



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

Present: Fred Tomatuk
Robbie Tapiatic
Peter Hale
Daniel Caron

Chairperson
Member (GCC(EI))
Member (ECCC)
Member (DFO)

Angela Coxon
Félix Boulanger
Stephanie Varty

Wildlife Management Director
Wildlife Management Biologist
Wildlife Management Biologist

Absent:

Jamie Moses
Eli Kavik
Vacant

Member (GCC(EI))
Member (Gov. of Nunavut)
Member (GCC(EI))

Guests:

Kaitlin Bretton-Honeyman	Polynya Group	Consulting	Day 1
Agata Durkalec	Polynya Group	Consulting	Day 1
Felix Dionne	DFO		Day 1-2
Martine Giangioppi	DFO		Day 1-2
Mark Mills	ECCC		Day 1-2
Maya Longpre-Croteau	CNG		Day 1-2
Pierre-Yves Gagnon	CIRNAC		Day 1-2 *
Katherine Scott	Concordia University		Day 2
Alexandra Langwieder	McGill University		Day 2
Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux	MFFP		Day 2*



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

Michel Robert	CWS	Day 2*
Raphael Bouchard	Laval University	Day 2*
Robert E. Fireman	CTA-EMR	Day 2*

* joined virtually

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

1. WELCOME & QUORUM

Members present constituting a quorum, the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) meeting was called to order at 9:13 am.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Fred Tomatuk opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. CHAIRPERSON AND RECORDING SECRETARY

The Chairperson was Fred Tomatuk, and the Recording Secretary was Stephanie Varty.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

After a review of the proposed meeting agenda, it was motioned to adopt and approve the agenda; Peter Hale proposed, and Daniel Caron seconded. The motion was carried, and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted the Agenda with **Resolution WB2022/23-17** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 2, Vacant: 1).



EEYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

5.1 CORPORATE MATTERS – Membership

The CNG is finding it challenging to find suitable Cree members to appoint to the EMRWB and has requested that the EMRWB provide a list of potential Cree candidates that would be interested and available to sit on the Board. Members discussed potential candidates and the EMRWB Director suggested that Members take several days to think on the topic and then provide candidate names to her via email.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Board Members will send suggestions to the Director for future Cree member appointments to the EMRWB.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will forward the names and contact details of the potential candidates to the CNG for consideration.

5.2 CORPORATE MATTERS – EMRWB Logo Update

The EMRWB Director shared different design updates to the EMRWB logo that incorporated the corrected Cree syllabic text. The EMRWB Board Members discussed and confirmed the importance of continuing to include Inuktitut and French in the logo. Members agreed to keep the current logo design but updated with the new Cree syllabics.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will confirm the Board's logo choice with Beesum.

5.3 CORPORATE MATTERS – Director's Report

The EMRWB Director provided minor activity updates on the other EMR boards. She briefly discussed the need for a joint EMR MOU that has been created for the screening of wildlife research projects, comparing it to the informal research project review processes the EMR Boards have been following and what the process would look like the new joint EMR Agreement. She explained to the Board that the MOU would be



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

reviewed in detail at the upcoming joint EMR Meeting later in the week. The ECCC observer requested that the ECCC and DFO representatives were kept informed throughout the development of this new process. The EMRWB Director then provided brief updates on EMR policies, the 10-year projection plan for the EMR Boards, and upcoming joint meetings with the NMRWB. She then reviewed the EMRWB Research Fund investment performance, including a summary of comments from Aon to explain the recent negative performance of the research fund and suggestions moving forward.

She then reviewed the EMRWB action item tracking table, highlighting action items created from the July EMRWB meeting and the dates items were completed.

5.4 & 5.5 CORPORATE MATTERS – EMRWB Representation at HBC Summit Meeting & EMRWB at Polar Bear Range States Meeting

The EMRWB Director provided some background on the Polar Bear Range States Meeting of the Parties (Iqaluit, NU; May 9-11, 2023). She highlighted how the EMRWB has been very active in polar bear research and reporting in our region and that it would be important that the EMRWB starts participating in high-level meetings surrounding polar bear management. The EMRWB Director presented background information on international polar bear management, the Polar Bear Advisory Committee, and the key meeting topics for the Polar Bear Range States Meeting. She explained that it would be important for the EMRWB Director to go as a member of the PBAC, but it would be important for an EMRWB Board Member to go as well.

