


LCY 28, 2011

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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

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

The recommendation from DFO was that the NWMB approve the modification of the NQL with respect to the approved range of hook sizes permitted in the NAFO 0B portion of Cumberland Sound, such that the approved range of hook sizes would include #11 through #16 circle hooks. The NWMB's decision was made so as to not limit conservation efforts to reduce incidental by-

catch during the Greenland halibut fishery or to confine such efforts within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

The NWMB believes that decisions with regards to the specific range of approved hook sizes for any given inshore fishery should be made by the local Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO). Therefore the NWMB has resolved to approve a range of hook sizes adequate to limit incidental by-catch levels within the NSA.

Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet, Clyde River area

On March 24th, the NWMB made the following decision:

“RESOLVED that the NWMB, pursuant to S. 5.6.48 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, approve the non-quota limitation for exploratory Greenland halibut fisheries occurring within the Nunavut Settlement Area in the Clyde River area that by-catch such as skates, sharks, eelpout and wolffish, where alive, shall be released at the site of capture if there is a reasonable expectation of survival.”

The recommendation from DFO was that the NWMB approve the following NQLs for exploratory turbot fisheries within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) in the Clyde River area:

1. The waterbody to be fished is Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet (area bounded by four coordinates: 71°122' N, 71°00' W; 71°03'N, 71°29' W; 71°00N, 69°39 W; and 70°42'N, 70°38'W).
2. Gear to be used is longlines fitted with circle hooks in the size range of #12s through to #15s;
3. Bycatch such as skates, sharks, eelpout and wolffish, where alive, shall be released at the site of capture if there is a reasonable expectation of survival.
4. Every person who incidentally catches a Northern Wolffish or Spotted Wolffish forthwith returns it to the place from which it was taken, and where alive, in a manner that causes it the least harm.

In addition, DFO requested that the NWMB approve the following NQL for a 2011 exploratory turbot fishery within the NSA in the Clyde River area:

1. The fishing period is March 1 to June 30, 2011.

These recommended NQLs are with regards to the emerging fisheries application received by DFO in February 2011, submitted by the Nangmautug Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) with the support and assistance of the Government of Nunavut. The objective of this project is to explore the viability of a commercial winter fishery for local harvesters.

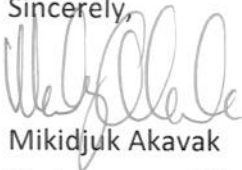
The Board inquired as to whether there was a conservation concern with regards to limiting the time of year and the area where fishing is to occur, justifying the need for a Board NQL resolution; DFO staff indicated that there was no such conservation concern. The exploratory fishery allocation to be utilized for this fishery is a proportion of an approved allocation to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. As such the NWMB believes that decisions with regards to the time of year and the area where fishing is to occur should be made by the local Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO). As such it was decided by the Board that there is no conservation rationale for the NWMB to approve setting NQLs on the period or the waterbody to be fished.

With regard to recommendation two above concerning the specific range of approved hook sizes, this has been addressed in the previous NWMB resolution above, which was approved for all Greenland halibut fisheries occurring within the entire NSA.

It was felt that recommended NQL four was not necessary as this is addressed under Species at Risk legislation. Thus this leaves only a decision on setting the recommended NQL three that by-catch such as skates, sharks, eelpout and wolffish, where alive, shall be released at the site of capture if there is a reasonable expectation of survival, which the NWMB has approved

Should you have any questions or concerns with respect to this decision or the rationale provided by the NWMB, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mikidjuk Akavak', written over the printed name.

Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



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AND OCEANS

PÊCHES
ET OCÉANS

Box 358
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Mr. Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

May 3, 2011

Dear Mr. Akavak:

RE: NWMB decisions with respect to non-quota limitations for Greenland Halibut fisheries within the Nunavut Settlement Area

Thank you for your correspondence of March 28, 2011, addressed to the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, regarding non-quota limitations for Greenland Halibut fisheries in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

This confirms the acceptance of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB's) modification of the non-quota limitation with respect to longline hook size permitted in Greenland Halibut fisheries occurring within the Nunavut Settlement Area, such that the approved range of hook sizes is adequate to limit incidental bycatch levels. DFO understands that this decision is to effect the conservation purpose of assessing bycatch in relation to hook size and possibly reducing bycatch, especially bycatch of Greenland Shark.

The Department also accepts the NWMB's decision to approve the non-quota limitation for exploratory Greenland Halibut fisheries occurring within the Nunavut Settlement Area in the Clyde River area; bycatch, such as skates, sharks, celpout and wolffish, where alive, shall be released at the site of capture if there is a reasonable expectation of survival. DFO understands that this decision is to effect the conservation purpose of mitigating potential harmful impacts of directed fishing for Greenland Halibut on populations of other species in the ecosystem.

Canada

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Box 358
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

I appreciate the NWMB's collaboration in the development of emerging Arctic fisheries and working towards our mutual goal of realizing economic and social benefits from fisheries while ensuring the conservation of stocks, non-target species and ecosystems.

Sincerely,



 Eric Kan
Area Director, Eastern Arctic