

**TORNGAT WILDLIFE & PLANTS CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD
TELECONFERENCE
DECEMBER 18, 2015**

Minutes of the Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board teleconference scheduled December 18, 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Sparkes, Chairperson	Henry Lyall
Doug Blake	Frank Phillips
Colin Carroll	Ron Webb
Ross Firth	

REGRETS:

ALSO PRESENT:

Jennifer Mitchell-Foley, Wildlife and Plants Research Program Manager (WPRPM)	Jamie Snook, Executive Director
Robyn Morris, Policy Analyst	Bev White, Executive Assistant

PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Bev White, Executive Assistant.

MEETING CONVENED

A quorum being present, Ron Sparkes, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. introducing Robyn Morris to the Board as Policy Analyst at the Torngat Secretariat.

Moose Discussion/Decision

Briefing Note titled "Moose Decision 2016/17"

R. Sparkes, Chairperson, initiated discussion with the Board. The following points were made during discussion:

- There has been quite a bit of discussion between the Secretariat and representatives at the Nunatsiavut Government (NG), and the need to collect more data.
- The Nunatsiavut Government has been asking that the total allowable harvest (TAH) be increased to 50. Mostly based on local knowledge and observations of moose in recent years.
- The precautionary approach and food security were considerations when determining the option put forward for this year's moose decision.
- Additional points on the requirement to obtain more information on moose should be made with the decision.
- There is no biological or scientific back ground to support this or any increase.
- The Board does not support a TAH to 50.
- It's been confirmed with Jim Goudie, Wildlife Manager, Nunatsiavut Government, that currently the moose license allocations are: 6 per Nunatsiavut community with 5 allocated to the Upper Lake Melville area. The Board's mandate allows it to make a decision on the TAH, but the Board can only make a recommendation on allocations.
- The Board reasons that an increase the TAH by four will not have significant impact on the population sustainability.
- The Board would like to note that there's a concern with increasing the allocations in the Nain area based on local observations. More scientific data will be required before increasing the TAH to 50.

The Board decides to increase the TAH by 4, express concern with increased allocations in the Nain area, note that more scientific data will be required before increasing to a higher number like 50.

CONSENSUS ACHIEVED

Request for Action (TWPCB-01)

It was requested that the Secretariat prepare a decision to increase the TAH by four, expressing concern with increased allocations in the Nain area, noting that more scientific data will be required.

Polar Bear Decision

Briefing Note titled "Polar Bear Decision 2016/17"

J. Snook, Executive Director, initiated discussion with the Board. The following points were made during discussion:

- The Secretariat has been and continues to work on coordinating a joint process with the Nunavik and Nunavut wildlife boards. In absence of a new census, even though there has been a lot of new TK recorded, there's been a lot of weight put on a joint process being driven by International and national interest. The NG encourages the Secretariat to continue working towards a joint process.
- There was one bear not harvested in Nunatsiavut last year and the NG would like to carry forward that one license. A formal letter has been issued to the Board from the Nunatsiavut Government regarding the carry forward of the one license.
- The Board agrees with the carry forward of the one license from last year.
- It was questioned whether or not recommending an increase to the TAH while working on the joint hearing process would send a negative message to the other Boards related to Nunavik and Nunavut. It was said that the other boards are heavily influenced by their legal counsel; there's no doubt nobody wants to lose their decision making ability and all stakeholders seem to be of the understanding that each group still has to carry on with their own processes.
- Precautionary language will be used; local/TK knowledge suggests a stable to increasing population.
- Internationally, the big gap in the polar bear management system is Nunavik because they don't have a management system in place. It was noted that Nunavik is in the process of developing a TAH.
- The Board would like to indicate the pros and cons of different situations on the briefing note that accompanies the decision.
- The Secretariat will share the "Economic Value of the International Trade in Polar Bear Hides to Inuit in Canada" report with the Board.

The Board decides to have the 2016-17 TAH remain at 12 pending the outcome of a coordinated joint hearing process with input from Nunavik and Nunavut. The Board would also like to propose the carry forward of the one unused license from last year.

CONSENSUS ACHIEVED

Request for Action (TWPCB-02)

It was requested that the Secretariat prepare a decision to have the 2016-17 TAH remain at 12 pending the outcome of a coordinated joint hearing process with input from Nunavik and Nunavut. The correspondence will also include the Board's proposal to carry forward the one unused license from last year.

Request for Action (TWPCB-03)

It was requested that the Secretariat share the "Economic Value of the International Trade in Polar Bear Hides to Inuit in Canada" report with the Board.

Nunavik – Torngat Draft MOU re Davis Strait Polar Bear Management

Document titled "Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference regarding Coordinated Decision making efforts for the Management of the Davis Strait Polar Bear Management Unit Between The Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board ("NMRWB") And The Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board"

The MOU has been prepared in draft form and shared confidentially. It is a by-product of trying to have a coordinated process between Nunatsiavut, Nunavik and Nunavut and was drafted by Nunavik's legal counsel. It is intended to outline everyone's intentions on working together.

Welcome Letter to the Minister of Environment and Conservation

A welcome letter has been sent to Perry Trimper, the newly elected Minister of Environment and conservation. The Minister acknowledged receipt.

January 2016 Board Meeting

If the Board members have any recommendations on invitees, they are asked to reach out to J. Snook, Executive Director, and J. Mitchell-Foley, WPRM, with suggestions. R. Firth, Board member, has already reached out to John Blake, Director, Wildlife Division, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, asking for his input on potential invitees/presenters.

Request for Action (TWPCB-04)

It was requested that the Board share with the Secretariat recommendations on possible presenters/invitees for the January 2016 meeting in Corner Brook.

Conclusion

The Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board Teleconference held December 18, 2015 concluded at 10:00 a.m.

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This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board Meeting held December 18, 2015 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption at the Regular Meeting held January 19-20, 2016.



Bev White, Recording Secretary



Ron Sparkes, Chairperson