The EMRWB board members suggested that Peter Hale attend. After some discussion, there was consensus that Peter Hale and the EMRWB Director would attend the Polar Bear Range States Meeting and will apply for both Observer and Party status.

The EMRWB Director provided some information on the Hudson Bay Consortium and the Hudson Bay Summit planned for October 29 – November 1, 2022. Fred Tomatuk



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

indicated that he would be willing to attend, and the other board members approved. Stephany Varty will attend as the EMRWB staff representative.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will submit a request for EMRWB Observer and Member status for the upcoming Polar Bear Range States Meeting of the Parties.

6.1 FINANCES & ADMINISTRATION – 2022/23 FY Midterm Activity Report

The EMRWB Director reviewed the EMRWB 2022-23 FY Midterm Activity Report. She highlighted the status of completion for each activity and noted any changes made to anticipated completion dates. The EMRWB Director then reviewed the EMRWB 2022-23 FY midterm budget and funding reallocations. The Director confirmed that the request submitted to CIRNAC for supplemental funding had been successful, and explained where the funding has been incorporated into the overall budget.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the EMRWB 2022/23 FY Midterm Activity Report and budget. Daniel Caron motioned, Robbie Tapiatic seconded, and the EMRWB passed **Resolution WB2022/23-18** (In Favour: 4 Absent: 2, Vacant: 1).

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will submit the 22/23 FY Midterm Activity Report to CIRNAC for approval.

6.3 FINANCES & ADMINISTRATION – Review of Draft EMRWB 10-Year Projection Plan

The consultants from Polynya Group shared a presentation that outlined the EMRWB 10-Year Projection Plan. They explained that the plan will form the guide for the renegotiation of the EMRLCA. The consultants reviewed their methodology including reviewing key documents, a literature search, meetings with EMRWB staff and board members, and financial analysis. The consultants stressed that wildlife management in



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

the EMR will become increasingly complex in the future and will require additional resources. Then, they reviewed financial projections based on past spending and compared this to the amount allotted in the 2012 EMRLCA Implementation Plan. The consultants also highlighted new sections under the funding request, for example, new staff positions for a research coordinator and an education and outreach coordinator.

The consultants, EMRWB Board Members, and EMRWB staff briefly discussed topics such as office rental costs, the appropriate timing to submit the plan, alternative types of analysis that could be included in the plan, and how similar requests from other IPGs for increased funding have been approached.

The consultants reviewed the next steps of the process. The EMRWB Director asked for an update on the status of the Plans being developed separately for the EMRPC, the EMRIRB, the CTA-EMR as well as the joint EMR Plan in order to determine if all of the Plans would be ready in time to submit as a package to the CNG and CIRNAC. The consultants reported that all of the Plans would likely be approved and ready for submission sometime after the Christmas holidays, making it feasible that all 5 Plans could be submitted together before the end of March.

Pierre-Yves Gagnon (CIRNAC) provided an update on the progress of the EMRLCA implementation committee, highlighting that the next meeting would be in January 2023. The EMRWB Director asked Pierre-Yves who the 10-Year Projection Plan should be submitted to (e.g. the implementation committee, the EMRLCA renegotiation working group, or the Grand Council of the Cree). Pierre-Yves will confirm this information at a later date.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will send additional information and edits to the Plan to the consultants once the Board further discusses the Plan at a later date (Special meeting to be held prior to Christmas).



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will follow up with Pierre-Yves to determine who the 10-year projection plan package is submitted to.

7.2 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT – Updates on SHB and QC-NMRWB-EMRWB Polar Bear Management

The EMRWB Director provided a brief update on the outcome of the Ontario-led Polar Bear Biopsy project. She explained that 22 bears were biopsied on Twin Islands on Sept. 1, 2022, by the OMNRF and that the genetic results are not expected until early 2023. She noted that the genetic results from this project will be shared with the McGill Polar Bear Ecology project to strengthen the research. During the survey the OMNRF biologist observed one dead bear, one mortally injured bear, and one bear wearing an old satellite tracking collar which had not dropped off. Plans to recover this collar will need to be made next year.

