



RESOLVED that, pursuant to section 15.3.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board advises that the distribution of total allowable catch for Greenland halibut in Subarea 0 be rolled over from 2021-2022 such that:

- The distribution of the total allowable catch between NAFO Divisions 0A and 0B remains the same at 9,592.5 tonnes in Division 0A, and 8,592.5 tonnes in Division 0B; and
- Nunavut's share of Division 0A should remain 100% of the total allowable catch, and its direct share of Division 0B total allowable catch should remain approximately 50%, or 4,283.25 tonnes, plus participation with licences in the 900-tonne competitive fishery.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to section 15.3.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board advises that 100 tonnes from the overall total allowable catch in Division 0A be allocated towards inshore fishery development in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The NWMB's mandate in the marine offshore is governed by Article 15 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Article 15 directs Fisheries and Oceans Canada to "seek the advice of the NWMB with respect to any wildlife management decisions in Zones I and II which would affect the substance and value of Inuit harvesting rights and opportunities within the marine areas of the Nunavut Settlement Area." The NWMB routinely reviews applications and provides advice to Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the total allowable catch for Greenland halibut in NAFO Subarea 0. The NWMB is accustomed to having, as part of its review, the perspective from Fisheries and Oceans Canada with an analysis of NAFO science advice and its recommendation for the total allowable catch. This year, however, Fisheries and Oceans Canada did not provide this analysis or recommendation to the Board for consideration. Additionally, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's consultation period with fishery stakeholders is ongoing. In the absence of a Fisheries and Oceans analysis of NAFO advice, recommendations, and a consultation report, the Board decided that it will, nevertheless, provide advice to the extent possible, based on the limited information before it.

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Tammaqtailinahuarnirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

The NWMB's advice is that Fisheries and Oceans Canada should rollover the total allowable catch for Greenland halibut in Subarea 0 from 2021-2022 at 36,370 tonnes for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. In reaching this advice the Board considered NAFO's recommendation and input from Nunavut fishery stakeholders.

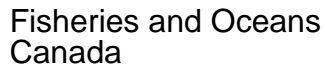
The Board is aware that there remains a significant gap in the Greenland halibut time series data. Bio-indices have not been updated since 2017 due to lack of surveys. Consequently, NAFO's science advice is based on a qualitative analysis of available data. Of the data available, one of the key indices NAFO considered was fishery-dependent data which is likely subject to catch effort biases. Despite the lack of recent bio-index data and considering the general stability of the stock throughout the 1999-2017 time series, NAFO does not expect that the stock status has changed drastically since the last stock assessment which was determined to be healthy.

The Board understands that NAFO's advice is precautionary in nature given the uncertainty in bio-indices. However, the Board could not ignore the fact that the magnitude of the NAFO recommended decrease of 18.5% is significant. As the submission from the Nunavut fishing enterprises and the Government of Nunavut outlines, concerns about scientific methodology, data reliability, and the justification for a significant decrease in the total allowable catch are not sufficient to justify potential economic impacts (in terms of jobs, social development, and community benefits from fishing enterprises). These concerns do not affect Inuit harvesting rights, but they affect Inuit economic opportunities from commercial fishing.

In reaching its advice to rollover the distribution of the total allowable catch, the NWMB considered past NAFO advice and recent feedback it received from the Nunavut fishery stakeholders. Unlike previous years, neither Fisheries and Oceans Canada nor NAFO have offered advice on how the total allowable catch should be distributed between Divisions 0A and 0B. There is no scientific basis to indicate the stock is localized in either Division. In previous years, NAFO has advised that consideration be given to the distribution of effort in each area to avoid local depletion. Furthermore, the Board also sought feedback from Nunavut fishery stakeholders to inform its recommendation on the distribution of the total allowable catch. The Nunavut sub-allocation holders and the Government of Nunavut maintained support for the current distribution.

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Greenland Halibut Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in Divisions 0A and 0B

The Minister has decided to reduce the 2023 TAC in NAFO Divisions 0A and 0B by 9.25%, at 8,704.99 t and 7,797.51 t respectively. The quota to be allocated to Nunavut enterprises is now 8,704.99 t in Division 0A and 3,840.59 t in Division 0B (Annex I). 100 t from the 0A TAC remains dedicated for inshore fisheries development, inside the Nunavut Settlement Area. The Division 0B fixed gear competitive fishery remains at 900 t.

Recommendations from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) (the Board), stakeholder views, science advice, economic impacts, international relations and other relevant factors were taken into consideration in making these decisions.

Sub-allocations to Nunavut enterprises remain consistent with the Minister's January 17, 2022 decision.

We thank the Board for their recommendations. We look forward to future collaboration on the management of this important resource.

Sincerely,

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cc:

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