

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Feb 2017

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Updates

Updates:

Oceans Act Marine Protected Areas:

In June 2016, Canada announced a five-point plan to reach its national and international marine conservation targets, 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 potential Areas of Interest (AOIs).

1) AOI Working Group:

- Was established in August 2016 to work towards determining potential areas in Nunavut for designation as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under the *Oceans Act*.
- Members include Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and representatives from each of the Regional Inuit Associations.
- An MOU on how the parties will work together is in the final stages of being drafted.
- Members of the AOI WG have recommended that one AOI per Nunavut Region be considered for MPA establishment.
- Further refinement of potential AOIs is underway and includes a number of social, biological and ecological considerations.

2) Potential AOI Site Selection Workshop:

- Was held in Iqaluit on December 13th and 14th, 2016.
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board staff members attended, along with other Institutions of Public Government under the Nunavut Agreement, territorial government, federal departments, Regional Wildlife Organisations, Environmental Non-Governmental organisations, and members of the AOI Working Group.
- A status update report based on the outcome of the workshop is being developed and will be distributed to all participants (including NWMB staff members).

- The top three potential AOIs per Nunavut Region have been identified for further consideration.

3) Community Consultations

- The AOI Working Group is preparing to consult with the communities in the vicinity of the current list of nine potential AOIs.
- The consultation will be broken up in two legs, communities within the Qikiqtani region are anticipated to be consulted between February 27th and March 7th, and the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions are anticipated to be consulted between March 20th and March 29th.
- These consultations are anticipated to include an afternoon meeting with Hunters and Trappers Organisations, and an evening session open to the public.
- Additional consultations will be carried out all through the different stages of MPA designation.

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