

Tammaqtainahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

Δ 3, 2013

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M. Davis

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July 3rd 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 Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization proposal to move the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line to the Nunavut Settlement Area boundary at the mouth of Cumberland Sound

1. The NWMB Resolution

In May 2013, the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) submitted a proposal to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) to move the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line from its current location within Cumberland Sound out to the Nunavut Settlement Area boundary at the mouth of Cumberland Sound. At its June 2013 meeting in Rankin Inlet, the NWMB made the following resolution:

“RESOLVED that NWMB, pursuant to Section 5.6.48 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, approve moving the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line to the Nunavut Settlement Area boundary at the mouth of Cumberland Sound.”

2. Reasons for the NWMB's Decision

The change in the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line requires a change in a non-quota limitation within the Nunavut Settlement Area as per Nunavut Land Claims Agreement S. 5.6.48. The Board considered the best available science, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and community knowledge in its decision. The change to the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line is favourable for a number of reasons:

- (i) New acoustic tagging information on turbot movements within Cumberland Sound indicates that the current Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area does not represent the distribution of an isolated inshore stock of turbot as was previously thought. The current boundary line for the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area was established in 2005 following a December 2004 NWMB decision and was based on limited turbot tagging data from studies in 1994 and 1997-2000. These studies supported the notion that a separate stock of turbot exists in the inner part of Cumberland Sound. However, new acoustic tagging results, although also limited, provide strong evidence of a pattern of turbot movement across the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line on a seasonal basis. The new acoustic tagging data indicates that turbot appear to concentrate in waters within the current Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area in the winter, and then move increasingly into waters outside the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area in the summer months. Although only one year of data is available from the acoustic tracking work, it has been indicated that the 2011/2012 data collected in Cumberland Sound is likely representative of current turbot movement patterns in the sound.
- (ii) Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and community knowledge from elders, community members and fishermen in Pangnirtung also indicates that turbot are present, and have been fished, on both sides of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line.
- (iii) Before the establishment of the current Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area and the total allowable harvest of 500 tonnes in 2005, an inshore allocation was awarded within Cumberland Sound that could be fished throughout the sound.
- (iv) Catch data provided by the Government of Nunavut (2009 and 2010) indicates the presence of turbot in Cumberland Sound on either side of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary.
- (v) Pangnirtung HTO, as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Government of Nunavut, and the Nunavut Development Corp. all support the movement of the boundary line.
- (vi) Moving the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line out to the Nunavut Settlement Area boundary would simplify fisheries management in Cumberland Sound. It would remove the Division 0B area in Cumberland Sound that is within the Nunavut Settlement Area, but not within the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area. Parties must currently have 0B turbot quota and licences to fish within this 0B area in Cumberland Sound, and they must obtain specific permission from the NWMB to fish within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

- (vii) Moving the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary to the Nunavut Settlement Area boundary would aid in community fisheries development in the community of Pangnirtung. Currently the 500 tonne total allowable harvest for the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area is limited to that area and is allocated to Pangnirtung HTO. The HTO has expressed a desire to fish part of the 500 tonnes outside the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area, but still within Cumberland Sound and within the Nunavut Settlement Area. Local fishermen have reported that turbot may be more plentiful in the open water season in deeper areas that are just outside the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary. Community members have also indicated that the ice is becoming less consistent and dangerous, making the winter fishery more challenging. The Government of Nunavut and Pangnirtung fishermen have already initiated training and pilot projects to support the development of a small boat open-water fishery. The extension of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area to the Nunavut Settlement Area boundary at the mouth of Cumberland Sound would aid in the development of the community-based small boat open-water fishery, provide the community with more opportunities to fully prosecute the 500 tonne total allowable harvest close to Pangnirtung, and aid in local economic development.

3. Additional information

DFO officials have indicated to NWMB staff that ongoing research in Cumberland Sound using floy tags could provide some additional information on turbot movements within Cumberland Sound, but not to the same degree of detail as the acoustic tagging work. The NWMB would be interested in reviewing the results of this floy tag work when they are available.

4. Enclosed documents

The following supporting documents are enclosed with this letter:

- (i) The Pangnirtung HTO proposal to move the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line, including the Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Government of Nunavut, and the Nunavut Development Corp. letters of support;
- (ii) A brief summary compiled by the Government of Nunavut on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, community knowledge, and Government of Nunavut research; and

(iii) Excerpts from a presentation by the Ocean Tracking Network on turbot movements within Cumberland Sound from the acoustic tagging research conducted in 2011/2012.

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)

David Burden, A/Regional Director General, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and
Oceans Canada
Larry Dow, Director of Northern Operations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



AUG 30 2013

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

Dear Mr. Audlakiak:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 3, 2013, regarding the approval of the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization proposal to move the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line to the Nunavut Settlement area boundary at the mouth of the Sound. The detailed rationale the Board provided in reaching its decision is helpful.

I appreciate the economic importance of the Cumberland Sound commercial Turbot fishery to the community of Pangnirtung and the ongoing efforts to develop an open water small vessel fishery in the Sound. However, in addition to socio-economic and Traditional Knowledge considerations, the basis for determining separate stock management area boundaries needs to be founded on robust scientific information on stock delineation for conservation purposes.

I note that there has been no new peer reviewed scientific assessment of Turbot movements in Cumberland Sound since the initial 2004 assessment by the NAFO Scientific Council to inform my decision on changes to the existing Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area. The new acoustic data is limited and firm scientific conclusions cannot be drawn from a single year of information. Therefore, I am rejecting the Board's decision to approve the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization proposal to move the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line to the Nunavut Settlement area boundary at the mouth of the Sound.

That being said, I would be prepared to consider allowing the boundary line to be moved to the mouth of the Sound on an interim basis, provided that a science plan is put in place to collect, in a timely manner, the necessary science information on Turbot movements and stock structure in Cumberland Sound.

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I encourage the Hunters and Trappers Organizations to discuss with my officials the science research options available for Cumberland Sound Turbot and development of an amenable science plan in order to move forward in assessing their proposal. Once the necessary scientific data are collected and peer reviewed, the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line could be formally re-considered.

I note that my officials have also discussed the option of obtaining quota from Nunavut's offshore 0B Turbot allocations with the Hunters and Trappers Organization. This quota could be used towards their development of the small boat open water fishery in the outer portion of Cumberland Sound (outside the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area) to facilitate increased fishing opportunities for Pangnirtung harvesters throughout the entire Sound.

I look forward to hearing the Board's final decision on the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization's proposal to move the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary line.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Shea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gail" and last name "Shea" clearly distinguishable.

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