

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

FEBRUARY 14-15, 1990

Aklavik and Inuvik Meeting

In Attendance

Council Members: Lindsay Staples  
Bill Dolan  
Hugh Monaghan  
Frank Elanik  
Sadie Whitbread

Others: Laurie Henderson, WMAC(NS) Secretariat  
Dan Frandsen, North Yukon National Park  
Terry Antoniuk, Gulf Canada (February 14)  
Bruce Mackenzie, Gulf Canada (February 14)  
Gary Pidcock, Gulf Canada (February 14)  
Jim Guthrie, Gulf Canada (February 14)  
Kevin McCormick, Canadian Wildlife Service (February 15)

1. Review of Agenda

Three items were added to the agenda:

- i) Herschel Island activities;
- ii) Aklavik HTC funding request; and,
- iii) Research Permits.

2. November 29-30, 1989 minutes

Two revisions to the minutes were requested:

i) Item 5, i) - Research priorities for the Yukon North Slope should reflect the needs of Aklavik Inuvialuit, the interests of the Inuvialuit in the Settlement Region and also the broader interests of all Canadians.

ii) Item 12 - Action item stating, "ensure that expectations are not to be exceeded" should read "expectations should not be too high".

Motion made to adopt the November 29-30, 1990 minutes with the amendments indicated above.

Moved by: Bill Dolan  
Seconded by: Sadie Whitbread

### 3. Action Item Review

Seven action items were reviewed for updating.

- i) Use of 'threatened' in National Parks Act - Bill Dolan indicated that he was trying to have the issue resolved internally. He was hoping to have the issue cleared up in the near future.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to the Minister of Environment requesting clarification of past correspondence and seeking future resolution of the use of the word 'threatened' in the National Parks Act.

- ii) Waterfowl Management Plans - Kevin McCormick indicated that the North American Waterfowl Plan was driving the planning process for management plans. No species management plans for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region are being prepared. A review document, summarizing the state of knowledge and identifying information requirements was distributed to the members.

Question was raised as to how regional waterfowl information was being used in Pacific Flyway management planning.

ACTION: The Secretariat will contact Art Martell to see how regional waterfowl information is being used in Pacific Flyway planning.

- iii) Aklavik area Grizzly Bear Research Proposal - In late 1989, GNWT Biologist Peter Clarkson met with the Aklavik Hunters' and Trappers' Committee to inform them of his research proposal for grizzly work in the area. At this meeting, he indicated that, if appropriate, he could expand the study into the Yukon North Slope region.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to Peter Clarkson indicating that if he wishes to undertake grizzly bear research in the Yukon, that he should forward a copy of the proposal to the Yukon Wildlife Working Group for technical review. If appropriate, the proposal could then be forwarded to the WMAC(NS) for discussion.

ACTION: Hugh Monaghan will ensure that a copy of the report on North Slope grizzly bears, prepared by John Nagy, is sent to Peter Clarkson.

- iv) WMACNS) 1990-1994 Budget Proposal - It was agreed to remove the line item for legal expenses. The possibility of placing the budgeted funds for participation in public hearings in a federal 'earmarked' reserve was to be pursued further.

ACTION: The Council will pursue the option of placing its 1990-1994 budget request for public hearing support in a federal 'earmark' reserve.

- v) FJMC/WMAC(NS) Working Agreement - It was noted that the draft working agreement had been tabled at the last Council meeting and would be discussed further at the joint FJMC/WMAC(NS) meeting on February 16, 1990. Question was raised as to how this agreement, as well as the federal inter-departmental working agreement between the Canadian Parks Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, may need to be changed to reflect the recent transfer of authority for freshwater fisheries in the Yukon.

