

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Regular Meeting RM 002-2015 Highlights
Iqaluit, Nunavut

1. Regular Meeting RM 002-2015 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was conducted in Iqaluit, Nunavut on June 9, 2015.
2. The Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment presented the following items to the Board:
 - **Bathurst and Bluenose East Caribou Herds**
 - Recommendations to address the decline of the Bathurst and the Bluenose East Caribou herds.
 - **Nunavut Polar Bear Co-management Plan**
 - Requested the approval of the “Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan”.
3. Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented the following items to the Board:

Operational updates

○ **Marine mammals:**

Narwhal:

- The majority of the 2014/15 narwhal tags have been returned to the Iqaluit office and the 2014/15 harvest statistics have been summarized.
- The 2015/16 narwhal tags and information packages were currently being prepared and distributed in coordination with the Regional Wildlife Organizations.

Walrus:

- A total of 13 licences were issued to sport hunters in 2014.

○ **Arctic char:**

Pangnirtung Arctic Char Fishery:

- The 2015 Arctic Char Winter Fishery in Cumberland Sound commenced in January. A few fishers were still active at the time this briefing note was prepared.

Exploratory Arctic Char Fisheries:

- Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, and Pangnirtung had active exploratory Arctic Char Fisheries in winter 2015.

○ **Greenland Halibut:**

Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area:

- The licence for the Cumberland Sound ice fishery was issued to the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization on January 8, 2015 and fishing started on January 15th.
- There are currently 117 fishers on the licence.
- As of May 5, 2015 a total of 291.3 tonnes or 640,860 lbs had been landed by 79 fishers.
- In late March 2015, a Fisheries Management Technician from the Iqaluit Office visited Pangnirtung to continue administration of an annual Turbot Ice Fisher Questionnaire. The questionnaire was considered a success due in large part to fisher cooperation and assistance from the Pangnirtung Fish Plant.

4. Environment Canada (EC) presented the following items to the Board:

- **Proposed Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)**
 - EC staff presented an item on the recovery strategy and management plan for Red Knot in Canada

5. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) submitted the following item to the Board:

- **Final Decisions on Kingnait Fjord Arctic Char Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and Basic Needs Level (BNL)**

NTI staff presented the Board with a letter requesting a final decision on the Kingnait Fjord Arctic Char TAH and BNL

6. **Walrus Biopsy Sampling - South East**

NWMB staff presented a proposal submitted by NTI for a Walrus Biopsy Sampling project in Southeast Baffin Island.

7. The next Regular Meeting of the NWMB will be held in Iqaluit during the week of September 23 – 26, 2015. Please refer to the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) for updates.

For further information please contact

***Jason Akearok
Executive Director
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Tel: (867) 975-7300
Fax: (888) 421-9832***