SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
March 2016

FOR

Information: X **Decision:**

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Operational Updates.
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Updates:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Marine Mammals:
1) Pond Inlet Narwhal:
- Entrapped narwhal were located on Dec. 2, 2015 about 65 km west of Pond Inlet in Eclipse Sound.
- A humane harvest was conducted between Dec. 5 and Dec. 10, 2015.
- A total of 229 whales were harvested.
- Biological samples were collected from 209 whales.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) communicated closely with the HTO during the entire event. DFO staff also worked closely with the harvesters and the HTO to coordinate sample collection.
- Conservation and Protection worked with the local Conservation Officer to certify tusks on Jan. 7, 2016.

2) Marine Mammals:
- This is very busy time for our marine mammal technician, who is continuing to work with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) and Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) to verify the harvest statistics from the 2015/16 narwhal season.

Arctic Char:
1) Pangnirtung Arctic Char Fishery:
- The 2016 Arctic Char Winter Fishery in Cumberland Sound commenced in January.
- There appears to be more interest in the winter fishery this year given some of the ice conditions in summer 2015.

2) Cambridge Bay Arctic Char Fishery:
- The Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) Working Group continued to work towards meeting the objectives and addressing the issues identified in the IFMP through an annual post-season meeting in January 2016.

- Project partners also met in January 2016 to review the 2015 commercial harvest monitoring and recreational/subsistence monitoring programs funded by the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (NGMP). Project partners discussed plans for 2016; the final year of NGMP funded harvest monitoring.

3) Confederation Fiord Area Arctic Char Fishery:

- The 2015 fishery sampling program in Confederation Fiord Area was a success. We plan to build on this success in 2016 during year two of the exploratory fishery.
- Iqaluit staff are planning to have a pre-fishery meeting with the Nattivak HTO and fishers in February 2016.

Greenland Halibut:

1) Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area:

- The licence for the Cumberland Sound ice Turbot (Greenland Halibut) fishery was issued to the Pangnirtung HTO on January 12, 2016.
- DFO Northern Operations and Conservation & Protection held a pre-season meeting with ice Turbot harvesters, fish plant staff, representatives of Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Pangnirtung Fisheries, Pangnirtung HTO, and the local Conservation Officer, in Pangnirtung on January 18th 2016, to discuss management of the fishery. The meeting was well attended and fish harvesters raised many questions and comments.

2) Offshore:

- In 2015, 7974t of Greenland Halibut (Turbot) was harvested by Nunavut allocation holders in NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay).
- In NAFO Division 0B (Davis Strait), 3289t of Greenland Halibut were harvested by Nunavut allocation holders.
- Final harvest numbers were provided to all licence holders for the purposes of quota reconciliation.

Northern Shrimp:

- In SFA Nunavut west of 66°W (Hudson Strait), 1009t of *P. montagui* shrimp, and 878t of *P. borealis* shrimp, were harvested by recipients of Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations.
- SFA Nunavut quotas have been harvested in SFA Nunavut as well as in SFA Nunavik, as per the joint Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) recommendation for a three year term.

SCIENCE – ARCTIC CHAR:

Cumberland Sound 2015:

- DFO Science was able to complete the planned stock assessment and growth research on Arctic Char in Cumberland Sound. All samples were

successfully taken and all data has been shipped to Winnipeg for processing. The community was heavily involved along the entire process.

- Unfortunately, due to ice conditions in Cumberland Sound over the summer of 2015 we were not able to safely travel to any research locations so all planned research was cancelled.

Kivalliq 2015:

- Research started in the fall of 2015 on a multi-species survey in the Rankin Inlet area. This research is funded by the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust (NWRT). This research was planned and conducted in partnership with the Rankin Inlet HTO. All samples were collected as proposed and future research is planned.

Proposed Future Research – 2016:

- We are proposing to continue with stock assessment research on Arctic Char in the Cumberland Sound Area, this research is planned for March 2016 and August/September 2016.
- We are proposing to begin research discussions with the community of Pond Inlet regarding starting Arctic Char research in their area. We have meetings planned for mid-February 2016.
- We are proposing to begin research discussions with the community of Qikiqtarjuaq regarding starting Arctic Char research in their area. We have meetings proposed for March 2016.
- We are proposing to continue the multi-species survey in the Kivalliq, Rankin Inlet area over the next year. The exact dates of sampling have not been determined yet, we will update the NWMB as this information becomes available.

Staff Updates:

- We have hired a seasonal technician in Iqaluit, she is a graduate of the local Environmental Technology Program and has been a great asset to the department!
- Additionally, one of our biologists in Winnipeg (Melanie Toyne) has moved to another department and Yamin Janjua has been back-filling her position.

Science Reports:

- The Iqaluit Lake Regional Advisory Process documents are expected to be submitted at the end of February within DFO for final approval and publication. We will keep the NWMB abreast of the pending publication date.

Prepared by: Iqaluit Office – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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