

# PROPOSAL REVIEW

**Project Number:** 3-15-01

**Applicant:** Kevin Hedges

**Title:** Movement and habitat use of Greenland Halibut and other marine fishes in Cumberland Sound

**Funding Requested:** Single Year Funding - \$20,000 for 2015-2016

**Rank:** 11 / 17

**Total Score** 73.10 / 100  
(no deductions)

**Scoring Breakdown:** NWMB Priority: 11.50 / 17.50  
Regional Priority: 6.50 / 7.50  
Quality: 25.50 / 35.00  
Consultation: 13.50 / 15.00  
Funding: 16.10 / 25.00

## Project Summary:

This project will use a combination of satellite, electronic, and floy tags to determine the movements of Greenland halibut, Greenland sharks, and arctic skates in Cumberland Sound. The objectives of this project are to provide science advice regarding: 1) connectivity between the Greenland halibut stocks in Cumberland Sound and Baffin Bay/Davis Strait; 2) the location of the boundary line of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area; 3) seasonal movement and habitat use patterns of Greenland halibut, Greenland sharks and arctic skates to assess bycatch impacts and mitigation measures; and 4) mark-recapture data to support future stock assessments of Greenland halibut in Cumberland Sound.

## Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$ 20,000	15%
Other Contributions	<u>\$113,625</u>	<u>85%</u>
Total	\$133,625	100%

## NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: #3 – Contributes to the establishment, modification or removal of non-quota limitations (S. 5.6.48 to S. 5.6.51).

Regional Priority: #2 Baffin – Increases involvement of local Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in population surveys.

Project design: Fishes captured during an annual Fisheries and Oceans Canada survey in Cumberland Sound from July to September 2015 will be tagged with a floy tag, electronic tag, satellite tag, or a combination of tags. Moorings with monitors that detect the presence of electronic tags will be deployed throughout Cumberland Sound to determine seasonal patterns in fish habitat use. Twelve monitors that were deployed in summer 2014 will be retrieved, refitted, and redeployed, and eighteen new moorings will be added to the monitoring network. Mooring locations will be determined jointly by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization.

Application of results: The data collected through this project will support the continued development of the Cumberland Sound Greenland halibut fishery. Science advice regarding the location of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line will directly address the request submitted by the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization to have the boundary line moved to the mouth of Cumberland Sound.

Community involvement / consultation: The Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization has provided a letter of support for this project. In-community consultations are planned to occur before and upon completion of the research and the Hunters and Trappers Organization will receive a report of the project's results. The project will employ and train one fisher from Pangnirtung for a total of 30 employment days.

As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the researcher is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and provide evidence that the researcher has done a "conscientious" job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that "conscientious" consultation has been conducted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Recommendations:** If this project is funded, the following conditions should apply:

1. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

**Prepared By:** Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

**Consultations:** Karla Letto, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

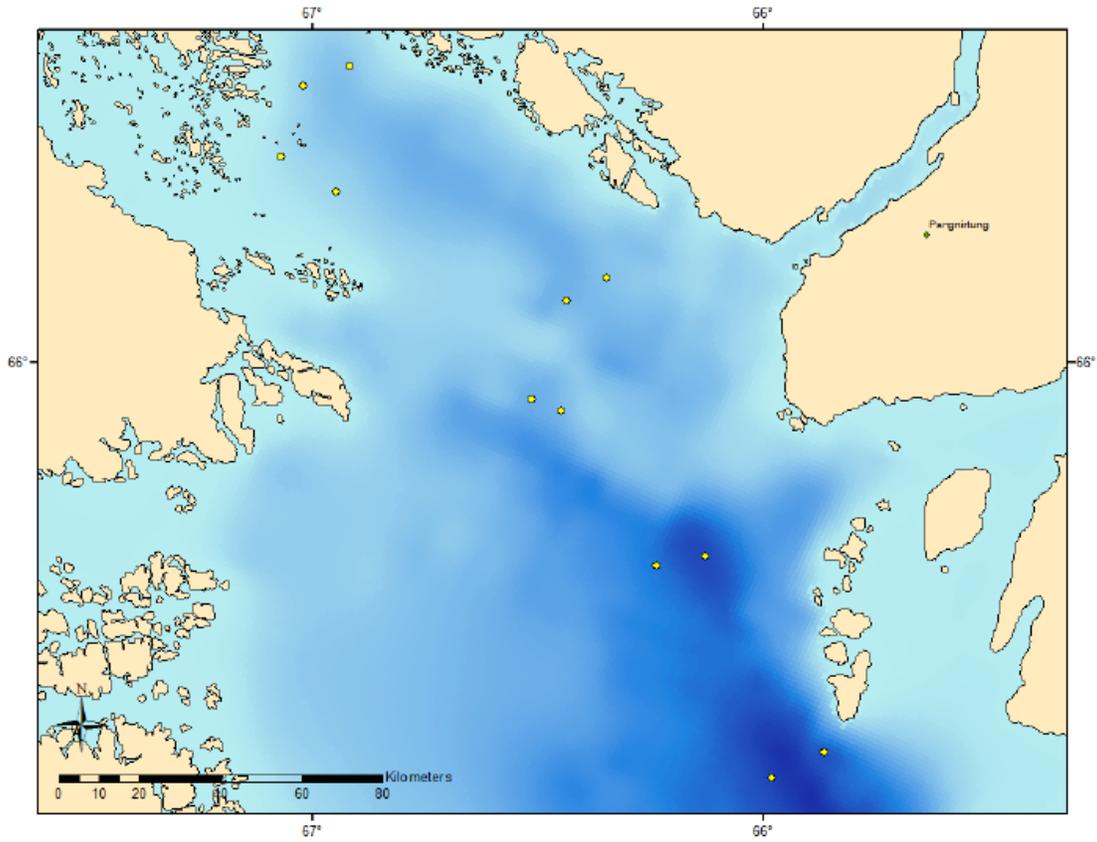


Figure 1. Fish tracking moorings (yellow circles) deployed in Cumberland Sound in August 2014.