

Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board

This annual report of the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) covers the period from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 and outlines the activities of the EMRWB during this period in fulfillment of its mandate as set out in Chapter 13 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement (EMRLCA).

This report also serves as the Annual Activity Report that is required to be submitted by the EMRWB pursuant to Annex 5 of the *Funding Agreement between the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* (Agreement No.: 1415 – HQ – 000253).

The EMRWB was established under the EMRLCA as the main instrument of Wildlife management and the main regulator of access to Wildlife in the Eeyou Marine Region. This Agreement covers the offshore area surrounding the Province of Quebec known as the Eeyou Marine Region (EMR). The EMRWB is made up of seven members, composed of three members nominated by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, one recommended by the Government of Nunavut, two recommended by the Government of Canada plus a jointly nominated Chairperson.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board is to serve as the main instrument of Wildlife management and the main regulator of access to Wildlife in the Eeyou Marine Region. The EMRWB works closely with the Cree Trappers Association in carrying out its mandate. It is involved in research on Wildlife in the EMR and manages a special \$5 million Wildlife Research Fund. The primary functions of the EMRWB include:

- Establishing, modifying or removing levels of Total Allowable Take for species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec
- Ascertaining and adjusting the Basic Needs Level for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than the anadromous fish spawning in Québec
- Establishing, modifying or removing Non-quota Limitations
- Participating in research

- Cooperating with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR
- Providing advice to any other management institutions as requested on all matters relating to management, conservation, protection and regulation of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMRWB

The EMRWB is an institution of public government that was established pursuant to the provisions of the *Agreement between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada Concerning the Eeyou Marine Region*, also known as the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement* (EMRLCA), which was signed by the respective parties on July 7, 2010.

The mandate for the EMRWB is set out under Chapter 13 of the EMRLCA, which specifies that the EMRWB is to serve as the main instrument of Wildlife management and the main regulator of access to Wildlife in the Eeyou Marine Region. The provisions of the EMRLCA, including the establishment of the EMRWB with the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person, were given effect by the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement Act* and came into force, by Order of the Government of Canada, on February 15, 2012.

However, the EMRWB only became operationally effective after: the members of the board had been officially appointed to their positions by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Nunavut Government or the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee; and, the members had been sworn in at the initial meeting of the members, which took place in Montreal on February 19-20, 2013.

MANDATE

As noted above, the mandate for the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board is set out in Chapter 13 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement. In particular, the role and responsibilities of the EMRWB are set out in subsections 13.2.1, 13.2.2 and 13.3.3 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement.

These provisions of the EMRLCA are set out as follows:

13.2.1

The EMRWB shall be the main instrument of Wildlife management in the EMR and the main regulator of access to Wildlife and have the primary responsibility in relation thereto in the manner described in this Agreement. Accordingly, the EMRWB shall perform the following functions, taking into account the provisions of this Part III:

- (a) establishing, modifying or removing levels of Total Allowable Take for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 13.5;*
- (b) ascertaining the Basic Needs Level for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 13.6;*
- (c) adjusting the Basic Needs Level for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 13.7;*
- (d) allocating from the Total Allowable Take opportunities to Harvest a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 11.4;*
- (e) establishing, modifying or removing Non quota Limitations in accordance with section 13.8;*
- (f) participating in research in accordance with section 13.3;*
- (g) determining sufficiency of information and identifying and undertaking measures necessary to obtain the information to enable it to establish the Basic Needs Levels in accordance with section 13.6;*
- (h) cooperating with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are Harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR;*
- (i) setting any trophy fees on Wildlife Harvested in the EMR;*
- (j) providing advice to any other management institutions as requested on all matters relating to management, conservation, protection and regulation of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat; and*

- (k) *any other function the EMRWB is required to perform by this Agreement and not specifically referred to in Part III.*

13.2.2

In addition to its primary functions outlined in subsection 13.2.1, the EMRWB may in its discretion perform the following functions related to management and protection of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat:

