

April 18th, 2012

Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Fisheries & Oceans
Government of Canada

Honourable James Arreak
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Honourable Darin King
Minister of Fisheries
Newfoundland and Labrador

Cathy Towtongie
President of Nunavut
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Manasa Evic
Chairperson of
Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd.

Lootie Toomasie
Chairman of the
Arctic Fisheries Alliance

Jacopie Maniapik
Chairman of the Baffin
Fisheries Coalition

Roger Alivaktuk
Chairperson of
Cumberland Sound Fisheries

Lynn Kilabuk
Vice President
Qikiqtaaluk Corporation

Ray Andrews
Chairperson of the
Fisheries Advisory Committee

Jobie Tukkiapik
President of Makivik
Corporation

Joshua Kango
Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Johnny Oovaut
Chairperson of the
Nunavik Marine Regional
Wildlife Board

Glen Sheppard
Minister of Lands and
Natural Resources
Nunatsiavut Government

John Mercer
Chairperson of the
Torngat Joint Fish. Board

Qikiqtani Hunters and Trappers
Organizations
c/o Richard Connelly
Executive Director of the
Nunavut Inuit Wildlife
Secretariat

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board public hearing to consider proposed shrimp fishery management changes for *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui* in Shrimp Fishing Areas 2, 3 and 4

In response to a Proposal for NWMB Decision received from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing to consider proposed shrimp fishery management changes for *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui* in Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) 2, 3, and 4.

The DFO Proposal for NWMB Decision requests the following decisions and recommendations (as applicable under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*) from the NWMB:

1. Proposed SFA and management unit boundary changes;
2. Harvest levels in conjunction with the proposed management unit changes, in particular:
 - a. the proposed total allowable catch (TAC) level and exploitation rate for *P. montagui* in the Eastern Assessment Zone (i.e. NU/NK E plus DS W);
 - b. the proposed 250 tonne (t) *P. borealis* by-catch quota for management units NU/NK E;
 - c. the proposed total allowable catch (TAC) level and exploitation rate for *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* in the Western Assessment Zone (i.e. NU/NK W);
 - d. the harvest levels in the Nunavut Settlement Area for *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* in each management unit (i.e. NU/NK E and W);
 - e. the management regime (directed vs. by-catch) for the *P. borealis* species in the Western Assessment Zone (i.e. NU/NK W); and
 - f. the offshore fleet's proposal to reduce its *P. montagui* quota outside the NSA (DS-W) from 3,300 t to 1,100 t under a potential by-catch regime.

The hearing will take place on June 12th and 13th in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The hearing will be conducted each day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The NWMB may also hold one or more evening sessions from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Attached to this letter is a copy of DFO's *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (DFO Proposal) seeking a decision on proposed shrimp fishery management changes for *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* in SFAs 2, 3, and 4. Also attached are the *Rules for the NWMB's Public Hearing*. The DFO Proposal, the hearing rules, and a number of additional documents comprising the best available information to date are also available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Inuksugait Complex

P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Phone: (867) 975-7300

Fax: (867) 975-7320

E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation in response to the DFO

Proposal, or otherwise regarding shrimp management in SFA 2, 3, and 4. All written materials must be filed with the NWMB – in English and Inuktitut – **by no later than 5:00p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on May 21st 2012.** Unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the Board for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

Materials may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the NWMB Public Hearing on the proposed changes to shrimp management. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on May 21st 2012– that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable, and persuasive supporting evidence and justifications are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact NWMB directly.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Noble
Chief Operating Officer
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (2)

cc. Eric Kan, Eastern Arctic Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Wayne Lynch, Director, Fisheries and Sealing Division, Department of Environment,
Government of Nunavut;
Harry Earle, General Manager, Arctic Fisheries Alliance;
Jerry Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Baffin Fisheries Coalition;
Don Cunningham, General Manager, Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd.;
Peter Keenainak, Director of Operations, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation;
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Bert Dean, Senior Policy Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Mark O'Connor, Director of Wildlife, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board;

Rebecca Willcott, Director of Renewable Resources, Nunatsiavut Government;
Jamie Snook, Executive Director, Torngat Secretariat;
Stas Oplinski, Science and Policy Advisor, Makivik Corporation;
Bruce Chapman, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Prawn Producers;
Shawn Frank, Pikalujak Fisheries;
Rosalind Walsh, Executive Director, Northern Coalition; and
Jason Mikki, Qikiqtaaluk Regional Coordinator, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat.

**RULES FOR THE NWMB'S PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER PROPOSED SHRIMP FISHERY MANAGEMENT
CHANGES FOR PANDALUS BOREALIS AND PANDALUS
MONTAGUI IN SHRIMP FISHING AREAS 2, 3 AND 4**

April 18th, 2012

THE PURPOSE of this NWMB hearing is to publicly consider proposed shrimp fishery management changes for *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui* in Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFA) 2, 3 and 4.

