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Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

August 11, 2016

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

Re: Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council total allowable catch recommendations for Greenland halibut in Divisions 0A+1AB and 0B+1C-F for 2017 and 2018

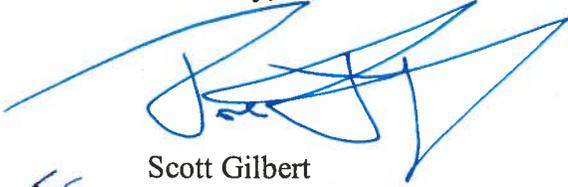
The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Scientific Council has provided the Department with its Total Allowable Catch (TAC) recommendations for Greenland halibut in Division 0A+1AB and Division 0B+1C-F for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. Scientific Council advises there is a low risk of Greenland halibut in Div. 0A+1AB being below B_{lim} if the TAC for 2017 and 2018 does not exceed 17,150 t. Scientific Council also advises there is a low risk of Greenland halibut in Div. 0B+1C-F being below B_{lim} if the TAC for 2017 and 2018 does not exceed 15,150 t. This is an increase of 1,150 t in each management area from 2016 levels.

To improve transparency in its decision making, the NAFO Scientific Council used the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Data Limited Stock Methods Guidance (specifically Harvest Control Rule 3.2) to formulate its TAC advice. Multi-year advice is recommended when applying this index-ratio based rule hence the NAFO Scientific Council has provided TAC recommendations for the next two years. To be noted, a quantitative assessment of this stock is not possible.

The Department is seeking the advice of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on the recommended NAFO Scientific Council TACs. The NAFO Scientific Council report can be accessed online at <http://www.nafo.int/science/sc-docs.html> [NAFO Scientific Council Documents; Summary Docs.; 2016; SCS 16/14 Rev., Report of the Scientific Council, 3-16 June 2016] with the relevant section found on pages 56-59.

I look forward to hearing from the Board on this matter by September 30, 2016. Your prompt response is appreciated to allow for any required follow up discussions and a timely opening of the fishery. I can be reached at scott.gilbert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



for

Scott Gilbert
Regional Director, Fisheries Management

Cc: David Burden, Regional Director General
Larry Dow, Director Northern Operations
Adam Burns, Director Fisheries Management Plans

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Approval decision of the “Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) in Canada” and “Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*) in Canada”.

Background:

In May 2001, Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*A. minor*) were assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Threatened due to declines in their abundance and biomass. A third species, the Atlantic Wolffish (*A. lupus*), was assessed by COSEWIC as Special Concern. All three wolffish species were included in Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) at the time of the Act’s proclamation in June 2003.

A Recovery Strategy/Management Plan was prepared for these three species and the NWMB was notified of a 2006 “Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) in Canada” and asked to make a decision on approving it. The NWMB approved the Recovery Strategy/Management Plan in 2007. As the Northern and Spotted wolffish are listed as Threatened species, the requirement under the *Species at Risk Act* calls for the creation of an Action Plan within five years of completing a Recovery Strategy.

Article 5.2.34 (d) (i) of the Nunavut Agreement states that the NWMB shall, at its discretion, approve plans for management, classification, protection, restocking or propagation, cultivation or husbandry of particular wildlife, including endangered species. Details of how to achieve approval of management plans, recovery strategies and action plans are not addressed under the 2008 “*A memorandum of understanding to harmonize the designation of rare, threatened and endangered species under the Nunavut Lands Claim Agreement and the listing of wildlife species under the Species at Risk Act*”.

The updated “Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) in Canada” and the new “Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*) in Canada” (summary of both documents provided in English and Inuktitut) outlines what needs to be done to begin or further support the strategic direction set out in the original Recovery Strategy/Management Plan. No critical habitat has been identified in Nunavut waters. A

summary of consultations with Nunavut communities and their responses is included below. As part of the process of updating the Recovery Strategy/Management Plan and creating an Action Plan, the NWMB is requested to review the proposed documents and provide any comments and approval if they agree with accepting these plans. The Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board is also being requested to review and approve these documents.