- (a) *except for National Parks, National Park Reserves, National Marine Conservation Areas, National Marine Conservation Area Reserves and Territorial Parks, approve the establishment, disestablishment, and changes to boundaries of Protected Areas and Marine Protected Areas;*
- (b) *identify Wildlife management zones and areas of high biological productivity and provide recommendations to the EMRPC with respect to planning in those areas;*
- (c) *approve plans for management and protection of particular Wildlife habitats or critical habitats including areas within Protected Areas;*
- (d) *approve plans for:*
 - (i) *management, classification, protection, restocking or propagation, cultivation or husbandry of species or populations of Wildlife;*
 - (ii) *the regulation of imported non indigenous species and the management of transplanted Wildlife populations;*
- (e) *provide advice to departments, the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board and other concerned agencies and appropriate Persons regarding mitigation measures and compensation to be required from commercial and industrial developers which cause damage to Wildlife habitat;*
- (f) *approve designation of species at risk;*

- (g) *provide advice as to requirements for the promotion of education, information and training of Crees for Wildlife management; and*
- (h) *any other functions assigned to it by this Agreement*

13.3.3

Further to its responsibilities in subsection 13.3.1, the EMRWB shall:

- (a) *establish and maintain an open file system for all raw and interpreted Wildlife data and information regardless of its source;*
- (b) *promote and encourage training for Crees in the various fields of Wildlife research and management;*
- (c) *promote and encourage the employment of Crees and the use of Cree Enterprises in research and technical positions made available through Government and private sector research contracts; and*
- (d) *prior to carrying out research, communicate and cooperate with residents of Eeyou Istchee and Consult with the GDO and other Cree Entities likely to be affected.*

MEMBERS OF THE EMRWB

As provided for under subsection 13.1.1 of the EMRLCA, the membership of the EMRWB is to consist of seven members of whom three (3) members shall be appointed by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee; one (1) member shall be appointed by the federal minister responsible for fish and marine mammals; one (1) member shall be appointed by the federal minister responsible for the Canadian Wildlife Service; one (1) member shall be appointed by the Minister responsible for Wildlife of the Government of Nunavut; plus a Chairperson who is to be jointly nominated by the other members. The Chairperson is the seventh member of the EMRWB and, after nomination by the other members must be appointed by the federal minister responsible for fish and marine mammals in consultation with the other federal minister and jointly with the Nunavut minister.

At the initial meeting of the members of the board, it was agreed by the unanimous vote of the members that Roderick Pachano should be nominated to serve as the permanent Chairperson of the EMRWB (Resolution 2013-03). A letter to this effect was subsequently sent to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. The appointment of Roderick Pachano as the permanent Chairperson for the EMRWB was confirmed by the Minister in a letter dated October 22, 2013.

Following the process set out in subsections 13.1.1 and 14.1.5 of the EMRLCA, Bert Moar was then appointed by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee to serve as their third member in replacement of Roderick Pachano.

Throughout the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the membership of the board was therefore as follows.

CHAIRPERSON Roderick Pachano	
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA APPOINTEES Jules Dufour (DFO) Claude Saint-Charles (CWS)	NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT APPOINTEE Peter Kattuk
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES APPOINTEES Isaac Masty Bert Moar Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux	

MEETINGS OF THE EMRWB

According to the by-laws of the EMRWB (sub-section 9.1), the Board “shall meet at least twice a year, and may meet as often as it deems fit.” The EMRWB held four full meetings during FY 2014-2015 and one meeting that was jointly held with the members of the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission (EMRPC) and the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board (EMRIRB). In addition, the members met by way of conference call. The dates and locations of these meetings are shown in the table that is set out below.

Meeting	Date of Meeting	Location
EMRWB	April 15-16, 2014	Montreal
EMRWB	July 3-4, 2014	Ottawa
EMRWB	August 15, 2014	Chisasibi
EMRWB	September 4, 2014	Chisasibi
EMRWB	October 15-16, 2014	Montreal
EMRWB	November 19, 2014	Conf. call
EMRWB	December 1, 2014	Conf. call
EMRWB	March 11 and 13, 2015	Waskaganish
EMRIRB-PC-WB	March 12, 2015	Waskaganish

ESTABLISH OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE EMRWB

Under the provisions of EMRLCA (14.4.1) the EMRWB may make by-laws and rules respecting:

- a) the calling of meetings and sittings of the EMRWB;
- b) the conduct of business at meetings of the EMRWB and the establishment of special and standing committees of the EMRWB and the fixing of quorums for committee meetings;
- c) the carrying on of the work of the EMRWB, the management of its internal affairs, and the duties of its officers and employees;
- d) the procedure for making applications, representations and complaints to the EMRWB;
- e) the procedure for collecting information and opinion, including the procedure and conduct of public hearings; and
- f) generally, the manner of conducting any business before the EMRWB.

The General By-Laws of the EMRWB were reviewed and approved by the EMRWB at the meeting of the members of the Board that was held on April 23-24, 2013 in Montreal.

During FY 2014-2015 a draft Human Resource Policy Manual was prepared in cooperation with the EMRIRB and EMRPC, which was submitted to the members for review and approval. In addition, material was collected with regard to operational guidelines and rules of procedure, which will be available when the staff of the EMRWB is hired. This material will be used in FY 2015-2016 to prepare a formal set of Governance Policies for review and approval by the members of the EMRWB.

ESTABLISH HEAD OFFICE OF THE EMRWB

As specified under subsection 14.2.2 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement, the EMRWB is required to establish its head office in Eeyou Istchee. In addition to this stipulation, the members of the EMRWB were aware that the *EMRLCA*

Implementation Plan specifies that the staff and offices of the EMR Impact Review Board (EMRIRB) are to be shared and co-located with those of the EMR Planning Commission (EMRPC). Taking these and other factors into account, at the joint meeting of the members of the EMRWB, EMRPC and EMRIRB that was held on April 23-24, 2013 in Montreal it was decided that, if it was found to be feasible, the offices of all three of these EMR boards would be co-located in a community within Eeyou Istchee.

The members of the three EMR boards initially selected Chisasibi as the community within Eeyou Istchee where the offices would be located. Unfortunately, although negotiations over the leasing of the required office space continued throughout FY 2013-2014 the parties were unable to successfully conclude the leasing arrangements. The members of the EMR boards continued discussions on this issue in FY 2014-2015 and invited the Cree communities in Eeyou Istchee to submit proposals. The following four proposals were submitted in response to this request for office and housing space:

- Cree Nation of Chisasibi submitted a proposal to provide three offices, which included the original office space;
- Cree Nation of Eastmain submitted one office proposal and one house proposal;
- Nâtâmûh Management Inc/Waskaganish First Nation submitted one office proposal; and the
- Cree Nation Government submitted an office proposal for a potential Waskaganish location.

The members of the EMRWB discussed the location of the office at the meeting of the members held on November 19, 2014 and, after taking various factors into account, unanimously adopted a resolution to co-locate their offices in the Cree community of Waskaganish along with the offices for the EMRIRB and EMRPC.

In addition to making the necessary arrangements for the required office space and staff housing, the members of the three EMR boards will need to arrange for the purchase and delivery of the office furniture, supplies, and equipment required for the effective functioning of the EMR head office. This process was initiated at the end of FY 2014-2015 and will continue in FY 2015-2016 as the staff of the EMR boards are hired and relocated where necessary to the community of Waskaganish.

ENGAGE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR CONDUCT OF EMRWB BUSINESS

As specified in subsection 14.5.1 of EMRLCA, within its approved budget, the officers and employees necessary for the proper conduct of business of the EMRWB are to be engaged and remunerated by the EMRWB. The staff positions that are anticipated as being hired by the EMRWB are set out in Sheet # 14-1 of the *EMRLCA Implementation Plan* and consist of a Wildlife Management Director, a Wildlife Liaison Officer and an Administrative Assistant.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal reporting period the members of EMRWB took the necessary steps to define the job descriptions for these three positions and to initiate recruitment activities in this regard. An interview committee was also formed with representation from the members of the EMRWB and an approach was agreed upon with respect to how the interviews of the candidates would be conducted. However, none of the EMRWB staff positions were filled during FY 2013-2014.

