

**SUBMISSION TO THE  
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
FOR**

**Information:**

**Decision: X**

**Issue:** Modification of Non-Quota Limitation for approved range of longline hook sizes in the Greenland Halibut (turbot) fishery in the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound

**Background:** In August 2007, the NWMB approved the Greenland Halibut Fishery Management Plan and associated Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) for NAFO Subarea 0 within the Nunavut Settlement Area. In August 2009, the NWMB modified the NQLs for the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound, so that fishing gear was restricted to longline gear only. This was to minimize potential negative impacts of fishing gear to marine mammals using the Cumberland Sound.

There are two separate management areas in Cumberland Sound for Greenland Halibut: the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound and the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA).

In March 2010, Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited (PFL) made a request to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for approval to use a range of circle hook sizes in the winter and summer longline fisheries in Cumberland Sound. Directed Greenland Halibut fishing within Cumberland Sound had been yielding significant bycatch of Greenland Shark, which negatively impacts fishing efficiency and potentially the conservation status of the bycatch species. Consultation with both the fishing industry and DFO Science suggested that a change in hook size may limit shark bycatch.

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) Regular Meeting #64, DFO presented a briefing note for decision on use of a range of longline hook sizes in the Greenland Halibut fisheries in Cumberland Sound. The NWMB decided to modify the NQL for hook size to accommodate requested changes in the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA), for both ice and open water Greenland Halibut fisheries. Thus, the current licence condition for hook sizes in the CSTMA permits the use of #11 through #16 hooks.

The NWMB's decision as it was worded was for the CSTMA only, and did not encompass the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound. Thus, the current NQL for the NAFO Division 0B portion of Cumberland Sound has not been modified, and is restricted to a gape size of 15.4 mm (#14 circle hook).

In February of 2011, DFO met with local fish harvesters in Pangnirtung. The Chair of the PFL board, the Chair of the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, and the Government of Nunavut were also present at the meeting. Hook sizes were discussed and

all parties were in support of having an approved range of hook sizes for the NAFO 0B portion of Cumberland Sound, of #11 through #16 circle hooks.

To facilitate continued sustainable development of the longline turbot fishery in Cumberland Sound, DFO requests that the NWMB considers a modification of the hook size NQL for the NAFO 0B portion of Cumberland Sound so that the approved range of hook sizes would include #11 through #16 circle hooks.

**Consultations:** Charlotte Sharkey, DFO – Iqaluit; Beth Hiltz, DFO – Winnipeg; Chris Lewis, DFO – Iqaluit

**Recommendation:** That the NWMB modify the Non-Quota Limitation with respect to the approved range of longline hook sizes permitted in the NAFO 0B portion of Cumberland Sound, so that the approved range of hook sizes would include #11 through #16 circle hooks.

| **Prepared by:** Rory MacDonald, DFO – Iqaluit

**Date:** February 21, 2011