ACTION: Hugh Monaghan will prepare a summary of the Yukon Government's jurisdictional interests in fisheries and how this responsibility relates to the FJMC, the WMAC(NS), the Canadian Parks Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

- vi) Correspondence from Yukon Heritage Branch - The Secretariat tabled a response from Jeff Hunston, Director of the Yukon Heritage Branch to the Council's letter regarding the Herschel Island Historic Study and future employment opportunities with the restoration program. In his letter, Mr. Hunston stated copies of the final, "Herschel Island Historic Study, would be deposited with all interested parties in the I.F.A. area." As well, Mr. Hunston indicated that the Branch anticipated that they would be able to include some Inuvialuit as restoration labourer in the 1990 field program. Following discussion of these two items, three action items resulted.

ACTION: Hugh Monaghan will inform the Director of the Yukon Heritage Branch that the Council is concerned that a copy of the draft Historic Study was not forwarded to the community of Aklavik for comment.

ACTION: A letter will also be sent to the Heritage Branch indicating that the Council would like to review the draft prior to final production of the report. The letter will additionally request that a draft copy be forwarded to Aklavik for their comment.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to the Director of Heritage requesting a workplan for the summer restoration work. The plan should identify all Herschel employment opportunities and indicate those positions which may be of special interest to the Inuvialuit. A copy of the Human Resource Training Study will be appended to the letter.

As a follow-up to the action item review, three new initiatives were established:

ACTION: The Chair and Secretariat shall review the status of all action items monthly.

ACTION: Prior to regular Council meetings, the Secretariat will remind each member of their assigned responsibilities to enhance reporting.

ACTION: A brief newsletter will be prepared on a quarterly basis by the Secretariat highlighting the activities and initiatives discussed by the Council at each regular meeting.

#### 4. Conservation and Management Plan

Critical wildlife areas, as identified by the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Canadian Parks Service, and important harvesting areas for Aklavik, as identified by the Aklavik Land Use Planning Working Group, have been mapped.

The next step is to refine the methodology to establish the direction and focus of the plan.

#### 5. Wildlife Research Updates

The submitted updates were reviewed. It was noted in reviewing the summaries that all of the projects are winding down this field season and that final reports should follow shortly thereafter.

ACTION: Hugh Monaghan will ensure that the Wildlife Branch prepares factsheets on the various wildlife research projects to inform the community on the status and results of the studies. Fact sheets will be prepared for this year (1989/90) and the upcoming year (1990/91).

#### 6. North Yukon National Park

The submitted update was reviewed. Six additional items were briefly discussed.

- i) Name Change for the National Park - Bill Dolan indicated that the Canadian Parks Service wanted to change the name of the national park to reflect Inuvialuit traditional use of the area.

ACTION: Bill Dolan, Frank Elanik and Sadie Whitbread will work together to develop a process for renaming the national park. The process will be reviewed by the WMAC(NS) during its March conference call.

- ii) DND Memorandum of Understanding for Stokes Point - The MOU is presently being drafted and reviewed by all parties. National Defence would like to transport some materials to the site in March, in advance of completing the MOU. Bill Dolan indicated that although this may occur, no further work will be done at the site until the MOU is completed.
- iii) PCB at Stokes Point - Bill Dolan reported that PCB's have been found at Stokes Point. DND will clean up the PCB materials as a part of the MOU. As well, the site will be marked to indicate that PCB materials are on-site.

ACTION: Bill Dolan will work with Sadie Whitbread and Frank Elanik to prepare a factsheet on the Stokes Point PCBs for distribution in Aklavik.

- iv) Komakuk Beach - The issue of whether Komakuk Beach should have been included within the boundaries of the North Yukon National Park was settled without arbitration in the fall of 1989. It was agreed that Komakuk Beach would remain DND property until the existing DEW-line site is decommissioned and the new short range radar site is commissioned. When the un-staffed site is activated, Komakuk Beach will become part of the Park.

ACTION: A letter will be forwarded to the appropriate agencies indicating that although Komakuk Beach will remain DND property until the short range radar site is completed, the management regime imposed during development of the site should be as strict as that imposed at Stokes Point.

#### 7. Presentation by Gulf Resources Canada

Two items were discussed by Gulf: Stokes Point lease extension and their 1990 Drilling Program Application.