As in the previous fiscal year, during FY 2014-2015 the priority of the board was on recruiting a qualified person to fill the Wildlife Management Director position. Recruiting activities continued throughout the fiscal year and interviews for the position were conducted by the Interview Committee. Unfortunately, although the position was offered and had been accepted by one of the candidates, that individual subsequently declined the position. The position was re-posted and ten applications were received of which four candidacies were selected to be interviewed. The interviews took place on April 7-8, 2015 in Montreal and a candidate was successfully chosen to fill the position.

The Wildlife Liaison Officer position was posted at the beginning of March 2015 and had a closing date of March 16, 2015. The selection of potential candidates to fill this position and the interviews for this position were therefore held in FY 2015-2016.

The members of the EMRWB agreed to coordinate with the EMRIRB and EMRPC to develop the job descriptions for the two Administrative Assistant positions that will be filled by the three EMR boards at the co-located offices in Waskaganish. Although work began with respect to developing the job descriptions and postings for these positions, these documents will be finalized in the summer of 2015 and the positions will be posted after review and approval of the job descriptions by the members of the three EMR boards.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM AND OPEN FILE SYSTEM

The functions of the EMRWB necessitate the purchase and installation of a professional Geographical Information System (GIS) capacity. This subject was discussed jointly by the members of the EMRWB, EMRPC and EMIRB and it was agreed that a series of base maps of the Eeyou Marine Region would need to be purchased and installed in the joint EMR head office. However, as arrangements for the leasing of office space for the EMR head office in Waskaganish had been finalized late in FY 2014-2015, the members of the EMR boards decided that they would not continue their discussions concerning the purchase of GIS equipment or data sets until such time as the co-located head office had been opened and the Regional Planner and the Wildlife Management Director had been hired so that they could participate in purchasing and installing the required GIS capacity.

As well, under the provisions of subsection 13.3.3 of the EMRLCA the board is required to “establish and maintain an open file system for all raw and interpreted Wildlife data and information regardless of its source”. In order to fulfill this requirement of the Agreement, the board will have to review anticipated data access needs by various parties; prepare standards for digital data management; recommend a cataloguing approach (software etc.); prepare a logical plan for information storage and retrieval; and purchase the required computer and mapping hardware to meet these needs. It is not anticipated that the open filing system can be developed in one fiscal year but that work will begin on this project in FY 2015-2016.

WEB SITE AND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year it was agreed at a joint meeting of the three EMR boards that Chantal Tétreault would be mandated to create a temporary website for the three EMR boards using “eeyoumarineregion.ca” as a common entry point. It was also agreed by the members of the EMR boards that sharing an underlying database and document management system amongst the three EMR organizations could potentially result in significant cost savings and the utilization of better technology.

During FY 2014-2015 Chantal Tétreault continued to work with the firm Zerosum to create the agreed temporary website so that the general public would have access to basic information about the EMR boards. The resulting joint EMR web site includes basic

information about the boards and commission along with a picture gallery, maps, links and other pertinent information. The cost of this site was well below what was earmarked in the respective EMR board budgets as it did not include a Document Management System, a project registry for the EMRIRB, interactive mapping as required for the three EMR boards, biographies, etc. The temporary EMR web site can be reached at: <http://www.eeyoumarineregion.ca/>.