Recommendations:

The NWMB review the updated “Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) in Canada” and the “Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*) in Canada”, provide any comments to DFO and decide whether or not to approve it by October 31, 2016.

Prepared by:

Sam Stephenson, Species at Risk Biologist, DFO, Central and Arctic Region, Winnipeg

Date:

July 29, 2016

Summary of consultations on the “Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) in Canada” and “Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*) in Canada”.

From July to September 2015, the amended version of the 2008 “Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) in Canada” as well as the draft “Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*) in Canada” were available for comment by selected groups. Hunters and Trappers organizations in Nunavut adjacent to the distribution of the three wolffish species, representatives of the commercial fishing industry and the Government of Nunavut were some of those groups. Public consultations on these two documents will take place in the future via the Species at Risk (SARA) public registry.

The original Recovery Strategy and Management Plan were amended to include information from recent research as well as the location of critical habitat for Northern and Spotted Wolffish. No critical habitat was identified in Nunavut. The Action Plan is a required document under the SARA and explains exactly who is responsible for certain activities identified in the Recovery Strategy.

Contact was made with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO) via phone calls, emailing of materials and hard copy mailings of materials. For HTOs this process began in July and ended in September 2015. For the commercial fishing industry, Nunavut government and Inuit organizations, contact was made only once through an Express Post mailing of all pertinent information in July 2015. All materials were provided in English and Inuktitut.

No comments were received from any of the following organizations that were sent the information about the revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan and the Action Plan.

HTOs (Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, Pond Inlet): No comment although three of these HTOs mentioned that that was in part because no one actively fishes for these species..

Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board: No comment, but materials primarily sent as “for your information”.

Nunavut Government, Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: No comment.

Fishing Industry: No comment.

A list of materials sent, when and how, appears in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A: Approximate date of contact and materials sent to Nunavut.

CONTACT WITH HTOs - Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, Pond Inlet:

July 2015 – Express Post letter with the executive summary of the Action Plan and revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan (both in English and Inuktitut) asking if there was any comment on the new and revised documents.

August 2015 – Express Post letter with the executive summary of the Action Plan and revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan (both in English and Inuktitut) asking if there was any comment on the new or revised documents.

August 2015 – Email informing that the consultation period was over, but that DFO would still be accepting any comments on the Action Plan and revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan. Email included the English and Inuktitut summaries of the Action Plan and Recovery Strategy/Management Plan.

September 2015 – Phone call to all HTOs asking for any comments on the Action Plan and revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan as no HTO had submitted any comments at that time.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT INUIT WILDLIFE SECRETARIAT, NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC., QIKIQTAALUK WILDLIFE BOARD:

July 2015 – Express Post “FYI” with the executive summary of the Action Plan and revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan (both in English and Inuktitut) asking if there was any comment on the new and revised documents.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

July 2015 – A single Express Post with the executive summary of the Action Plan and revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan was sent to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment, asking if there was any comment on the new and revised documents.

CONTACT WITH FISHING INDUSTRY:

July 2015 – A single Express Post of letter was sent to Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Nunavut Offshore Allocations Holders Association, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Arctic Fishery Alliance, Cumberland Sound Fisheries; Umiat Corporation with the executive summary of the Action Plan and revised Recovery Strategy/Management Plan (both in English and Inuktitut) asking if there was any comment on the new and revised documents.

Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish 2014

Executive Summary

In 2001, two species of wolffish that inhabit Canadian waters, Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), were designated as Threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). This designation was based on declines in abundance by >90% over three generations, decreases in extent of distribution and specific threats that included bycatch mortality in commercial fisheries and potential impacts of habitat alteration by dredging and trawling gear. They were subsequently listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of *the Species at Risk Act (SARA)* in 2003. A third wolffish species, Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*), was listed as Special Concern. While this Action Plan is focused specifically on Northern and Spotted Wolffish as SARA listed Threatened species, the recovery actions will likely benefit the Atlantic Wolffish as well.

