



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

17th March 16, 2014

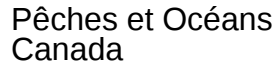
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Région du centre et de l'arctique
520 rue Exmouth
Sarnia (Ontario)
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January 16th 2014

Honourable Gail Shea
House of Commons
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Shea:

Re: The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's clarification regarding its recommendation on the approval of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Greenland Halibut (Turbot) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0 fishery

Background

On February 5th 2013, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received a request from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to approve a new Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (Management Plan) for the Greenland halibut (turbot) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0 fishery. At its March 2013 quarterly meeting, the NWMB considered Fisheries and Oceans' proposal, and in an April 29th 2013 letter to the Minister requested additional information on certain elements of the plan, as well as additions to the plan. Fisheries and Oceans Canada responded with additional information on June 5th and 21st, and July 29th 2013. The Board reconsidered the proposed Management Plan in light of Fisheries and Oceans responses at its September 2013 quarterly meeting, and in an October 3rd 2013 letter recommended approval of the Management Plan as well as the inclusion of four additional measures. In a November 14th 2013 letter to the NWMB, the Minister accepted the approval of the Management Plan outside the Nunavut Settlement Area, but did not accept the Board's extra recommendations. As well, since the Management Plan applies to areas both inside and outside the Nunavut Settlement Area, the Minister requested that the Board clarify its approval of the Management Plan inside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

NWMB Recommendation

The NWMB considered the response from Fisheries and Oceans and made the following recommendation during its December 2013 quarterly meeting:

“RESOLVED that the NWMB affirm its approval of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Greenland Halibut (Turbot) Northwest Atlantic Fishing Organization Subarea 0 Fishery as per the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Section 5.2.34 (d)(i) and reaffirm its

previous recommendations to Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding four additional inclusions in the Management Plan”

Reasons for the NWMB Recommendations

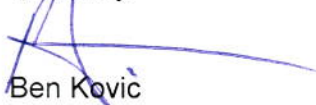
The NWMB acknowledges an error in its October 2nd 2013 letter to the Minister that caused confusion as to the Board’s recommendation on the approval of the Management Plan inside the Nunavut Settlement Area. As outlined in Section 1.1, the Management Plan pertains to Divisions 0A and 0B, which occur both inside and outside, but adjacent to, the Nunavut Settlement Area. However, the Management Plan excludes the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area in the inner portion of Cumberland Sound. The Board affirms its approval of the Management Plan for both areas inside and outside the Nunavut Settlement Area in Subarea 0, with the exception of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area. The NWMB apologizes for the confusion presented in the wording of its last letter.

The NWMB is generally pleased with the Management Plan. However, for the reasons outlined in its October 2nd 2013 letter, the Board would like to reaffirm its recommendation that the Management Plan include the following four additions:

- (i) Annual in-person stakeholder meetings to review the fishery, and progress on short and long-term fishery objectives;
- (ii) A requirement for functional plans to minimize gillnet loss and to recover lost gillnets, and ensure that appropriate compliance, reporting and enforcement are emphasized;
- (iii) A commitment to conduct research into minimization of small fish catch and the impacts of catching large female fish; and
- (iv) Require improved reporting in the fishery and in return limited carry-over opportunities.

If you have any questions or concerns with respect to the Board’s recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Ben Kovic
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
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JAN 24 2014

Mr. Ben Kovic, Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
tsataa@nwmb.com

Dear Mr. Kovic:

Approval of the Integrated Fishery Management Plan for Greenland Halibut in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0 (effective 2014)

Thank you for your correspondence of January 16, 2014 in which you provide the clarification as requested in the Minister's letter of November 13, 2013 regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) recommendation to approve the Integrated Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Greenland Halibut in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0 inside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

I am pleased to inform you that the Department accepts the NWMB's decision to approve the IFMP inside the Nunavut Settlement Area. The IFMP will be implemented effective for the 2014 season. The Department appreciates the NWMBs efforts and collaboration in the development of the Subarea 0 Greenland Halibut IFMP.

I look forward to further cooperation between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Board and its technical staff on the management of this important fishery.

Sincerely,

David Burden
Regional Director General
Central and Arctic Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc: Scott Gilbert, A/Regional Director, Fisheries Management
Larry Dow, Director, Northern Operations
Sylvie Lapointe, Director of Fisheries Management Plans