As the Director of Wildlife Management for the EMRWB and the Regional Planner for the EMRIRB/EMRPC have now been hired, it is envisaged that further work on the respective EMR board web sites will be undertaken in FY 2015-2016 and that the necessary equipment and programming for the Document Management System will be jointly purchased some time during FY 2015-2016. As a result, the funding for this web design and computer programming work and for purchasing the necessary computer equipment will need to be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

RELATIONSHIP WITH ADJACENT INSTITUTIONS

Under the provisions of subsection 13.2.1 of the EMRLCA, one of the aspects of the mandate of the EMRWB is “cooperating with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are Harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR” (paragraph h). In furtherance of these obligations, in FY 2014-2015 various types of on-going consultations continued between the EMRWB, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board both with regard to the development of the EMRWB’s operational policies and procedures as well as with respect to the review of specific research proposals that might involve the Eeyou and Nunavik marine regions and/or the Nunavut Settlement Area in terms of proposals for or decisions taken with regard to undertaking Wildlife research studies or activities that would be of interest to adjacent jurisdictions.

In addition to anticipating these general consultations of an on-going nature, it was recognized by the members of the EMR boards that section 28.8 of NILCA and also subsection 30.6 b) of the EMRLCA reciprocally specify that the bodies created pursuant to their wildlife, land use planning, and Wildlife management regimes “shall sit together when making decisions or recommendations concerning the Joint Zone and render the same recommendations or decisions concerning the Joint Zone” once both sets of management regimes have been established. Joint sessions between the EMR and NMR

boards were not necessary in FY 2014-2015. Further work on defining the relationship between the various institutions of public government created under the EMR, NILCA and Nunavut land claims agreements will continue in FY 2015-2016.

MEDIA KITS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year the EMRWB began the process of developing a communications strategy for informing the general public and the Cree communities adjacent to the Eeyou Marine Region about the existence of the EMRWB and its mandate related to Wildlife management and harvesting practices in the EMR.

Although some preliminary work on developing this material was undertaken, the members of the EMRWB decided that further efforts in this regard would be deferred until the location of the EMR head office had been confirmed and the professional staff had been hired so that they could participate in developing this material. In the meantime, information about the EMR boards has been made available to the general public through the “eeyoumarineregion.ca” temporary website that has been created for the three EMR boards.

EMR ACTIVITIES OF THE CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

The EMRLCA specifies, under section 12.6, that funding shall be provided by the EMRWB to the Cree Trappers Association (CTA) and the five Local CTAs adjacent to the EMR in order for them to carry out the powers and functions as set out in Chapter 12 with respect to Wildlife management and harvesting practices in the EMR. This funding is provided by the EMRWB to the CTA for the EMR activities of both the CTA and the five LCTAs. The LCTAs therefore do not have a direct reporting or financial relationship with the EMRWB but with the CTA.

During FY 2013-2014 the CTA began working actively on implementing the EMR responsibilities of the CTA and LCTAs as specified under Chapter 12 of the EMRLCA. In particular, progress was made in relation to developing the job descriptions and reporting relationships for the one position at the CTA in Eastmain (Wildlife Liaison Officer) and the five positions in the local CTAs (Local EMR Officers) and how these

positions would fit into the broader organizational structure of the CTA/LCTAs and to their division of responsibilities and reporting relationships.

The following specific activities were undertaken by the CTA in fulfillment of their EMR responsibilities in FY 2014-2015:

- Interviews for the Wildlife Liaison Officer position that will be located in the CTA offices in Eastmain were conducted in Mistissini and Samuel Moses was selected to be hired to this position;
- Interviews for the Local EMR Officer positions were held by the local trappers committees in the communities of Eastmain, Waskaganish, Chisasibi, and Wemindji;
- Waskaganish and Wemindji each had one applicant upon which the local trappers committees agreed to recommend for the position, which led to the hiring of Mr. Sanford Diamond as the Local EMR Officer in Waskaganish and the hiring of Mr. George Natawapineskum as the Local EMR Officer in Wemindji;
- The CTA bought office furniture, office supplies and computers and made arrangements for the rental of office space for the new employees;
- The Local EMR Officers had their first workshop in September 2014, which was organized by the CTA's Wildlife Liaison officer and which was focused on starting up a community consultation on research projects;
- The Wemindji Local EMR Officer started a research project on why Brants Geese are making people sick when they eat them, which will be on going into the next fiscal year;
- The Waskaganish Local EMR Officer started a trappers benefit project for the Carleton island trappers, which will be completed in summer 2015; and
- Harvests of waterfowl were done in spring and fall, waterfowl included are Geese, Snow Geese, Ducks, Brants Geese, Scoters, and loons.

In addition, the members of the EMRWB and the executive of the CTA met together in FY 2014-2015 and agreed that it was important to provide an adequate and reliable source of funding to the Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) and the five Local CTAs adjacent to the EMR in order for them to carry out the powers and functions assigned to them under Chapter 12 of the EMRLCA.

A Funding Agreement was jointly prepared by the EMRWB and the CTA, which set out the terms and conditions related to the transfer of funds to the CTA and the reporting responsibilities of the CTA with respect to its EMR activities. The Funding Agreement was subsequently signed by the Chairperson of the EMRWB and the President of the CTA and funding was accordingly provided to the CTA with respect to their EMR activities in FY 2014-2015, which was based on a detailed Budget that was submitted to the board by the CTA.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

As specified under subsection 13.3.1 of the EMRLCA, the EMRWB is responsible for undertaking a number of Wildlife research functions as follows:

- a) identify research requirements and deficiencies pertinent to Wildlife management and the rational utilization of Wildlife resources, and promote and encourage on an ongoing basis, research aimed at meeting requirements and overcoming deficiencies;
- b) identify relevant Persons to undertake Wildlife research;
- c) review research proposals and applications and, where appropriate, recommend on the acceptance or rejection of such proposals to the appropriate Government agency;
- d) collect, classify, and disseminate Wildlife statistics and information and maintain a data base adequate for such purposes; and
- e) carry out all other research functions consistent with its responsibilities.

Once the professional staff of the EMRWB has been hired, it is anticipated that the staff and members of the EMRWB will jointly begin the process of identifying the research requirements and deficiencies pertinent to Wildlife management and the rational utilization of Wildlife resources in the EMR and the identification of relevant persons to undertake the Wildlife research that is required.

However, as a preliminary effort in this regard, a Symposium on Science and Traditional Environmental Knowledge in James Bay and Hudson Bay was held in Montreal in late March 2014, which was sponsored by the three EMR boards. The objective of the symposium was to provide a platform where a comprehensive overview of the results of scientific research and traditional environmental knowledge might be presented and discussed with the aim of defining a program of research for the area. The members of the EMRWB participated actively in the Symposium and during the early months of FY 2014-2015 assisted in the preparation of the Symposium's final report, which is available at: <http://www.arcticnetmeetings.ca/EMRS2014/pages/documents.php>

In FY 2014-2015 the members of the board also agreed to begin work on developing a framework for the management of polar bears in the Eeyou Marine Region that can be incorporated by Environment Canada within Canada's overall response to the Circumpolar Action Plan for Polar Bears. In cooperation with officials from Environment Canada, a project was initiated to identify community issues and concerns related to polar bear management within the Eeyou Marine Region and to determine how Traditional Ecological Knowledge within the EMR could be incorporated in a polar bear management strategy. The EMRWB members also agreed to develop a strategy, in cooperation with officials from Environment Canada, which would outline how the Local EMR Officers could assist in meeting Canada's commitments under the Circumpolar Action Plan for Polar Bears. Work on these initiatives will continue in FY 2015-2016.

Similarly, the members of the EMRWB agreed in FY 2014-2015 to undertake an initiative to develop a framework for the management of beluga whales in the Eeyou Marine Region, which will be similar to and compatible with the Beluga Management Strategies that have been developed in the Nunavik Marine Region and the Nunavut Settlement Area for the management of beluga in these adjacent land claims settlement areas. In this regard, a project was initiated, in cooperation with officials from Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to identify community issues and concerns related to beluga whale management within the Eeyou Marine Region and to determine how Traditional Ecological Knowledge within the EMR could be incorporated within that strategy. It was also agreed that a strategy would need to be developed, in cooperation with officials from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, outlining how the Local EMR Officers could assist in implementing a Beluga Management Strategy for the Eeyou Marine Region. It is envisaged that work on developing the Beluga Management Strategy will continue in FY 2015-2016.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH FUND

Subsection 13.3.2 of the EMRLCA specifies that Canada shall provide the EMRWB with \$5 million to assist the board in carrying out its Wildlife research functions pursuant to subsection 13.3.1. These funds are currently being held in trust by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and will be transferred to the EMRWB at an appropriate point in time, after request by the EMRWB, in order to establish a Wildlife Research Fund for undertaking this type of research in future years.