- i) Stokes Point Lease Extension - Jim Guthrie indicated that Gulf wanted to extend its lease at Stokes Point beyond the six years recognized in the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. Their plans for the site would include a communications tower for relaying messages to Herschel Island and Inuvik, storing fuel for refueling helicopters and maintaining a small survival shack. Mr. Guthrie emphasized that if they lose access to Stokes that they will have to curtail their activities by reducing the number of flights into the area due to inclement weather. However, although safety is enhanced by Stokes, Gulf would not be operating unsafely if Stokes Point is lost to them.

Other alternatives to the use of Stokes Point include: storing more jet fuel on the rigs and the use of other sites. Both of these alternatives would be more costly than using Stokes Point.

- ii) 1990 Drilling Program Application - Terry Antoniuk, Gary Pidcock and Bruce Mackenzie gave an overview of the application. Mr. Antoniuk indicated that at an earlier meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee the following concerns were raised: effect on whales, seals, birds and fish; shallow blowouts; relief wells; clean-up and compensation.

Gulf representatives stated that they had tried to assess impacts from a 'worst-case' scenario in their application. The application was scheduled to be heard by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee on March 1, 1990.

The Council raised several issues of concern including the possible damage to the North Slope should a blowout occur, the

effects (direct and indirect) of a spill on polar bears and consideration of non-consumptive values in compensation agreements.

**ACTION:** The Council requested that they would like to meet annually with Gulf Resources Canada to review their activities and interests in the North Slope area specifically, for the entire Settlement Region in general.

**ACTION:** The Secretariat will contact Atmospheric environment to get information on the winds in the Beaufort Sea Region.

8. Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

Hugh Monaghan presented the 1991-1994 wildlife research proposals prepared by the Yukon Wildlife Branch. Each proposal was reviewed and discussed with the community and the HTC Board of Directors. An attempt was made to prioritize the research projects. The habitat related projects were viewed as being of primary importance to the community. Prioritization of the other proposals was deferred.

**ACTION:** Hugh Monaghan will determine if Brian Pelchat was available to meet with the Hunters and Trappers Committee to help them review the proposed wildlife research projects further to prioritize research objectives.

9. Budget Review

i) 1990-91 Yukon Wildlife Research - Hugh Monaghan reported that given the small amount of funds available, the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources has planned to complete existing projects. Two projects are proposed:

a) Wildlife Monitoring - combined wolf/moose survey in the summer and identification of fox dens. Wolverine carcasses also will be collected for another year. Cost \$ 9,000.00

b) Non-consumptive Wildlife - Two field workshops with interested Aklavik guide trainees, experienced guides and tourists. Cost \$ 8,000.00

Motion made to approve the 1990/91 wildlife research program.

Moved by: Bill Dolan  
Seconded by: Frank Elanik

In reviewing the non-consumptive project, it was noted that interest in wildlife viewing projects was increasing across the Settlement Region and that perhaps these efforts should be reviewed to ensure they are coordinated.

ACTION: The Chair and Secretariat will contact the various actors to see what activities are planned in the area of non-consumptive project development and delivery.

- ii) 1991-1994 Wildlife Research - Item was deferred pending the review of the proposals by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.
- iii) Quarterly WMAC(NS) Statement - The summary distributed was reviewed by the members. Question was raised as to how the funds were expended by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Additionally, clarification was requested regarding the offset person-year held by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The Council reviewed several special projects that could be undertaken in this fiscal year to enhance the Council's activities with regards to community consultation and communication and in relation to the conservation and management plan.

ACTION: The Chair will contact Art Martell to clarify how the CWS funds were used and the status of the offset person year held by CWS.

ACTION: The Council will review the special projects for funding on a conference call to be held early in March.

10. Operating Procedures Review

Deferred to next regular meeting.

11. Air Charter Safety Standards

The air charter standards adopted by the Environmental Impact Review Board were distributed for discussion. It was noted that the standards applied only to twin engine air craft and not to either single engines or helicopters.

Motion made to adopt the standards as prepared.

Moved by: Frank Elanik

Seconded by: Sadie Whitbread

ACTION: A letter will be sent to Alkan Air and Aklak Air regarding the newly adopted air charter standards.

12. Porcupine Caribou Interim Management Plan

Members were requested to review the plan and submit their comments to the Secretariat. These comments will then be tabled at the next meeting of the PCMB.

ACTION: Comments on the PCMB Interim Management Plan should be given to the Secretariat by March 26, 1990.

13. North Slope Conference

Concern was expressed that organizations efforts for the conference were proceeding very slowly. It was agreed that, at minimum, a notice of the conference should be to sent to all interested parties.

ACTION: Hugh Monaghan will meet with Mark Hoffman to propose that a small group of Yukon Government staff and WMAC(NS) members should get together to help expedite organization of the conference. The group would consist of Hugh Monaghan, Mark Hoffman, Florian Lemphers, Lindsay Staples and Laurie Henderson.

ACTION: A letter will be forwarded to the Department urging them to immediately sent an announcement letter regarding the conference. The letter will request that the distribution list be sent to the Council so they could add any names/agencies that may be missing. Emphasis would also be placed on encouraging Aklavik participation at the conference and that funds should be identified within the budget to assist with travel expenses.

14. Herschel Island Activities

Jeff Hunston, through a letter to the Council, indicated that an Edmonton firm had been contracted to develop a study plan and framework for the cultural study. Next year the study will begin acquiring data on Herschel Island. In the following years, as funding becomes available through other agencies, the study could be expanded to other areas in the Settlement Region.

Question was raised as to the status of the Herschel Island Technical Committee. This issue will be looked into further.

ACTION: The Chair will contact the Executive Director of the Joint Secretariat regarding Inuvialuit membership on the Herschel Island Technical Committee.

15. HTC Funding Request

The Council reviewed a letter from Barbara Allen, President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, requesting funding support from the WMAC(NS). Although the Council recognized the problems being encountered by the HTC, it did not feel that it could simply transfer funds to the HTC.

The Council identified a need for enhanced communication and consultation with Aklavik on a variety of North Slope issues. To enhance this contact, the Council was prepared to negotiate a service contract with the HTC to further communication and liaison.

ACTION: A service contract will be offered to for the Aklavik Hunters' and Trappers' Committee. The contract will require the HTC to provide liaison and enhanced consultation between the HTC and the WMAC(NS) on a variety of North Slope issues.



## 16. Research Permits

Research permits are required by the Canadian Parks Service and the Government of the Yukon for any research undertaken in either the North Yukon National Park or elsewhere on the North Slope. As well, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee has been involved in screening research permits.

To stream-line the process, while also ensuring that the communities and the WMAC(NS) are aware of issued research permits, it was proposed that a class exemption of certain research activities be used in combination with an appeal option and a registry that would be distributed to all appropriate parties. This system could be tried for a year and then re-evaluated and modified as required.

ACTION: Bill Dolan will work with Frank Elanik and Sadie Whitbread to see how the research permit registry system might work in Aklavik.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to the Screening Committee recommending the class exemption approach for research permits.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to the Screening Committee again requesting that notice of all applications related to the North Slope be forwarded to the WMAC(NS) for review prior to screening. As well, a copy of the most recent operating procedures and screening criteria will be requested.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to the Yukon Heritage Branch, who is responsible for issuing permits outside of national parks, suggesting that they also adopt a registry systems for research permits.

