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July 03, 2019

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

Re: Joint Written Public Hearing to Consider the 2019/20 Total Allowable Catch Levels for Northern and Striped Shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones and the Sharing Arrangements for Shrimp between Management Units in the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region

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 harvest limits for Northern and Striped shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones, in response to a *Proposal for Decision* (Proposal) submitted to both Boards by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

During the In-Camera sessions of their respective decision-making meetings on June 20, 2019 (NWMB IC002-2019) and June 14, 2019 (NMRWB meeting #43), the Boards reviewed all relevant written arguments and evidence provided through the written public hearing¹. Having 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 All 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).

1.1 Total Allowable Catch Decisions and Recommendations

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.4 of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB approve the following shrimp quota levels in the Nunavut West and Nunavut East Management Units for the 2019/2020 fishing season:

- 1. For *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp):*
 - a. A quota of 5,987.5 tonnes in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area; and*
 - b. A quota of 301 tonnes in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area.*
- 2. For *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp):*
 - a. A quota of 1,581.5 tonnes in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area; and*
 - b. A by-catch quota of 210 tonnes in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area.*

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.3 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the NMRWB approve the following Total Allowable Take for shrimp in the Nunavik West and Nunavik East Management Units for the 2019/2020 fishing season:

- 1. For *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Take of 5,987.5 tonnes in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region; and*
 - b. A Total Allowable Take of 129 tonnes in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region.*
- 2. For *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Take of 1,581.5 tonnes in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region; and*
 - b. A by-catch Total Allowable Take of 53 tonnes in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region.*

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 15.3.4 and 15.3.7 of the Nunavut Agreement and Section 5.4.4 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB and the NMRWB recommend the following Total Allowable Catch levels in the Western Assessment Zone and Eastern Assessment Zone for the 2019/2020 fishing season:

- 1. For *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Catch of 11,975 tonnes in the Western Assessment Zone; and*
 - b. A Total Allowable Catch of 840 tonnes in the Eastern Assessment Zone.*
- 2. For *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Catch of 3,163 tonnes in the Western Assessment Zone; and*
 - b. A Total Allowable Catch of 8,610 tonnes in the Eastern Assessment Zone.*

1.2 Sharing and Distribution of TAC

RESOLVED that, the NWMB and the NMRWB approve and recommend that the Total Allowable Catch be allocation equally between Nunavut and Nunavik in the Western Assessment Zone.

*RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.33 (d), 5.9.5, 15.3.4 and 15.3.5 of the Nunavut Agreement and Section 5.2.3 (a), 5.4.4, 5.4.5 and 5.8.5 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB and the NMRWB approve and recommend the distribution of the *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp) Total Allowable Catch—for the 2019/2020 fishing season—in the Eastern Assessment Zone as follows:*

- 1. For *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp):*
 - a. A Total Allowable Catch of 210 tonnes in Nunavut-East Management Unit;*
 - b. A Total Allowable Catch of 53 tonnes in Nunavik- East Management Unit;*
 - c. The remaining 724 tonnes of the increase be returned to the offshore sector in Davis Strait – West for a total of 4,737 tonnes*

1.3 Interim Allocations

RESOLVED that the NWMB and NMRWB approve and recommend the release of interim quotas of Northern and Striped Shrimp in the Nunavut Settlement Area and Nunavik Marine Region of up to 50% of the previous year's level, consistent with science advice for the 2019/2020 and future fishing seasons, and that quotas will continue to be agreed upon by the NWMB, NMRWB, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada in accordance with the Nunavut Agreement and Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement decision making process.

2. HEARING SUBMISSIONS

The Boards received two submissions, one from the Nunavut and Nunavik shrimp fishing industry (jointly submitted by Baffin Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and Makivik Corporation) and one separately provided by Baffin Fisheries. The submission from the Nunavut and Nunavik shrimp fishing industry support setting an exploitation rate of 15% for both *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp) and *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp) in the Western Assessment Zone, resulting in a total allowable catch of 3,613 t and 11,975 t respectively. For the Eastern Assessment Zone, the Nunavut and Nunavik shrimp fishing industry support exploitation rates of 18.4% (8,610 t) and 4% (840 t) for *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp) and *Pandalus montagui* (Striped shrimp) respectively.

3. NWMB AND NMRWB CONSIDERATIONS

In reaching the above decisions and recommendations, the Boards carefully considered the submission the Nunavut and Nunavik shrimp fishing industry, as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Proposal.

The decisions and recommendations made by the Boards are meant to ensure a sustainable harvest of Northern and Striped shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones. The Boards have also considered the most recent scientific information on the stocks, and input from industry stakeholders.

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE BOARDS' DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Boards' decisions and recommendations:

1. Pursuant to Section 5.3.3(a) of the *Nunavut Agreement* and Section 5.5.3(a) of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, limit Inuit harvesting of shrimp only to the extent necessary to affect the valid conservation purpose of:
 - a. Maintaining vital healthy shrimp populations capable of sustaining harvesting needs as defined in *Nunavut Agreement* Article 5 (Section 5.1.5(c)) and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Article 5 (Section 5.1.5(b)); and

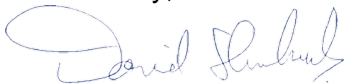
- b. Maintaining the natural balance of ecological systems within the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region (*Nunavut Agreement* and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Section 5.1.5(a)).
- 2. Satisfy the requirements of *Nunavut Agreement* Section 5.3.4 and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Section 5.5.4.1:
 - a. the NWMB and the Minister to account of shrimp harvested outside the Nunavut Settlement Area; and
 - b. the NMRWB and the Minister to take account of shrimp harvested outside the Nunavik Marine Region, by persons resident elsewhere
- 3. Ensure that shrimp harvesting inside both the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region stays within sustainable catch levels and does not raise conservation concerns.

5. CONCLUSION

The Boards hereby forward their decisions and recommendations to you, for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. Please be assured that the NWMB and the NMRWB will continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other co-management partners in ensuring that the management of shrimp in the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region fully aligns with the terms of the *Nunavut Agreement* Article 5 and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* 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.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



Salamiva Weetaltuk
Acting Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

c.c. Leigh Edgar, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Officer, Resource Management,
Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

AUG 12 2019

Ms. Salamiva Weetaltuk
Acting Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Dear Mr. Shewchuk and Ms. Weetaltuk:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of July 3, 2019, 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 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 that for the Western Assessment Zone, aggregate Total Allowable Catches (TACs) resulting in an increase to 11,975t for *P. montagui* and 3,163t for the *P. borealis* are appropriate.

Consistent with that approach,

in the Nunavut West management unit, within the Nunavut Settlement Area, I accept the NWMB's decision to set the Total Allowable Harvest levels for *P. montagui* at 5,987.5t and *P. borealis* at 1,581.5t; and

in the Nunavik West management unit, within the Nunavik Marine Region, I accept the NMRWB's decision to set the Total Allowable Take levels for *P. montagui* at 5,987.5t and *P. borealis* at 1,581.5t.

Eastern Assessment Zone

I agree with the NWMB and NMRWB's consensus that the aggregate TAC of 840t for *P. montagui* should be maintained, and that the aggregate TAC for *P. borealis* should be increased to 8,610t.

Consistent with that approach,

in the Nunavut East management unit, within the Nunavut Settlement Area, I accept the NWMB's decision to increase the Total Allowable Harvest for *P. borealis* to 210t; and

in the Nunavik East management unit, within the Nunavik Marine Region, I accept the NMRWB's decision to increase the Total Allowable Take level for *P. borealis* to 53t.

I note and accept that, combined, the Boards' decisions for increases in the Nunavut and Nunavik East management units imply a modified sharing arrangement between the settlement and offshore areas from 2.77 per cent to 3.05 per cent.

Further, my decision includes allocating the remainder of the P. Borealis increase (724t) to the offshore fleet in Davis Strait West, as recommended by the Boards.

The appended table illustrates the overall quotas for each management unit based on my decisions herein.

With respect to interim quotas of Northern and Striped shrimp in the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region, I accept the Boards' decision that for the 2019/20 and future fishing seasons, interim quotas can be released at up to 50% of the previous year's level, consistent with science advice.

I appreciate the Boards' collaboration and cooperation in the sustainable management of the shared shrimp resource in the north.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jonathan Wilkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" and the last name "Wilkinson" clearly distinguishable.

Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

Cc: Timothy Sargent, Deputy Minister
Sylvie Lapointe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Harbour Management

Appendix 1

Eastern Assessment Zone	<u>Management Unit</u>	<u>TAC</u> <u>P. montagui 840t</u>	<u>TAC</u> <u>P. borealis 8,610t</u>
	<u>Davis Strait West -Offshore</u>	410	4,737
	<u>Davis Strait East -Offshore</u>		804
	<u>Davis Strait West -Nunavik</u>		120
	<u>Davis Strait West -Nunavut</u>		1,084
	<u>Davis Strait East - Nunavut</u>		1,604
	<u>Nunavut East</u>	301	210
	Nunavik East	129	53
Western Assessment Zone	<u>Management Unit</u>		
	<u>Nunavut West</u>	5,987.5	1,581.5
	Nunavik West	5,987.5	1,581.5