

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
November 2017

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Fisheries and Oceans Canada Update – *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Areas

Updates:

In June 2016, Canada announced a five-point plan to reach its national and international marine conservation targets (MCTs), which includes the establishment of additional Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The purpose of establishing MPAs is to afford protection to important fish and marine mammal habitats, endangered marine species and their habitats, unique features, and/or areas of high biological productivity or biodiversity. The first step in this process is to identify Areas of Interest (AOIs).

1) Additional Consultations on AOIs:

- As was previously briefed to the board, the AOI Working Group carried out consultations with the Hunters and Trappers Associations and community members in the vicinity of the nine potential AOIs (three in each Nunavut region). The objective of these sessions was to gauge the level of support for the potential development of an MPA near communities. As previous attempts to meet with the Rankin Inlet HTO were unsuccessful due to scheduling conflicts, a targeted consultation with the Rankin Inlet HTO and members of the AOI WG occurred in October 2017.
- A draft report summarizing these consultations was previously provided to the NWMB and will be updated shortly to include the recent Rankin Inlet consultation.
- Oceans staff provided overviews and updates at both the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Boards' Annual General Meetings (AGM), and will be providing one at the Qikiqtani Regional Wildlife Board in November 2017. Additional consultations will be carried out through the different stages of the MPA development process in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

2) Nunavut MCT Steering Committee

- As previously briefed to the board, a Marine Conservation Steering Committee has been established to facilitate information sharing and coordination among marine conservation initiatives underway in Nunavut. The Nunavut MCT Steering Committee is different from the AOI WG as it focuses on coordination and

collaboration across marine conservation initiatives in Nunavut, not just those led by DFO.

- Membership includes Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Marine Council, Government of Nunavut and federal departments.
- It has held two conference calls and one face-to-face meeting (Sept 6-7, 2017). These early meetings have been focused on information sharing and establishing the Terms of Reference for this committee.
- The Sept meeting was attended by a senior Nunavut Wildlife Management Board staff member. A presentation was given on the Nunavut Marine Council.

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