## 16. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the North Slope Conference. Tentative dates are May 7-8, 1990 in Dawson City, Yukon.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. A letter will be sent to the Minister of Environment requesting clarification of past correspondence and seeking future resolution of the use of the word 'threatened' in the National Parks Act.
2. The Secretariat will contact Art Martell to see how regional waterfowl information is being used in Pacific Flyway planning.
3. A letter will be sent to Peter Clarkson indicating that if he wishes to undertake grizzly bear research in the Yukon, that he should forward a copy of the proposal to the Yukon Wildlife Working Group for technical review. If appropriate, the proposal could then be forwarded to the WMAC(NS) for discussion.
4. Hugh Monaghan will ensure that a copy of the report on North Slope grizzly bears, prepared by John Nagy, is sent to Peter Clarkson.
5. The Council will pursue the option of placing its 1990-1994 budget request for public hearing support in a federal 'earmark' reserve.
6. Hugh Monaghan will prepare a summary of the Yukon Government's jurisdictional interests in fisheries and how this responsibility relates to the FJMC, the WMAC(NS), the Canadian Parks Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
7. Hugh Monaghan will inform the Director of the Yukon Heritage Branch that the Council is concerned that a copy of the draft Historic Study was not forwarded to the community of Aklavik for comment.
8. A letter will also be sent to the Heritage Branch indicating that the Council would like to review the draft prior to final production of the report. The letter will additionally request that a draft copy be forwarded to Aklavik for their comment.
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10. The Chair and Secretariat shall review the status of all action items monthly.
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12. A brief newsletter will be prepared on a quarterly basis by the Secretariat highlighting the activities and initiatives discussed by the Council at each regular meeting.

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15. Bill Dolan, Frank Elanik and Sadie Whitbread will work together to develop a process for renaming the national park. The process will be reviewed by the WMAC(NS) during its March conference call.
16. Bill Dolan will work with Sadie Whitbread and Frank Elanik to prepare a factsheet on the Stokes Point PCBs for distribution in Aklavik.
17. A letter will be forwarded to the appropriate agencies indicating that although Komakuk Beach will remain DND property until the short range radar site is completed, the management regime imposed during development of the site should be as strict as that imposed at Stokes Point.
18. The Council requested that they would like to meet annually with Gulf Resources Canada to review their activities and interests in the North Slope area specifically, for the entire Settlement Region in general.
19. The Secretariat will contact Atmospheric environment to get information on the winds in the Beaufort Sea Region. *Moe Thomas*
20. Hugh Monaghan will determine if Brian Pelchat was available to meet with the Hunters and Trappers Committee to help them review the proposed wildlife research projects further to prioritize research objectives.
21. The Chair and Secretariat will contact the various actors to see what activities are planned in the area of non-consumptive project development and delivery.
22. The Chair will contact Art Martell to clarify how the CWS funds were used and the status of the offset person year held by CWS.
23. The Council will review the special projects for funding on a conference call to be held early in March.
24. A letter will be sent to Alkan Air and Aklak Air regarding the newly adopted air charter standards.

25. Comments on the PCMB Interim Management Plan should be given to the Secretariat by March 26, 1990.
26. Hugh Monaghan will meet with Mark Hoffman to propose that a small group of Yukon Government staff and WMAC(NS) members should get together to help expedite organization of the conference. The group would consist of Hugh Monaghan, Mark Hoffman, Florian Lemphers, Lindsay Staples and Laurie Henderson.
27. A letter will be forwarded to the Department urging them to immediately send an announcement letter regarding the conference. The letter will request that the distribution list be sent to the Council so they could add any names/agencies that may be missing. Emphasis would also be placed on encouraging Aklavik participation at the conference and that funds should be identified within the budget to assist with travel expenses.
28. The Chair will contact the Executive Director of the Joint Secretariat regarding Inuvialuit membership on the Herschel Island Technical Committee.
29. A service contract will be offered to the Aklavik Hunters' and Trappers' Committee. The contract will require the HTC to provide liaison and enhanced consultation between the HTC and the WMAC(NS) on a variety of North Slope issues.
30. Bill Dolan will work with Frank Elanik and Sadie Whitbread to see how the research permit registry system might work in Aklavik.
31. A letter will be sent to the Screening Committee recommending the class exemption approach for research permits.
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