

**Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**  
**Regular Meeting RM 001-2015 Highlights**  
**Iqaluit, Nunavut**

1. Regular Meeting RM 001-2015 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was conducted in Iqaluit, Nunavut on March 9, 2015.
  
2. Environment Canada (EC) presented the following items to the Board:
  - **Proposed listing of Wolverine as a Species of Special Concern**
    - EC staff provided the Board with an overview of EC's proposal to list wolverine as a Species of Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act (SARA); EC was seeking a decision from the Board as to whether or not they support the proposed listing. The Board considered this request during an in-camera session the following day.
  
  - **Recovery strategy for Peary caribou: update**
    - EC staff provided the Board with an update on the progress of the recovery strategy for Peary caribou; it was indicated that EC expected to bring a request for approval of the draft strategy to the Board after community consultations had been completed in fall 2015.
  
  - **Management plan for Dolphin and Union caribou: update**
    - EC staff provided the Board with an update on the progress of the proposed management plan for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd; the Board was informed that a Nunavut planning meeting would be held on March 25-27 this year, and that the management plan was due to be completed by March 2017.
  
  - **Recovery strategy and action plan for Porsild's Bryum: update**
    - EC staff informed the Board that the recovery strategy for Porsild's Bryum had recently been uploaded to the SARA registry, and that the associated action plan was now being developed.
  
3. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) presented the following items to the Board:
  - **Draft policy on the development of new commercial fisheries**
    - DFO staff provided the Board with an overview of their draft policy on the development of new commercial fisheries. The Board was asked to provide its feedback on the draft policy before the end of the month if possible.
  
  - **Summary of the 2015 hydrographic survey plan for the Arctic**
    - DFO staff informed the Board that they planned to conduct four hydrographic surveys in Arctic waters in 2015:
      - Coronation Gulf, Queen Maud Gulf, and Simpson Strait (August 5-28)
      - Victoria Strait (August 28 – September 15)
      - Southwestern Foxe Basin (August 10 – September 14 approx.)
      - ArcticNet opportunistic survey (July 8 – October 12)

- **Operational update**
  - **Staffing:** It was reported that two new members of staff had joined DFO since the last regular meeting of the Board.
  - **Marine mammals:**
    - **Narwhal:** post-season reviews of the implementation of year 2 of the Narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan were carried out in October and November 2014.
    - **Walrus:** a total of 13 licences were issued to sport hunters in 2014.
  - **Arctic char:**
    - The winter fishery in Cumberland Sound commenced in January 2015.
    - A post-season meeting was held in January 2015 to discuss the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Cambridge Bay Arctic Char fishery.
    - Active exploratory Arctic Char fisheries were expected in Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Igloodik and Coral Harbour in winter 2015.
  - **Greenland halibut:**
    - The licence for the Cumberland Sound ice fishery was issued on January 8, 2015.
    - A pre-season meeting was held in Pangnirtung on January 14, 2015, to discuss management of the Cumberland Sound fishery.
    - 7939t of Greenland Halibut were harvested by Nunavut allocation holders in division 0A in 2014.
    - 3250t of Greenland Halibut were harvested by Nunavut allocation holders in division 0B in 2014.
  - **Northern Shrimp:**
    - Approximately 2t of *Pandalus borealis* were harvested by Nunavut sub-allocation holders in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) Davis Strait east of 63°W.
    - Approximately 216t of *P. montagui* were harvested by Nunavut sub-allocation holders in SFA Nunavut east of 66°W; around 163t of *P. borealis* were harvested as by-catch.
    - Approximately 2929t of *P. montagui*, and 391t of *P. borealis* were harvested by Nunavut sub-allocation holders in SFA Nunavut west of 66°W.
- **Interim narwhal flex-quota system: 2015-2016 hunting season**
  - DFO staff provided the Board with an update on the continued implementation of the narwhal flex-quota system; the Board was informed that DFO expects to bring a request for decision on this issue to the Board's regular meeting in June 2015.
- **Baffin Bay narwhal abundance estimates survey update**
  - DFO staff provided the Board with an overview of the results from the 2013 High Arctic Cetacean Survey, and the subsequently updated sustainable harvest

recommendations for each of the four Baffin Bay narwhal stocks, along with recommendations for sustainable harvest levels for narwhals summering in Jones Sound and Smith Sound. The Board was asked to review the 2013 abundance estimates and associated total allowable landed catch recommendations.

- **Bowhead whale abundance (Eastern Canada-West Greenland (EC-WG) population)**

- DFO staff provided the Board with an overview of the results from the 2013 High Arctic Cetacean Survey, and the subsequently updated estimate of EC-WG bowhead population abundance. The Board was informed that DFO had calculated that the EC-WG bowhead population could sustain a maximum human-induced mortality of 52 bowhead per year. The Board was asked to review the 2013 abundance estimate and associated total allowable landed catch recommendations.

4. The Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment (GN-DoE) presented the following item to the Board:

- **Draft Baffin Island caribou management plan**

- GN-DoE staff provided the Board with an overview of the background to the interim moratorium on all caribou harvesting on Baffin Island, which came into effect on January 1, 2015. The Board was informed that the first draft of the management plan for this subpopulation of caribou was complete, and a second draft would be prepared after consultations with Baffin Hunters and Trappers Organizations in March 2015. The Board was asked to review the draft plan and provide feedback as soon as possible.

5. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board submitted the following item to the Board:

- **Hall Beach request to transfer polar bear credits: Gulf of Boothia**

- NWMB staff presented the Board with a letter from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), informing them of QWB's support of Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization's request to use 1 male credit from the Gulf of Boothia subpopulation in the current polar bear harvesting season. The Board considered this request during an in-camera session the following day.

6. The next Regular Meeting of the NWMB will be held in Iqaluit during the week of June 8-12, 2015. Please refer to the NWMB's website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)) for updates.

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