The EMRWB Director provided an update on the federal government request for a joint process between the EMRWB, NMRWB, and NMWB to determine a new TAH for the SHB polar bear sub-population. She explained that the process has been very slow-moving as there is no current process for this kind of joint decision-making process. Additionally, she explained that the WBs decided to complete a decision on the QC-EMR-NMR Polar Bear Management Plan before addressing the SHB TAH request. The EMRWB Director confirmed that a MOU has been drafted between the EMRWB, NMRWB, and NMWB, agreeing to develop a coordinated process to address the federal ministers request. She explained that the purpose of the MOU is to define a mechanism for coordination and communication between the boards regarding the SHB polar bear TAH decision process. The draft MOU was, however, still incomplete and not available for a detailed review at this meeting. The Director noted that the MOU will be ready for review and approval at the upcoming joint meeting between the EMRWB and the



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

NMRWB in December. There was some discussion on if the structure of the MOU could be used for other joint decisions with the three jurisdictions.

7.5 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT – Update on Killer Whale Listing Decision

The EMRWB Director recapped the progress on the EMRWB/NMRWB joint decision to the ECCC Minister on the proposed listing of the Killer Whale as “Special Concern” under the federal Species at Risk Act. She noted that the Boards have received a response from the Minister requesting that the Boards alter their original decision.

She explained that the EMRWB and NMRWB would discuss this file further at the upcoming joint EMRWB/NMRWB meeting in December.

7.4 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT – Update on New, Ongoing Public Hearings

The EMRWB Biologist presented a summary of EMRWB public hearings currently in progress for the lesser yellow-legs, short-eared owl, red-necked-phalarope, and the Quebec-EMR-NMR Polar Bear Management Plan. For each species, she provided a summary of the request from the government and the timeline for the public hearing. She noted that the next steps would be for the EMRWB to hold a joint meeting with the NMRWB in December to make decisions on each file once the public hearings close (with the exception of the lesser yellowlegs, which is not a joint file with the NMRWB).

7.1 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT – Update on DFO Arctic Region Transition

Martine Giangioppi (DFO) shared a presentation on the establishment of the DFO Arctic Region. She shared priorities for the region which were identified during engagement sessions from 2018 to 2020. Then, she reviewed the changes in responsibilities that have occurred since 2018 and the future key responsibilities for the Arctic Operations Sector. To conclude, she summarized the next steps for the Arctic Region and the timeline for transitions of Quebec programs to the Arctic Region.



EEYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

8.1 RESEARCH & PROJECTS - MFFP SHB Polar Bear Aerial Survey Results

Aurelie Bourbeau-Lemieux (MFFP) shared a presentation on the 2021 Southern Hudson Bay polar bear aerial survey. She reviewed the results from the 2011/12 and 2016 surveys and the methodology used during aerial surveys. She then reviewed the preliminary results from the 2021 survey, noting that the number of bears observed in the EMR was similar to the 2016 survey. There was some discussion among the EMRWB Board Members and the presenter about the methods of the survey, the behavior of bears during the survey, MFFP objectives to decrease human-bear conflict, and the timing of the public release of the 2021 aerial survey results and report (including a new population estimate). The presenter estimated that the final report on the 2021 SHB polar bear aerial survey would be available around December 2022.

8.4 RESEARCH & PROJECTS – Twin Islands Bird Survey, Raptor Survey & ARU Preliminary Results

Michel Robert (CWS) shared a presentation on three different bird survey projects in the EMR. First, he shared information on the 2021 ARU pilot project. He reviewed how the ARU's work, where and when they were deployed, and provided an overview of the results. Michel then presented a summary of a raptor survey that was conducted Hudson Bay arc with assistance from the NMRWB, explaining that they focused on the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and gyrfalcon. He shared maps of locations of nesting areas and indicated which were active. He also shared maps of other important species that they surveyed, including several species at risk. Michel then shared a summary of the Twin Islands breeding bird survey, including the logistics of the work, the number of species surveyed, and a summary of interesting species found. The EMRWB and presenter discussed the possibility of future surveys on the Twin Islands, the next



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

breeding bird atlas, the timing of the summary reports (mid-November), the role of drones in bird surveys, and bird predators on the islands.

8.6 RESEARCH & PROJECTS – EMRWB Project Updates

The EMRWB Biologists shared a presentation on EMRWB project updates including species at risk bird surveys, student outreach programs (Mission eDNA), MFFP's environmental DNA pilot project, fieldwork updates on Brant goose and Canada goose projects, review of the 2022 James Bay Expedition (William Kennedy), the National Geographic Pristine Seas Expedition, EMR Motus towers, and 2022 ARU bird surveys. Note was made of planning for two upcoming projects; bat species at risk ARU surveys and non-forest timber resource surveys (2023).

8.5 RESEARCH & PROJECTS – FISHERIES Project Update

Raphael Bouchard (University Laval) shared a presentation summarizing the 2022 sampling season and genetic analysis results for whitefish, cisco, and trout. He highlighted that the genetic analysis revealed that there may be two distinct species of cisco found in the Nottaway River (one of which would be a new species not previously recorded). Raphael presented some context to the behavior of the fish, characteristics of the fisheries, and information on the morphology of cisco. Raphael explained research questions that developed locally during his time in Waskaganish, and how he was able to address them.

Katherine Scott (Concordia University) shared a presentation on the traditional knowledge component of the FISHERIES project (GE3LS). She reviewed the goals of the traditional knowledge component of the FISHERIES project, including establishing community research plans and advisory boards, documenting the role of fish in cultural identity and food security, and creating collaborative definitions, mapping and interpretation of fish population structure. She provided background information on



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

community research training and the development of the 'Eeyou Istchee Traditional Ecological Knowledge Workshop/Interview Guide. Katherine summarized their progress to date, including 8 interviews in Wemindji, 24 interviews in Waskaganish, 12 interviews in Eastmain, and the collection of 120 short surveys collected throughout the region. Finally, she summarized the next steps including interviews in Chisasibi, completing translations and transcriptions for existing interviews, analysis of survey data, reports, publications, and returning the data to the communities.

8.2 RESEARCH & PROJECTS – Summary of Year 2 Sampling Efforts for Polar Bear Ecology in the EMR Project

Alexandra Langwieder (McGill) shared a presentation on year 2 fieldwork and early results from the Polar Bear Ecology in the EMR project. She shared the project objectives, method improvements and challenges for year two, 2022 sampling site locations, number of samples collected, and early detection results for the Waskaganish area. Additionally, she shared maps of other species observations in the Waskaganish area (wolves, geese, caribou), indicating that similar observations will be collected for the other communities. Then, she summarized ongoing analysis of photo data from 2021 and 2022, the genetic analysis of polar bear hair samples, and the preparation for Cree Knowledge interviews (2022-23).

9.1 CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION - Introductions of CTA-EMR Officers

The local CTA-EMR Officers joined the meeting virtually. Each officer introduced themselves and provided a brief update on the projects that they worked on over the summer, highlighting their favourite parts of each project.

11. NEXT BOARD MEETING

A date of either November 24 or 25 was suggested for the joint EMRWB-NMRWB but would need to be confirmed by both EMRWB and NMRWB members.



EYEU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

The next EMRWB regular meeting was decided for February 8-9, 2022.

The EMRWB Director noted that a half-day special EMRWB meeting would need to be held before the Christmas break and will be scheduled in the upcoming days.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will follow up with the EMRWB Board Members on their availability for the November 24-25 joint EMRWB-NMRWB meeting and will schedule a half day Special meeting for the EMRWB.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The EMRWB Chairperson requested a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made by Robbie Tapiatic and seconded by Peter Hale (In Favour: 4 Absent: 2, Vacant: 1). The meeting of November 1-2, 2022, was adjourned at 5:00 pm.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

ACRONYMS

AFSAR	Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk
ARU	Autonomous Recording Unit
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CNG	Cree Nation Government
COTA	Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association
CTA-EMR	Cree Trappers Association-Eeyou Marine Region
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Services
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
EMRWB	Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board
ECCE	Environment and Climate Change Canada
FISHES	Fostering Indigenous Small-scale Fisheries for Health, Economy, and food Security
GCC	Grand Council of the Crees
iA	Industrial Alliance Financial Group
MFFP	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec (Quebec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NMRWB	Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
NRC	Natural Resources Canada
NQL	Non-quota Limitation
OMNRF	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	Federal Species at Risk Act
SHB	Southern Hudson Bay



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Montreal, QC

November 1-2, 2022

TAA

Total Annual Allocation

TAH

Total Allowable Harvest