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Pêches et Océans Canada

630 Qamutiq Building Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

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June 25th 2013

Honourable Keith Ashfield Minister of Fisheries and Oceans 15th Floor, Centennial Towers 200 Kent Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Ashfield:

Re: NWMB approval of the Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery Fishing Plan Phase I

1. The NWMB Resolutions

At its June 2013 meeting in Rankin Inlet, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) made the following resolution:

"RESOLVED that the NWMB, pursuant to Section 5.2.34 (d)(i) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, approve the Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery Fishing Plan Phase I submitted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and revised by Mr. Charlie Inuarak to include site #13 (Tuapak) in the plan."

2. Reasons for the Plan Approval

With respect to the *Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery Fishing Plan Phase I* (Plan) approval, the NWMB is generally satisfied with the Plan. Although it is more complex than previous fishing plans that have been submitted to the Board, with an increased number of sites and multiple implementation phases, the Plan follows a similar precedent set in a number of earlier char fishing plans approved by the NWMB. The Plan also reflects a collaborative, voluntary and conservation-based approach to sustainable commercial char fishing - in this case, agreed to by the Mr. Inuarak and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Mitimatalik HTO has also provided written support for the Plan.

There was one difference between the fishing plan submitted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and a request that was submitted by Mr. Inuarak to the NWMB to include Site #13 (Tuapak), and the Board decided to approve the Plan with this additional request

included. At the June 2013 NWMB Regular Meeting, DFO officials indicated that they had not yet had time to investigate Mr. Inuarak request regarding the inclusion of Site #13. However, they also indicated that Site #13 is one of the furthest from the Tugaat River area, so it would be the site of the least concern in the area from a conservation perspective.

To implement the aforementioned fishing plan, it is also advisable that:

- (i) Mr. Inuarak, with assistance from DFO as necessary, provide a contingency plan to address quality, health and safety concerns with regards to processing, storing and transporting the Arctic char from Pond Inlet to Pangnirtung, Nunavut; and
- (ii) Mr. Inuarak, with assistance from DFO as necessary, provides another submission to the NWMB when additional consultation is completed with the Mittimatilik Hunters and Trappers Organization and community elders and Phase II of the plan is developed. The submission should also provide a progress update on Phase I of the Plan.
 - 3. Significant Progress by the Canada Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Mammal Cooperation Committee on Consensus on Basic Needs Levels

As per the Board's June 7th 2012 letter to you, the Board indicated that approval of emerging fishing plans will be dependent upon achievement of significant progress by the NWMB and other NLCA parties in determining which harvests to include in a basic needs level. In January 2013 members of the Canada – Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Mammal Cooperation Committee (the Committee) met with the NWMB to provide a progress update. At that time, it was agreed that the Committee should be able to demonstrate significant progress on the issue by no later than July 2013. The NWMB is still awaiting evidence of whether this significant progress on resolving the basic needs level issue has been achieved, and the Board looks forward to receiving correspondence on the matter soon.

If you or your officials require further information, or have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

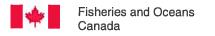
Yours sincerely,

Manasie Audlakiak

Acting Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Enclosures (3)



630 Qamutiq Building Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence 2013-001-01541

July 23, 2013

Mr. Manasie Audlakiak Acting Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Box 1379 Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Audlakiak:

This is in response to your correspondence of June 25, 2013, addressed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB's) approval of the Pond Inlet Arctic Char Fishery Fishing Plan. I have been asked to respond on the Minister's behalf.

I am pleased to inform you that the NWMB's decision to "approve the Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery Fishing Plan Phase I submitted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and revised by Mr. Charlie Inuarak to include site #13 (Tuapak) in the plan" is accepted.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is supportive of the NWMB's recommendation that it would be beneficial to have a contingency plan in place to address "quality, health and safety concerns with regards to processing, storing and transporting Arctic char from Pond Inlet to Pangnirtung." The fish plant is required to ensure that adequate fish handling and transportation procedures from the harvest site to the fish plant are in place, as per the *Fish Inspection Regulations*. As such, any plan would be developed by the fish plant and the licence holder.

Should the fish plant require any further information or advice specific to this activity, it should contact the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency, which is the federal department responsible for food safety. Regarding boating safety concerns, Transport Canada and the Office of Boating Safety can be contacted for information and advice by telephone at 1-888-463-0521, or by email at < obs-pnr-bsn@tc.gc.ca >.



DFO appreciates the continued collaboration with the NWMB and its technical staff on Arctic char co-management issues.

Yours sincerely,

Larry Dow

Director of Northern Operations

Central and Arctic Region Fisheries and Oceans Canada