

June 30th 2016

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board decisions and recommendations concerning Northern and Striped shrimp total allowable catches, quotas, and total allowable takes in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones

1. NWMB AND NMRWB DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) recently held a joint written public hearing to consider harvest limits for Northern and Striped shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones, in response to a *Proposal for Decision* (Proposal) submitted to both Boards by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

During their respective decision-making meetings, the Boards reviewed all relevant written arguments and evidence provided through the written public hearing¹. Having made complementary decisions and recommendations, the NWMB and NMRWB are providing this joint letter. The Boards' decisions and recommendations are set out immediately below.

¹ All of the relevant documents and written submissions received and considered by the Boards are publicly available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com).

1.1 Quota and Total Allowable Take Decisions

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB approve the following shrimp quota levels in the Nunavut West and Nunavut East Management Units for the 2016/2017 fishing season:

- 1. For *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp):*
 - a. A quota of 3,069 tonnes in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area; and*
 - b. A quota of 301 tonnes in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area; and*
- 2. For *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp):*
 - a. A quota of 1,040 tonnes in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area; and*
 - b. A by-catch quota of 210 tonnes in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area.*

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.3 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the NMRWB approve the following Total Allowable Take for shrimp in the Nunavik West and Nunavik East Management Units for the 2016/2017 fishing season:

- 1. For *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Take of 3,069 tonnes in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region; and*
 - b. A Total Allowable Take of 129 tonnes in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region; and*
- 2. For *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Take of 1,040 tonnes in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region; and*
 - b. A by-catch Total Allowable Take of 53 tonnes in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region.*

1.2 Total Allowable Catch Recommendations

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 15.3.4 and 15.3.7 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and Section 5.4.4 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB and the NMRWB recommend the following Total Allowable Catch levels in the Western Assessment Zone and Eastern Assessment Zone for the 2016/2017 fishing season:

- 1. For *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Catch of 6,138 tonnes in the Western Assessment Zone; and*
 - b. A Total Allowable Catch of 840 tonnes in the Eastern Assessment Zone; and*
- 2. For *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Catch of 2,080 tonnes in the Western Assessment Zone; and*
 - b. A total Allowable Catch of 9,488 tonnes in the Eastern Assessment Zone.*

2. HEARING SUBMISSIONS

The Boards received one submission, from Baffin Fisheries Coalition. The submission supported maintaining the Total Allowable Catch for Northern and Striped shrimp in the Western Assessment Zone, as well as for Striped shrimp in the Eastern Assessment Zone, at 2015/2016 levels. Baffin Fisheries Coalition's submission also recommended increasing the Total Allowable Catch for Northern shrimp in the Eastern Assessment Zone by 15%, resulting in a Total Allowable Catch of 9,488 tonnes, and establishing Northern shrimp as a by-catch fishery in the Western Assessment Zone, rather than a directed fishery.

3. NWMB AND NMRWB CONSIDERATIONS

In reaching the above decisions and recommendations, the Boards carefully considered the submission from Baffin Fisheries Coalition, as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Proposal and input from the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee.

The Boards feel that maintaining the Total Allowable Catch levels for both species in the Western Assessment Zone, and for Striped shrimp in the Eastern Assessment Zone, addresses recommendations provided by hearing parties through the Boards' written hearing process, as well as recommendations provided by your Department in its Proposal. In addition, the Boards believe that a moderate increase to the Total Allowable Catch for Northern shrimp in the Eastern Assessment Zone is consistent with the Precautionary Approach framework and allows additional by-catch quota for fishers in this Management Unit. The Boards chose not to consider establishing Northern shrimp as a by-catch fishery in the Western Assessment Zone at this time, as this recommendation by Baffin Fisheries Coalition has not been considered through a public hearing process by other co-management partners and industry stakeholders.

The decisions and recommendations made by the Board ensure sustainable harvest of Northern and Striped shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones, through the Precautionary Approach framework and by making use of the most recent scientific information on the stocks, while incorporating input from industry stakeholders.

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE BOARDS' DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Boards' decisions and recommendations:

1. Are justified pursuant to Section 5.3.3(a) of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and Section 5.5.3(a) of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* – the restrictions limit Inuit harvesting of shrimp in the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik

Marine Region only to the extent necessary to effect the valid conservation purposes of:

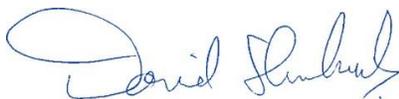
- a. Maintaining vital healthy shrimp populations capable of sustaining harvesting needs as defined in *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Article 5 (Section 5.1.5(c)) and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Article 5 (Section 5.1.5(b)); and
 - b. Maintaining the natural balance of ecological systems within the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region (*Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Section 5.1.5(a));
2. Satisfy the requirements of *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Section 5.3.4 and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Section 5.5.4.1 for (i) the NWMB and the Minister to take account of shrimp harvested outside the Nunavut Settlement Area, and (ii) the NMRWB and the Minister to take account of shrimp harvested outside the Nunavik Marine Region, by persons resident elsewhere;
 3. Ensure that shrimp harvesting inside both the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region remains within sustainable catch levels, does not raise conservation concerns, and is consistent with the precautionary fisheries management approach for these fisheries.

5. CONCLUSION

Mister Minister, the Boards hereby forward their decisions and recommendations to you, for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. Please be assured that the NWMB and the NMRWB will continue to work collaboratively with the Department and other co-management partners in ensuring that the management of shrimp in the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region fully aligns with the terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Article 5 and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Article 5.

If you or your officials have any questions with respect to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB and the NMRWB at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



Josepi Padlayat
Chairperson of the
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

c.c. Sylvie Lapointe, A/Director General, Fisheries Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; and
Leigh Edgar, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Officer, Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.