













April 8, 2021

Honourable Bernadette Jordan  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Jordan:

**Re: Approval of the 2021 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Cambridge Bay Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) Commercial Fishery, Nunavut**

**NWMB Decision**

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM001-2021) on March 10, 2021, your department presented a proposal for the Board to approve the *2021 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Cambridge Bay Arctic Char (Salvelinus alpinus) Commercial Fishery, Nunavut*. At the Board's In-Camera Meeting (IC001-2021), on March 11, 2021, the Board considered your department's proposal, along with the consultation summary, a document outlining changes made to update the IFMP, and input from co-management partners at the Regular Meeting and made the following decision:

*RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approves the 2021 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Cambridge Bay Arctic Char, Salvelinus alpinus, Commercial Fishery, Nunavut.*

*RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.48 and 5.6.51 of the Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the use of weirs for commercial char fishing in the Jayko (Jayco) River as outlined in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.*

*RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.48 and 5.6.51 of the Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the use of weirs spanning the width of the Halokvik (Halovik) River for commercial char fishing as*



*outlined in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.*

## Reasons for NWMB Decision

### Considerations for approving the IFMP

In reaching its decision to approve the IFMP, the Board considered that:

- The IFMP is not legally binding and does not include any proposed changes to the management regime that could affect Inuit rights;
- The IFMP was submitted jointly by the Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization Fisheries and Oceans Canada, who have met regularly with co-management partners to update the IFMP since 2017;
- Integrated fisheries management plans provide a planning framework for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, which has been useful for co-management partners since the 2014 version of the IFMP was approved.

### Considerations for approving the use of weirs in the Jayko and Halokvik Rivers

The use of weirs in the commercial fishery is inconsistent with the *Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations*, which only allow gill nets to be used in Schedule V waters for commercial fishing. Additionally, the current practice of using a weir that spans the entire width of the Halokvik River is not in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*, which states that any fishing method can obstruct no more than two-thirds of the width of any river or stream. The Board considered that weirs are a traditional Inuit method of fishing. As stated in the IFMP, the use of weirs in the Cambridge Bay commercial fishery has reduced bycatch and allows spawning char to be released to continue their migration. Given these benefits, the fact that the stocks are carefully monitored and that weirs are a traditional Inuit method, the Board determined that the use of weirs in the Jayko and Halokvik Rivers does not constitute a conservation concern

## Conclusion

The NWMB appreciates the collaborative effort that Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization have demonstrated in completing the IFMP and sustainably managing the Cambridge Bay Arctic char fishery.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the



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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin  
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

NWMB.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc: Tyler Jivan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



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June 6, 2021

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
P.O. Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

**Re: Approval of the 2021 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Cambridge Bay Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) Commercial Fishery, Nunavut**

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

I want to acknowledge and thank you for the letter received on April 8, 2021 conveying the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decisions regarding the Cambridge Bay Arctic char commercial fishery. Pursuant to Section 5.3.18 of the *Nunavut Agreement* (Agreement), I provide the following written reply.

I accept the Board's decision, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Agreement, to approve the 2021 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Cambridge Bay Arctic char, *Salvelinus alpinus*, commercial fishery. As noted in the Board's letter, Integrated Fisheries Management Plans provide a planning framework for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, which has been useful for co-management partners since the 2014 version of the Plan was approved.

I further accept the Board's decisions to approve the use of weirs for commercial char fishing in the Jayko (Jayco) and Halokvik (Halovik) rivers and the use of weirs spanning the width of the Halokvik (Halovik) River for commercial char fishing, as outlined in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan. I appreciate the Board's considerations in making these non-quota limitation decisions in accordance with Sections 5.6.48 and 5.6.51 of the Agreement.

By way of my acceptance of the Board's decisions with respect to the usage of weir, paragraph 29(1)(b) of the *Fisheries Act* and paragraph 18(1)(a) of the *Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations* are thereby lawfully over-ridden to allow for the use of weirs in the commercial char fishery in the Jayko and Halokvik rivers.

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Department officials will proceed with implementing the non-quota limitation decisions through the issuance of commercial licences and through continued collaboration with co-management partners on the management of the Cambridge Bay commercial Arctic char fishery in Nunavut.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'B' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard