



RESOLVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decided to maintain the current season bridging protocols for striped shrimp allocations in the Western Assessment Zone and recommends that the current season bridging protocols for northern shrimp allocations in the Davis Strait management units be maintained until the Harvest Control Rules are finalized;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the proposal to allow season bridging of northern shrimp allocations in the Nunavut-East and Nunavik-East management units; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that in sub-allocation years, sub-allocation holders may borrow up to 75% of their previous sub-allocation allowance, subject to season bridging protocols.

Reason(s) for NWMB Decision

In reaching its decisions and recommendation, the NWMB considered the submission from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's consultation with industry, and the letter submitted to the NWMB from the Nunavut Fisheries Association (NFA). Makivik Corporation supports the pilot project extension, with the additions recommended by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. At the same time, the NFA also supported the Fisheries and Oceans Canada proposal, but for only one year. The Board took into consideration that the additional consultations requested by NFA could be carried out during the period of development for the Harvest Control Rules. Further, the Board considered that Fisheries and Oceans Canada recommendations and the proposed extension of the pilot project would be in place until the Harvest Control Rules are finalized.

The Board considered DFO's recommendation to reduce the carry-forward amounts when the stock is not in a Healthy Zone (by 13% and 26% in the upper and lower half of the Cautious Zone, respectively) and to suspend it when the stock is in the Critical Zone. The Board determined that this recommendation is very complex and will not contribute significantly to the sustainability of the stock; and decided not to approve these additional changes to the season bridging pilot project.

The NWMB looks forward to continued collaboration with co-management partners for the management of Nunavut's commercial fisheries. Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.



September 18, 2020

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Mr. Robert Moshenko
Vice Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Dear Mr. Shewchuk, and Mr. Moshenko:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) (the Boards) decisions and recommendations regarding the extension of season bridging for Nunavut and Nunavik allocations in the Northern shrimp fishery.

Season bridging continues to be regarded as a useful operational flexibility in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones (WAZ and EAZ) that allows for additional opportunities to catch allocations in full, without compromising the sustainability of the resource.

The maintenance of current protocols for *Pandalus montagui* allocations in the WAZ and for *P. borealis* allocations in the Davis Strait management units, until such a time where season bridging protocols are finalized as part of Harvest Decision Rules (HDRs) for these stocks, is a constructive way forward. Similarly, the Department also supports the Boards' decisions to allow bridging of *P. borealis* allocations in the Nunavut-East and Nunavik-East management units.

DFO Resource Management will revisit and review this pilot project with DFO Science, relevant stakeholders, industry and the Boards over the coming year as part of the development and update of Precautionary Approach frameworks for stocks in the WAZ and EAZ, respectively. This will provide opportunity to make modifications to the protocol for Nunavut, Nunavik and offshore allocations.

I note that the NMRWB supported the Department's proposal to reduce carry-forward allowances for *P. borealis* in the EAZ by 13 per cent and 26 per cent in the upper and lower half of the cautious zone, respectively, although the NWMB did not. Since the *P. borealis* stock is in the healthy zone it is unlikely that such reductions would be necessary ahead of the opportunity to formalize any reductions as part of HDRs for this stock. Should the stock enter the cautious zone, the Department will initiate discussion with the Boards regarding the reduction of carry-forward allowances.

Finally, the Department supports the NWMB's decision and recommendation that in years where its Allocation Policy is being finalized, current Nunavut allocation recipients may borrow up to 75 per cent of their previous borrow allowance.

Thank you for your continued collaboration in the management of this resource.

Yours sincerely,

David Whorley,
Director, Fisheries Resource Management Operations