

Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)

Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2014

Conference Call

In attendance:

Management Authorities represented: WMAC (NWT) and GNWT, NWTMN observer status

Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Stephen Charlie	Environment & Natural Resources
Lynda Yonge	Environment & Natural Resources
Jack Bird	Environment & Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment & Natural Resources
Tim Heron	Northwest Territory Métis Nation (observer) (2:15pm)
Danny Beck	Northwest Territory Métis Nation (observer) (2:15pm)
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat
Michelle Henderson	Species at Risk Secretariat

1. Introductions and Welcome

Ad-hoc Chairperson: Lynda Yonge, Director, Wildlife Division, ENR

2. Agenda

Reorganize agenda to accommodate Northern Leopard Frog discussions with NWTMN at end of meeting.

D2014111401: Consensus to approve revised meeting agenda.

3. Minutes from last meeting

D2014111402: Consensus to approve Sept. 3, 2014 conference call meeting minutes.

4. Review of action items from last meeting

Secretariat reported that all action items from the September 3, 2014 meeting have been completed.

5. Consensus agreement on Dolphin and Union Caribou

Management Authorities: GNWT and WMAC (NWT)

Each management authority made its statement about whether it supports listing Dolphin and Union Caribou as a species of Special Concern in the NWT.

- WMAC (NWT) formally submits that it is agreeable to list as Special Concern.
- GNWT formally submits it is also agreeable to listing as Special Concern.

D2014111403: Dolphin and Union Caribou will be listed as a species of special concern.

The consensus agreement must be signed and submitted to the Minister of Environment

and Natural Resources by December 20, 2014. The Secretariat will be instructed to submit the signed consensus agreement to the Minister on December 20, 2014.

A2014111401: GNWT will double-check wording in the annexes and will let WMAC (NWT) and the Secretariat know if there are any other changes by November 21, 2014.

6. Process for preparing management plans and recovery strategies from s. 61(2) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.
The Dolphin and Union Caribou management plan could be drafted by GNWT or the CMA could choose to adopt, either in whole or in part, the national management plan.

In an effort to minimize duplication of efforts between species, the national plan for Dolphin and Union Caribou is coupled with meetings for Peary Caribou. The CMA recognizes that consistency between national and territorial strategies/plans is necessary to ensure plans aren't working against each other.

The CMA suggests allowing the current ongoing processes to continue, and assess whether or not to adopt parts of the strategy when it is near completion in late-2015.

Management authorities discussed whether immediate management actions should be taken.

Neither WMAC (NWT) nor the GNWT recommended immediate actions. WMAC (NWT) is presently engaging local organizations in discussions through their internal processes.

7. Hairy Braya Recovery Strategy
GNWT provided an update on the draft Hairy Braya recovery strategy.
Updated draft recovery strategy should be sent for review prior to the WMAC (NWT) January 2015 meeting. There are no outstanding actions at this time.

8. Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy
GNWT provided an update on the draft Peary Caribou recovery strategy.
Environment Canada is working on national strategy, with GNWT involvement. A draft has not yet been provided, as critical habitat and threat assessments are ongoing.

The deadline for a final national recovery strategy is January-March 2016, which conflicts with SARA (NWT) deadline of November 2015. GNWT can choose to use the draft national strategy as a starting point, but move ahead on its own timelines, or an extension can be requested of the Minister.

Management Authorities questioned the consultation requirements for GNWT and WMAC (NWT) if parts of the national recovery strategy are adopted. Management Authorities would like to avoid duplication of efforts.

A2014111402: ENR Species at Risk Biologist to research consultation requirements in other jurisdictions to clarify the expectations for consultation by GNWT when consultation has already occurred by the Crown.

9. Polar Bear Management Plan

GNWT provided an update on the draft Polar Bear management plan.

ENR staff are working on revising the draft plan, in hopes it will be ready for circulation prior to January 2015 WMAC (NWT) meeting.

The threat assessment is being completed by WMAC (NS) and WMAC (NWT). Inuvialuit Game Council wants to do separate threat calculations for each subpopulation.

There was some discussion about challenges meeting legislated deadlines for preparation of management plans and recovery strategies.

Drafting and review of documents takes a significant amount of time. Consulting and signing of the document also takes a significant amount of time. A suggestion was made that when listing discussions begin, the Management Authorities should immediately discuss a plan for drafting the plan/strategy to help minimize wasted time.

Management Authorities questioned when an agreement is deemed 'complete'.

Is an agreement deemed complete when an agreement has been reached or when a physical agreement has been signed?

Observers Present: Northwest Territory Métis Nation (2:15PM)

10. Consensus agreement on Northern Leopard Frog

Management Authorities: GNWT

Observer participants: NWTMN

Observer: WMAC (NWT)

GNWT made its statement of support for listing Northern Leopard Frog as a Threatened species in the NWT. NWTMN expressed desire to be involved in listing decisions and recovery planning.

NWTMN has no comments related to the listing of Northern Leopard Frog.

GNWT formally supports listing Northern Leopard Frog as Threatened in the NWT.

D2014111404: Northern Leopard Frog will be listed as a threatened species.

GNWT is considering options for drafting a recovery strategy. The national recovery strategy could be adopted or GNWT could draft its own strategy for the NWT using the national strategy as a guide. GNWT will begin a dialogue with interested parties to set foundation for drafting a plan.

A2014111403: ENR to organize a teleconference to begin discussing recovery actions.

ENR to ensure NWTMN is fully involved in all stages of the process.

11. Media release

Management Authorities reviewed a draft media release to accompany the listing decisions. Management Authorities also discussed the CMA Chairperson as the spokesperson.

In depth questions about the species listings can be referred to a more appropriate CMA member, if needed.

The Secretariat was instructed to put the media release out when the consensus agreements are signed and provided to the Minister.

12. Next steps and action items

The Secretariat reviewed all decisions and action items.