaps even abundant historically, but it suffered severe declines stemming from intensive market hunting in the late 1800s and early 1900s. By the 1920s, it was thought to be at the brink of extinction.

2. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) Assessment and Status Report for Grizzly Bear-Western Population;

-The grizzly bear was assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in May 2012. The Committee recommended that this species be listed as Special Concern because the distribution of the species has declined by over 50% since the 1800s.

3. Proposed Management Plan for Rusty Blackbird Pursuant to Species at Risk;

-Approval of the proposed Management Plan for the Rusty Blackbird in Canada, pursuant to the Species at Risk Act (SARA)

-Rusty Blackbird was assessed in 2006 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a species of special concern and was listed as such in Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in 2009.

Considerations

1. The NWMB is asked to consider whether or not they wish to make a formal decision on supporting COSEWIC's proposed listing of Buff-breasted Sandpiper as a species of Special Concern on the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).
2. The NWMB is asked to consider whether or not they wish to make a formal decision on supporting COSEWIC's proposed listing of grizzly bear as a species of Special Concern on the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).
3. The NWMB is asked to consider whether or not they wish to make a formal decision on supporting the national SARA Management Plan for Rusty Blackbird, and if so, whether or not they approve of the Management Plan.

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

Discussion

1. Fisheries and Oceans Operational Update from Eastern Arctic Area Office.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a briefing note providing operational updates; staffing, marine mammals, turbot and shrimp, arctic char, general licensing, sciences, conservation and protection and fisheries protection program.

2. Total Allowable Catch Greenland halibut in Division 0A + 1AB and 0B + 1C-F 2014

Fisheries and Oceans Canada brought forward the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization's (NAFO) recommendations for 2014 for Division 0A + 1AB and Division 0B + 1C-F respectively. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is seeking the advice of the NWMB on the recommended Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) total allowable catch (TAC) for the respective divisions.

7. Department of Environment-Government of Nunavut (DOE-GN): Issues/Decisions

Discussion

South Hampton Caribou Total Allowable Harvest (TAH)

-Southampton Island caribou have declined approx. 80% between 1997 & 2013 largely due to an observed reduction in pregnancy rates from 80% in 2000, to 40% in 2011. In addition, the inter-territorial sale of caribou meat sped up the decline in recent years.

-Request a decision to lower the current Southampton Island caribou total allowable harvest (TAH) of 1,000 caribou to 800 caribou for the 2013/14 harvesting season.

Consideration

Approve decision to lower current Southampton Island caribou total allowable harvest (TAH) of 1, 000 caribou to 800 caribou for the 2013/14 harvesting season.

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

No official presentation

9. Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) Presentations: Baffin Island Caribou

Discussion

Baffin Island Caribou

- In fall 2011, the Government of Nunavut- Department of Environment conducted consultations in communities which harvest from the Baffin Island caribou population to discuss a proposed aerial survey and to get feedback on the status of the herd.

- Results from this survey showed a substantial decline in the caribou population and an estimate of approximately 2100 caribou was derived.

- Due to the serious concerns among communities and co-management partners, it was decided to hold a two-day workshop to bring together delegates from Hunters and Trappers Organizations and elders from affected communities to discuss potential management actions.

- Next steps were identified during the workshop. They are as follows:

1. The Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment will produce a summary report of the workshop by September 2013;

2. Participating delegates committed to return to their communities and discuss what they learned at the workshop;

3. A management plan framework has been developed and communities will use this to start the management planning process during the fall and winter; and

4. The Government of Nunavut –Department of Environment plans to start consultations in late fall 2013 to help communities in the management planning process.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting: December 2013

December 2013 in Iqaluit

11. Adjournment of Meeting RM 003-2013

Resolution

The Board moved to adjourn meeting RM 003-2013. **Resolution # RM 003-2013-02**

**Regular Meeting No. 003-2013
Resolutions**

Resolution # RM 003-2013-01: MOVED that the Board approve the agenda as presented and open meeting RM 003-2013.

Moved by: Simeonie Keenainak

Carried

Seconded by: Jason Akearok

Date: September 9, 2013

Resolution # RM 003-2013-02: MOVED that the Board approve the adjournment of meeting RM 003-2013.

Moved by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.

Carried

Seconded by: Jason Akearok

Date: September 9, 2013