The “*Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (Anarhichas denticulatus) and Spotted Wolffish (Anarhichas minor), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (Anarhichas lupus) in Canada*” (DFO 2014) originally published in 2008, constituted the framework for development of recovery actions and established the scope of this Action Plan. The goal of the Recovery Strategy is to increase the population levels and distribution of Northern and Spotted Wolffish in Canadian waters such that the long-term viability of the species is achieved.

Five primary objectives from the Recovery Strategy were used to guide the formulation of the actions. The objectives are:

- enhance understanding of the biology and life history of wolffish species;
- identify, conserve and/or protect wolffish habitat required for viable population sizes and densities;
- reduce the potential for wolffish population declines by minimizing human impacts;
- promote wolffish population growth and recovery; and
- develop communication and education programs to promote the conservation and recovery of wolffish populations.

Actions, as a whole, are designed to act as a road map for recovery practitioners, to promote recovery and ongoing sustainability of Northern and Spotted Wolffish populations in eastern Canadian waters to the level where they are no longer considered threatened.

Recommended actions to achieve the objectives listed above are:

- study population structure and life history;
- identify biological reference points;
- study ecosystem interactions;
- habitat identification and conservation;
- identify and mitigate impacts of human activity;
- monitor wolffish spatial and temporal abundance patterns;
- monitor spatial and temporal patterns in natural and human-induced mortality; and

- undertake education and stewardship programs on wolffish conservation and recovery.

The Recovery Strategy pointed out deficiencies in our knowledge and management of Northern and Spotted Wolffish. The recovery actions are designed to improve knowledge of the species, reduce threats and monitor the species thereby assisting in the recovery of wolffish and ensuring their ongoing viability. Since the publication of the Recovery Strategy, much progress has been made towards fulfilling the Recovery Objectives set out in the strategy. Several aspects of wolffish life history have been studied including: food and feeding; population structure; and effects of dissolved oxygen. Distribution and abundance has been examined for all regions and large scale habitat associations have been described. Bycatch was identified as an important cause of human induced mortality of wolffish and mandatory live release of Northern and Spotted Wolffish has been implemented. In addition, management and stewardship activities have increased awareness of wolffish and their status. This Action Plan addresses the issues believed to be affecting wolffish conservation and recovery and includes actions to mitigate them. It also promotes stewardship among stakeholders and the public as a means to facilitate and promote recovery.

Effective recovery for both wolffish species requires a commitment to the implementation of the recovery actions. It is acknowledged that there may be a need for adaptive management and the need to modify or revise the Action Plan when new information becomes available. Implementation of actions, including the mitigation of known threats, provides the best chance to conserve and restore wolffish species to a level where they are no longer considered at risk. However, it is also recognized that the implementation of recovery actions are constrained by available resources and that non-human elements (e.g., environmental influences) may have played a role in the decline of the species and these effects cannot be controlled or mitigated, but only monitored. This Action Plan delineates the steps required to move toward recovery.

Details on critical habitat and activities likely to destroy that habitat are included in Section 6.2 of the Recovery Strategy.

This document also contains a socio-economic evaluation that summarizes the potential cost and benefits of recovery. It was determined that the implementation of this Action Plan may have varying degrees of impacts on multiple stakeholders, but generally these impacts are assumed to be negligible. Generally, Action Plan activities would likely not have direct impacts on other individuals or groups beyond Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and harvesters. The incremental costs of implementing this Action Plan are considered to be of a low economic magnitude and DFO would bear the bulk of the costs associated with the implementation of this plan. Canadians at large will be impacted by the extent to which non-market benefits are realized.

This Action Plan represents a collaborative and consultative effort by a multi-regional team (including the following DFO regions: Newfoundland and Labrador, Maritimes, Gulf, Quebec, Central and Arctic and National Headquarters) with representation that included expert scientists, fisheries managers and economists who assisted in formulating a way forward for recovery of the wolffish species in Canadian waters. Consultation with the

fishing industry, academia, NGOs and the government (federal, provincial and territorial) was also undertaken.

Recovery Strategy for the Northern Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish and Management Plan for the Atlantic Wolffish 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Four species of wolffish (family Anarhichadidae) inhabit Canadian waters: *Anarhichas denticulatus* (Northern Wolffish), *A. minor* (Spotted Wolffish) and *A. lupus* (Atlantic Wolffish) in both the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, and *A. orientalis* (Bering Wolffish) in the Arctic Ocean only. In May 2001, *A. denticulatus* and *A. minor* were assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Threatened due to declines in their abundance and biomass. A third species, *A. lupus*, was assessed by COSEWIC as Special Concern. All three wolffish species were included in Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) at the time of the Act's proclamation in June 2003. The statuses of all three wolffish species were reassessed by COSEWIC in 2012. Although there are some signs of population recovery, COSEWIC recommended that all designations remain unchanged. Therefore, under SARA, the status for *A. denticulatus* and *A. minor* will remain as Threatened and the status for *A. lupus* will remain as Special Concern.

A. denticulatus and *A. minor* are the focus of this document, but it also includes discussion of *A. lupus*. This is because the distributions of the three species overlap through much of their range. Although *A. lupus* is at a lower designation, it also underwent a decline as great as that observed for the two Threatened species over the northern part of its range (Northeast Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf). The two Threatened species are primarily distributed on the Grand Bank and areas to the north. *A. lupus* has a wider distribution in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Scotian Shelf, Bay of Fundy and Georges Bank, where the other two species are rare. While all three species have undergone substantial declines during the 1980s and 1990s, the proximal cause(s) remain uncertain.

This document was originally published in 2008 and was developed by a multi-sector, multi-regional Recovery Team with representation from the fishing industry, academia, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada. Government representation included expert scientists, fisheries managers and economists to assist in formulating a framework for the conservation and recovery of these wolffish species.

The 2008 version of this Recovery Strategy and Management Plan represents a collaborative and consultative effort by the Recovery Team to present the available knowledge and recommend recovery solutions. The Recovery Team determined that it was best to incorporate both Threatened wolffish species into a single "multi-species" document and to include *A. lupus*, a species of Special Concern, in the discussions due to similar life histories, ecology and taxonomy.

The Recovery Strategy and Management Plan identifies the lack of information that exists in regard to population dynamics of wolffish, their ecology, abundance,

distribution, habitat utilization, behaviour and interaction with fishing gear and their environment. It points out the immediate need for additional research to enhance formulation of recovery approaches. The document discusses the threats and issues believed to be affecting wolffish conservation and recovery, and presents recommendations to mitigate them. It also promotes stewardship among stakeholders as a means to facilitate and promote recovery.

The goal of this document is to increase the population levels and distribution of *A. denticulatus*, *A. minor* and *A. lupus* in eastern Canadian waters such that the long-term viability of these species is achieved. This will be accomplished by communicating those objectives and strategies outlined below.

Five primary objectives have been identified to achieve this goal:

- Enhance understanding of the biology and life history of wolffish species;
- Identify, conserve, and/or protect wolffish habitat required for viable population sizes and densities;
- Reduce the potential for wolffish population declines by minimizing human impacts;
- Promote wolffish population growth and recovery; and
- Develop communications and education programs to promote the conservation and recovery of wolffish populations.

All the objectives relate to activities that may be mitigated through human intervention and each is designed to achieve the goals of the Recovery Strategy and Management Plan.

Recommended actions to achieve these objectives are:

- Study life history;
- Study population structure within eastern Canadian waters;
- Identify recovery biological reference points;
- Study ecosystem interactions;
- Identify habitat, including critical habitat;
- Define measures to conserve and/or protect wolffish habitat;
- Identify and mitigate impacts of human activity;
- Increase resource user knowledge and raise public awareness of wolffish species through education and communication
- Promote stewardship initiatives;
- Consultation and cooperation with harvesters, processors, scientists, regulators, enforcement, observers, dockside monitors, governments, Aboriginal groups and other ocean users;
- Monitor wolffish spatial and temporal abundance patterns; and
- Monitor spatial and temporal patterns of natural and human induced mortality.

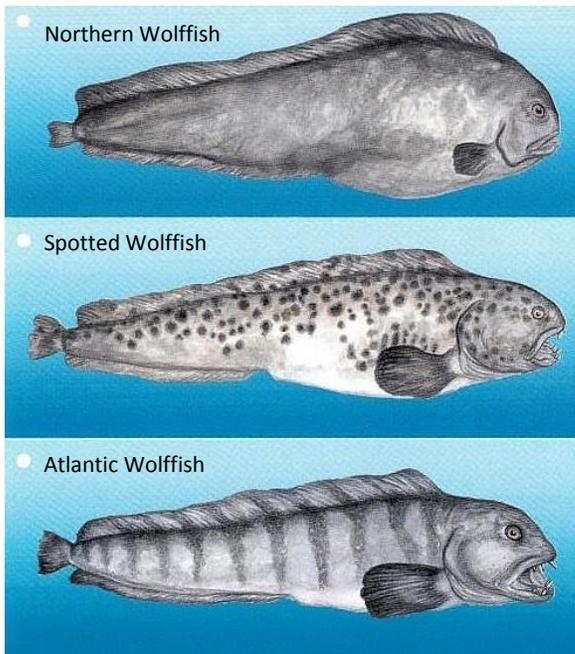
Adherence to the recommendations put forth in this document, including the mitigation of known threats, provides the best chance to conserve and restore the three wolffish species to a level where they are no longer considered at risk. However, it is recognized that the implementation of recovery activities are constrained by available resources

and that non-human elements (environmental influences) have played a role in the decline of the species and these effects cannot be controlled/mitigated. There is also a need for adaptive management and modification or revision of this Recovery Strategy and Management Plan as new information becomes available.

This document was amended in 2014. The most significant portion of this amendment is the identification of critical habitat for *A. denticulatus* and *A. minor*. The Recovery Section of this document was also revised to include current information. Other parts of this document were revised as required.



Highlights of the Recovery Documents for the Northern Wolffish, Spotted Wolffish and Atlantic Wolffish in Canada



The northern wolffish, spotted wolffish and Atlantic wolffish have been protected in Canada under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) since 2003. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has updated the recovery strategy for northern wolffish and spotted wolffish and the management plan for Atlantic wolffish in Canada, which was first published in 2008. The objective of this document is to increase wolffish populations to ensure their long-term viability in Atlantic Canadian waters. The main addition in the updated document is the identification of critical habitat for northern wolffish and spotted wolffish, which are listed as threatened species. Identification of critical habitat is not required for the Atlantic wolffish, whose status is of special concern.

Critical habitat is a habitat that a species needs for survival or recovery. This includes habitat that will support all phases of a species' life cycle, including spawning, growth, feeding and migration. For both species, the updated recovery strategy identifies seven areas off Newfoundland and Labrador and in the Gulf of St.

Lawrence as critical habitat. The location of the critical habitat is shown on the maps on the back.

Critical habitat for **northern wolffish** in the Gulf of St. Lawrence includes steep slopes in deep waters (> 200 m) and offshore channels. It is characterized by fine sediments and low oxygen concentrations. Off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, it includes the deep channels on the edges of the Grand Banks and the Labrador Shelf that have a depth between 118 and 636 meters.

