



June 30, 2014

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

Dear Minister Shea:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board decisions and recommendations concerning *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui* shrimp quotas 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 sustainable quotas for Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*Pandalus montagui*) shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones. Recognizing the need for the recommendations and decisions made by both Boards to result in an overall sustainable harvest, the NWMB and NMRWB made a concerted effort to coordinate their respective decision-making processes.

During their respective decision meetings, the Boards reviewed all of the relevant written arguments and evidence provided through the written public hearing¹. Having

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).

made complementary decisions and recommendations, the NWMB and NMRWB are providing this joint letter. The Boards' decisions and recommendations are set out immediately below.

1.1 Quota and TAT 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:

1. For *Pandalus montagui* shrimp:
 - (a) A quota of 2,930 tonnes (t) in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA); and
 - (b) A quota of 301t in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the NSA; and
2. For *Pandalus borealis* shrimp:
 - (a) A quota of 1,040t in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the NSA; and
 - (b) A by-catch quota of 183t in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the NSA.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.10 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, the NMRWB approve the following shrimp levels of total allowable take (TAT) in the Nunavik West and Nunavik East Management Units:

1. For *Pandalus montagui* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAT of 2,930 tonnes (t) in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR); and
 - (b) A TAT of 129t in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the NMR; and
2. For *Pandalus borealis* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAT of 1,040t in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the NMR; and
 - (b) A by-catch TAT of 46t in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the NMR.

1.2 TAC recommendations

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 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 (TAC) levels in the Western Assessment Zone and Eastern Assessment Zone:

1. For *Pandalus montagui* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAC of 5,860 tonnes (t), based on an exploitation rate of 10% and the 2011 and 2013 survey data, in the Western Assessment Zone; and
 - (b) A TAC of 840t, based on an exploitation rate of 15% and the 2011 and 2013 survey data, in the Eastern Assessment Zone; and
2. For *Pandalus borealis* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAC of 2,080t, based on an exploitation rate of 10% and the 2011 and 2013 survey data, in the Western Assessment Zone; and
 - (b) A TAC of 8,250t, based on an exploitation rate of 15% and the 2012 and 2013 survey data, in the Eastern Assessment Zone.

3. HEARING SUBMISSIONS

The Boards did not receive any submissions to the joint written public hearing; however, prior to the decision to hold a hearing, the NWMB received two letters from Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment providing input. These letters were included in the relevant documents to the written hearing. Both Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment suggested modifying the TAC for *Pandalus montagui* and *Pandalus borealis* as follows:

Montagui:

Western Assessment Zone: 5,860t

Eastern Assessment Zone: 840t

Borealis:

Western Assessment Zone: 2,080t

Eastern Assessment Zone: 9,000t

4. NWMB AND NMRWB CONSIDERATIONS

In reaching the above decisions and recommendations, the Boards carefully considered the submissions from Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, as well as the recommendations and most recent science information provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff.

The Boards agree that, for conservation reasons, a reduction in the harvest of *Pandalus montagui* in the Eastern Assessment Zone is necessary. The Boards also feel that their decisions and recommendations should be consistent with previously agreed upon exploitation rates while minimizing the impact on individual allocation holders.

The decisions and recommendations made by the Boards address the conservation issue regarding *Pandalus montagui* in the Eastern Assessment Zone raised by DFO through a reduction in the harvest levels for that species. Additionally, the Boards' decisions and recommendations are consistent with the suggestions made by Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment through their individual submissions, with the exception of *Pandalus borealis* in the Eastern Assessment Zone, where the two Boards felt that exploitation rates should be consistent with past agreements and within assessment zones. Furthermore, the decisions and recommendations set out above make use of the most current scientific information available and offset any reduction in quota with increases in other management units.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE BOARDS' DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Boards' decisions and recommendations:

1. Are justified pursuant to NLCA S.5.3.3(a) and NILCA S.5.2.10 – the restrictions limit Inuit harvesting of shrimp in the NSA and the NMR 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 NLCA Article 5 and NILCA Article 5 (NLCA S.5.1.5(c), NILCA S.5.1.5(b)); and
 - (b) Maintaining the natural balance of ecological systems within the NSA and the NMR (NLCA and NILCA S. 5.1.5(a));
2. Satisfy the requirements of NLCA S.5.3.4 and NILCA S.5.5.4.1 for (i) the NWMB and the Minister to take account of shrimp harvested outside the NSA, and (ii) the NMRWB and the Minister to take account of shrimp harvested outside the NMR, by persons resident elsewhere;

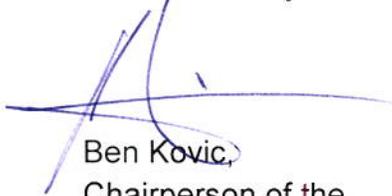
3. Ensure that shrimp harvesting inside both the NSA and the NMR remains within sustainable catch levels, does not raise conservation concerns, and is consistent with the precautionary fisheries management approach for these fisheries;

6. CONCLUSION

Madame Minister, the Boards hereby forward their decisions and recommendations to you, for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the NLCA and NILCA. 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 NSA and NMR fully aligns with the terms of NLCA Article 5 and NILCA 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.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Kovic,
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



Josepi Padlayat
Chairperson of the
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

c.c. Sandra Courchesne, Senior Fisheries Resource Management Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



AUG 27 2014

Mr. Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Mr. Josepi Padlayat
Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Dear Mr. Kovic and Mr. Padlayat:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 30, 2014, regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) decisions and recommendations on *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui* shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones.

I note that the joint decision letter contains both final and initial Board decisions pursuant to the land claims agreements. I also note that the NWMB has provided separately on May 9, 2013 a related decision on the management regime in the Western Assessment Zone and on May 7, 2013 its recommendations on the sub-allocation of Nunavut's share of these shrimp resources. I have addressed each of the decisions and recommendations separately by assessment zone herein for simplicity.

Western Assessment Zone

I agree with the NWMB and NMRWB recommendations to establish a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 5860t for the *P. montagui* species and 2,080t for the *P. borealis* in the Western Assessment Zone at an exploitation Rate of 10% for each species.

I accept the Total Allowable Take levels in the Nunavik Marine Region for *P. montagui* (2,930t) and *P. borealis* (1,040t) shrimp for the Nunavik West management unit.

I also accept the modified shrimp quotas for the Nunavut Settlement Area for *P. montagui* (2,930t) and *P. borealis* (1,040t) shrimp for the Nunavut West management unit.

Eastern Assessment Zone

I agree with the Boards' recommendation to establish a TAC of 840t for *P. montagui* and 8,250t for *P. borealis* in the Eastern Assessment Zone which will reduce the TAC for *P. montagui* by 1,410t and 750t for *P. borealis* from last year's levels.

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In the allocation of the TAC reductions for 2014/15 season, I have given careful consideration to the harvesting activities both within and outside the Nunavut Settlement Area and Nunavik Marine Region as well as obligations under relevant land claims provisions and have decided to maintain the current distribution of the TAC levels for each shrimp species between the management units in the Eastern Assessment Zone (i.e. Nunavut/Nunavik East, Davis Strait West and Davis Strait East) and the current shares percentages. As a result, the TAC reduction will be applied proportionately to respective quotas in each management unit.

I therefore; accept the Total Allowable Take levels in the Nunavik Marine Region for *P. montagui* (129t) and *P. borealis* (46t) shrimp for Nunavik East management unit; and accept the modified shrimp quotas for the Nunavut Settlement Area for *P. montagui* (301t) and *P. borealis* (183t) shrimp for the Nunavut West management unit. The appended table illustrates the quotas for each management unit based on my decisions herein.

I appreciate the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) collaboration and cooperation in the sustainable management of the shared shrimp resource in the north. I understand that the shrimp fishery is underway in the north and interim quotas needed to be made available to facilitate fishing in the area. I encourage the Boards to continue to work with my officials on processes to inform co-management decision making to ensure timely receipt of the Boards' decisions and recommendation for my consideration to avoid delays in fishing operations.

I look forward to continued collaboration with the Boards in the management of this important resource.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Shea".

Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.

Appendix 1

Eastern Assessment Zone	<u>Management Unit</u>	<u>TAC</u>	<u>TAC</u>
		<u>P. montagui 840t</u>	<u>P. borealis 8,250t</u>
	<u>Davis Strait West -Offshore</u>	410t	4813
	<u>Davis Strait East -Offshore</u>		1604
	<u>Davis Strait East - Nunavut</u>	-	1604
	Nunavut East	301t	183
	Nunavik East	129t	46
Western Assessment Zone	<u>Management Unit</u>	<u>TAC</u>	<u>TAC</u>
		<u>P. montagui 5,860t</u>	<u>P. borealis 2,080t</u>
	Nunavut West	2,930t	1,040t
	Nunavik West	2,930t	1,040t