

HUDSON BAY OCEANS WORKING GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE

OCTOBER 2001
(Revised March 8, 2002)

Name:

Hudson Bay Oceans Working Group

Geographic Description:

Hudson Bay forms the western maritime coast of Quebec, the northern maritime coasts of Ontario and Manitoba, and the eastern maritime coast of the Nunavut mainland. It is bounded on the north by a line connecting Cape Fullerton, Nunavut to Ivujivik, Quebec, via southern Southampton, Coats, and Mansel Islands. This boundary was drawn on the basis of physical and biological oceanography. The bay consists of two oceanographically distinct areas, which lie north and south of a line that extends from Cape Henrietta Maria, Ontario to Inukjuak, Quebec.

The northern area, or Hudson Bay marine region, is characterized by the presence of Arctic marine water and biota, complete winter ice cover and summer clearing, moderate semidiurnal tides of Atlantic origin, a strong summer pycnocline, greater mixing and productivity inshore than offshore, and low biological productivity relative to other oceans at similar latitudes. Hudson Bay lacks the typically subarctic species that are found in Hudson Strait but does support some of the relict warm-water species found in James Bay.

Arctic water, originating in the upper 200-300 m of the Arctic Ocean, flows from Foxe Basin into northwestern Hudson Bay via Roes Welcome Sound and western Hudson Strait. This water is cold, -1.8 to about 2°C, and saline, >30 ppt. As it flows counterclockwise around the bay some enters James Bay while the rest is deflected northward to exit northeastward into Hudson Strait. A westward return flow across the top of Hudson Bay has been predicted but has not been proven, and there is a small--perhaps intermittent, intrusion of Atlantic water from Hudson Strait at the northeastern corner of Hudson Bay.

Background:

On October 3-4, 2001, Fisheries and Oceans Canada hosted a meeting in Rankin Inlet, NU to discuss the formation of a working group for integrated management planning for Hudson Bay, focussing on the Kivalliq/Manitoba region.

Participants included Nunavut Inuit Organizations (Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Development Corporation), Nunavut Land and Resource Management Boards (Nunavut Planning Commission), Inuit Wildlife Organizations (Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Keewatin Wildlife Federation), Nunavut Government (Community Government and Transportation, Department of Sustainable Development), hamlet municipalities (Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet), and

HUDSON BAY OCEANS WORKING GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE

federal government departments (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada).

Purpose:

To develop an integrated management plan for Hudson Bay and to promote stewardship by all interested parties. The focus is on the western coastal area, recognizing the linkages to the rest of the Bay.

Goals:

The goals of this Working Group are:

1. to establish reasonable and open processes to facilitate development of the integrated management plan;
2. to comprehensively manage human activities in Hudson Bay;
3. to foster sustainable development practices in Hudson Bay;
4. to establish objectives and guidelines which will protect, maintain or enhance the health of the Hudson Bay ecosystem;
5. to educate interested parties about Hudson Bay issues and the work of this Working Group; and
6. to promote stewardship of Hudson Bay by all interested parties.

Activities:

Activities to be undertaken by the Hudson Bay Oceans Working Group include:

- identifying issues;
- developing an open, transparent, and inclusive planning approach;
- setting goals and objectives;
- collecting and analyzing information;
- formulating management options and guidelines;
- establishing timeframes;
- compiling a legal framework of authorities;
- developing a communications plan;
- developing and implementing an integrated management plan; and
- reviewing, monitoring, and revising the integrated management plan

Principles:

The Working Group will be guided by the following principles:

- mutual respect and tolerance for different cultures and values, as well as respect for the environment;
- a holistic perspective which recognizes that ultimately Hudson Bay must be managed as an entity – both from a physical and human perspective;

HUDSON BAY OCEANS WORKING GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE

- long-term commitment of all parties;
- recognition of Inuit rights under NLCA;
- preference for consensus-based decision making; and
- integration of local and traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge.

Scope:

The long-term scope of the Working Group is Hudson Bay. The initial focus will be on the Kivalliq/Manitoba region, recognizing linkages to the Bay as a whole.

Operations:

The Working Group will operate in accordance with the following procedures:

- *the Working Group will be co-chaired by two members of its members for periods of one year.*
- *elder representatives* will be nominated and selected by the Working Group;
- meetings will take place at the call of the chair;
- meetings will be held in Rankin Inlet or Churchill whenever possible;
- decisions require that a quorum (3/4 of the Working Group) be present;
- there will be a minimum of two meetings per year;
- the Chair will be advised when representatives cannot attend meetings and are being replaced by their alternate;
- meetings will be open to the involvement of others as deemed appropriate;
- interpretation services will be provided and will be funded by DFO;
- DFO and the KIA Working Group Liaison will be responsible for sharing information with Working Group members and other interested parties;
- DFO will share Working Group information with other federal departments;
- local and other experts will be invited to participate in meetings as appropriate; and
- two DFO representatives, sharing one vote, will sit on the Working Group (Integrated Management Coordinator and Nunavut Settlement Area Oceans Programs Coordinator).

Responsibilities of Chair:

- to call meetings
- to chair meetings
- to act as the media contact

Responsibilities of Members:

- report to their organizations
- bring information from their organizations to the Working Group

HUDSON BAY OCEANS WORKING GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE
