

Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

FILE

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Mr. Harry Flaherty
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

This responds to your letter of June 27, 2005, regarding the setting of a commercial quota for Arctic char in Kingnait Fjord. For the purpose of tracking the timeline as set out in Article 5.3, your letter was forwarded to my office by facsimile on July 18, 2005.

It is encouraging to see that some communities in Nunavut are taking on their role of managing fishing at the local level as envisaged in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The Community of Pangnirtung should be commended for requesting a closure of the Kingnait Fishery in 2000 to encourage the recovery of stock. Their current request for an opening of a 2,000 kilogram fishery is modest and consistent to a precautionary approach.

I understand the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) concurs with Fisheries and Oceans Canada's scientific advice that a modest harvest of 2,000 kilograms is acceptable for the continued recovery of stock. This confirms that I accept the NWMB's two decisions as set in the following:

1. "Resolved that, pursuant to section 5.6.16 of the NLCA, the NWMB approve an annual level of harvesting by the Pangnirtung HTO for the commercial harvest of char in Kingnait Fjord of 2,000 kilograms, conditional upon:
 - a. The collection of biological data each year for the commercial fishery in accordance with the five-year data collection plan for new fisheries (including length, weight, age, CPUE and total amount harvested), and


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- b. The reporting of all harvests each year in both the subsistence and commercial fisheries in Kingnait Fjord."
2. "Resolved that, pursuant to section 5.6.48 of the NLCA, the NWMB establish the following non-quota limitation with respect to the use of gillnets in the Kingnait Fjord commercial char fishery: a mesh size of five and a half inches only."

Thank you for your letter.

Yours truly,



Geoff Regan