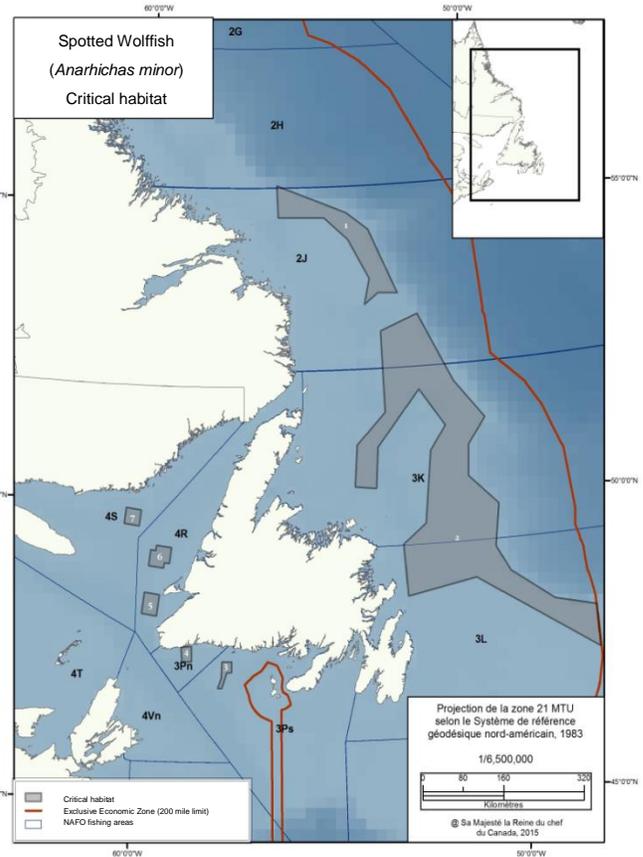
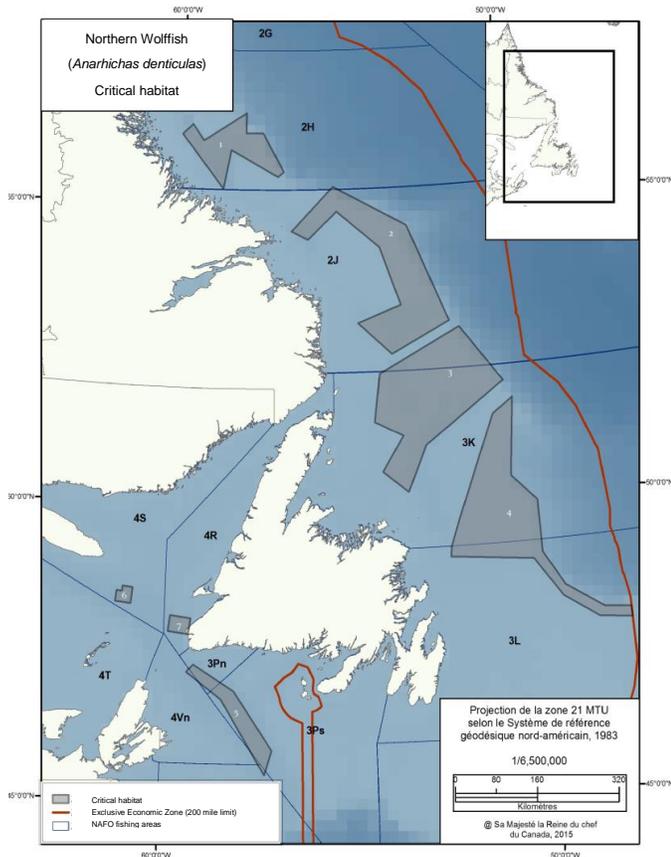
Critical habitat for **spotted wolffish** in the Gulf of St. Lawrence is characterized by a wide variety of habitats and landforms, coarse sediments and rocky outcrops. Spotted wolffish are found at depths between 80 and 260 meters and are more frequently observed on shelves than in channels, although they avoid surface waters (less than 40 km from the coast). Off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, critical habitat includes the deep channels on the edges of the Grand Banks and the Labrador Shelf that have a depth between 82 and 346 meters.