The members of the EMRWB discussed this issue in FY 2013-2014 and established a sub-committee (Aurélié Bourbeau-Lemieux, Jules Dufour and Claude Saint-Charles) to develop a strategic orientation on this issue, including the investment and use of the Wildlife Research Fund.

Consideration of this issue continued in FY 2014-2015 and the members of the EMRWB agreed to make arrangements for the EMRWB to begin direct administration of the Wildlife Research Fund in order for the board to commence the process of identifying the research requirements and deficiencies pertinent to Wildlife management and the rational utilization of Wildlife resources in the EMR and of identifying relevant persons to undertake the Wildlife research that is required, as specified under subsection 13.3.1 of the EMRLCA.

The following specific activities were identified by the members of the EMRWB as preliminary steps toward the assuming their responsibilities for the administration of the Wildlife Research Fund:

- Preparation of an overview of the investment considerations that will need to be addressed by the EMRWB related to administering a fund of this nature;
- Ensure that any GICs or other investments that are currently in place are not automatically renewed and that any new investments of this nature are not entered into before the funds are transferred;
- Undertake a streamlined trustee search and recommend at least two firms for finalist interviews;

- Prepare a draft Investment Policy for the Wildlife Research Fund, which will involve presenting a number of hypothetical portfolios with differing levels of expected return and risk;
- Prepare a Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (the "SIP&P") pertaining to the management of the assets of the Wildlife Research Fund;
- Finalize the arrangements for the administration of the Wildlife Research Fund, which will include the selection and appointment of the Trustee (fund manager) and approval of the Investment Policy and the SIP&P for the fund; and,
- Commence the provision of services by the Trustee (reporting and filing, safe-keeping of fund assets and the investment management of fund assets).

At the meeting of the members of the EMRWB held on March 11, 2015 the board unanimously adopted a resolution approving a service agreement with Industrial Alliance for the management of the Wildlife Research Fund, conditional upon an interview with the fund manager by the Executive Committee. After the selection and appointment of the Trustee has been finalized, the next steps will be to discuss the different return/volatility options in order to choose a portfolio, draft an investment policy and transfer the funds. It is anticipated that these steps will be completed in 2015.

As a parallel process, the members of the EMRWB also agreed in FY 2014-2015 to initiate the process of identifying the research requirements and deficiencies pertinent to Wildlife management and the rational utilization of Wildlife resources in the EMR and of identifying relevant persons to undertake the Wildlife research that is required, as specified under subsection 13.3.1 of the EMRLCA. The following activities were identified by the members of the EMRWB as the specific steps that they would take in order to develop the content of the wildlife research programme in consultations with the EMR coastal communities and potential partners:

- Develop a first draft of the consultation document;

- Hold a Workshop with the CTA and Local CTA staff;
- Get the approval in principle of the consultation document;
- Translate the document into French and Inuktitut;
- Hold community consultations with facilitation by the Local EMR Officers;
- Distribute the consultation document to partners and stakeholders with a deadline for replies for the consultation period of March 31, 2015;
- Prepare a Summary Paper of the consultation process including recommendations;
- Identify priority projects and ranking;
- Develop a consultation plan adapted to the Cree communities and Cree Entities;
- Circulate the Summary Paper to the EMR communities and Cree Entities for "fine tuning";
- Hold community consultations based on the Summary Paper;
- Produce a Final Draft Post-Consultation report;
- Produce a Final Version of the report; and,
- Develop partnership funding strategies for selected projects.

It is anticipated that the final version of the report on the content of the wildlife research programme will be completed sometime later in 2015.

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