This recovery strategy provides examples of activities that are likely to destroy the critical habitat. They could be one or several activities that occur at a given time or repetitively and result in temporary or permanent habitat loss. Destruction means that habitat in this area can no longer fulfil its functions when the species needs it. For example, critical habitat for wolffish is likely to be destroyed by contaminant discharge and through activities that alter the nature of the floor, the depth, the temperature or the water quality. The fact that an activity is likely to destroy the critical habitat does not mean that it will automatically be prohibited or that it will inevitably lead to the habitat's destruction. The proposed activities and the mitigation measures must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, the fishing licence conditions currently in place to protect the northern wolffish and spotted wolffish will not be modified by the identification of the critical habitat.





Under SARA, critical habitat must be legally protected against destruction. It is expected that this protection will take the form of a ministerial order for protection of the critical habitat.



Summary of the action plan for northern wolffish and spotted wolffish

The draft action plan presents the necessary recovery measures for mitigating the threats to populations in order to achieve the objectives of the recovery strategy. The actions to be implemented by Fisheries and Oceans Canada are:

- Studying structure and life cycle of the populations and their ecosystem;
- Habitat studies and conservation requirements;
- Identifying and mitigating the impact of human activities;
- Monitoring wolffish population abundance and mortality.

Various actions might be taken in partnership with other stakeholders (e.g. the implementation of wolffish conservation and recovery education and stewardship programs).



SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
June 2016

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

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

Updates:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Marine Mammals:

1) Narwhal:

- The 2016/17 narwhal tags (including carryover tags) and information packages have been distributed to all communities, with the exception of 20 carry over tags to Arctic Bay (45 of 65 carry over tags have been sent to that community).

2) Walrus:

- 23 Licences and hunt packages have been issued to Walrus Sport Hunt Outfitters in Hall Beach (8) and Coral Harbour (15). 19 hunts are planned for July and August 2016; one hunt is planned for August into September; 2 hunts are planned for September; and one hunt is planned for September into October.

3) Bowhead:

- Five communities are confirmed as hosts for the 2016 bowhead hunts: Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, Igloodik, Arviat and Coral Harbour. DFO has not received Regional Wildlife Organization approval of any of the hunt plans, so no licences have been issued yet.

Arctic Char:

1) Pangnirtung Arctic Char Fishery:

- The 2016 Arctic Char summer fishery in Cumberland Sound opened on August 3, 2016. The HTO did not allocate quotas for waterbodies on the south side of Cumberland Sound, because of ice in the Sound.

2) Other Exploratory Arctic Char Fisheries:

- The start of the 2016 exploratory Arctic Char fishery in Pond Inlet was delayed until late July due to ice conditions. Data collection is ongoing. Joanna Panipak from DFO Resource Management in Iqaluit will be traveling up to Pond Inlet to provide some support for sampling.

Greenland Halibut:

1) Offshore:

- Nunavut sub-allocation decisions have been finalized for Greenland Halibut (Turbot) in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions 0A and 0B (Baffin Bay and Davis Strait). The Nunavut allocation in Division 0B is 2850 tonnes. Five vessels have been fishing Nunavut sub-allocations in Division 0B, and have harvested 1531.428 tonnes. Vessels have now moved up to fish in Division 0A. The Nunavut allocation in Division 0A is 8000 tonnes.

2) Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA):

- The 2016 Cumberland Sound ice Turbot fishery went from February 3 to May 6. 333.561 tonnes, or 735,368 pounds round weight, was harvested by 69 fishers. The Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) in CSTMA is 500 tonnes.
- The licence for the 2016 Cumberland Sound small vessel Turbot fishery was issued on July 26, 2016. The licence is for 166.439 tonnes of Turbot, which is the remainder of the TAH after the ice fishery. There is one vessel on the licence.

Shrimp:

- No harvesting of Nunavut shrimp allocations has taken place.

Prepared by: Iqaluit Office – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: August 3, 2016