Fisheries Oceans and Canada (DFO) has filed – in Inuktitut and English - a *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (DFO Proposal) with the NWMB, seeking decisions and recommendations pertaining to proposed shrimp fishery management changes for *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui* in SFA's 2, 3 and 4. The DFO Proposal, along with other documents comprising the best available information to date, is available for review or download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the NWMB directly (Tel: 867-975-7300; E-mail: receptionist@nwmb.com).

RULES:

1. The hearing shall be open to the public, with notice provided to the public at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the hearing. Part of the hearing may be conducted in camera, where the NWMB considers that confidential or sensitive matters may be disclosed or discussed.
2. Any interested person or body may file with the NWMB a written submission and supporting documentation¹ in response to the DFO Proposal, or otherwise regarding concerns with the proposed shrimp fishery management changes– duly translated into Inuktitut or English as the case may be – by no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 21st 2012.
3. Unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.
4. The requirement for translation of written submissions and supporting documentation filed with the NWMB does not apply to individual members of the public.

¹ "Supporting documentation" refers to one or more studies, articles, opinions or other documents separate from a person's or organization's written submission, filed as additional evidence and/or argument in support of that person's or organization's submission.

5. For all others who file supporting documentation with the NWMB, the requirement for translation does not apply to such documents over 10 pages in length, as long as each supporting document that is not translated is accompanied by a concise translated summary.
6. The NWMB shall ensure that all materials filed with it or produced by it are made publicly available, subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns.
7. The NWMB shall provide simultaneous English and Inuktitut translation at the hearing, to the extent reasonably possible.
8. A quorum of NWMB members shall be present at the hearing.
9. Any representative or agent of the Government of Canada or Government of Nunavut, any Hunters and Trappers Organization or Regional Wildlife Organization and any Inuk shall be accorded the status of party at the hearing.
10. Any other person or body wishing to be named as a party by the NWMB shall make an appropriate request in writing to the NWMB.
11. All parties and other participants at the hearing are required to treat one another and the NWMB with respect.
12. The NWMB shall provide a reasonable opportunity for oral presentations from each of the parties at the hearing by their choice of official, expert or counsel.
13. Any member of the NWMB, the NWMB's Director of Wildlife or the NWMB's legal counsel may ask relevant questions of any party at the hearing.
14. Any party may ask relevant questions of any other party at the hearing.
15. The NWMB shall provide members of the public in attendance at the hearing a reasonable opportunity to make statements and to ask questions of the parties and the NWMB.
16. Every person at the hearing wishing to speak or ask a question shall raise his or her hand, and shall only speak once the NWMB Chairperson has recognized him or her.
17. The NWMB Chairperson reserves the right to place reasonable time limits on presentations, statements and questions.
18. The NWMB shall make an audio recording of the hearing available upon request.

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Proposed Changes for Shrimp Fishery Management in the North for Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*Pandalus montagui*) Shrimp

Background

Currently, there is a complex management regime for the northern shrimp fishery. Existing Shrimp Fishing Area boundaries overlap the settlement boundaries set out in the Nunavut, Nunavik Inuit and Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreements (Figures 2 and 3). For example, the *P. montagui* fishery takes place in Shrimp Fishing Areas 2, 3 and 4 west of 63°W which includes parts of the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA), the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR) and the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA).

In addition, current management units and quotas established for shrimp species *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* overlap shrimp fishing areas and science assessment zones (see Figures 2 and 3).

In 2008 and subsequent assessments, DFO Science identified a conservation issue resulting from the additional and increased quotas in the Resolution Island area. Under the current management regime, all existing quotas for the *P. montagui* species can be taken in the Resolution Island area resulting in a mean potential exploitation (i.e. harvest) rate of 62% (the potential exploitation rate for 2011/12 was 84%). These rates are significantly higher than the exploitation rate generally recommended for healthy shrimp stocks in the rest of eastern Canada, which is around 15%. DFO Science has recommended that the total allowable catch (TAC) for *P. montagui* be reduced since such a potential exploitation rate poses a high risk for stock decline. Additionally, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of the *P. montagui* fishery reiterated the sustainability concerns for *P. montagui* and the need to address the management complexities noted above. MSC certification is a market access tool which is increasing being demanded by buyers of wild-caught seafood.

A proposal was brought forward from industry in 2010 to address these management and conservation concerns. This proposal was refined by DFO to incorporate associated management issues and then further developed in consultation with stakeholders including Nunavut industry representatives, staff from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) as well as Nunavik and Labrador Inuit interests.

Under the proposal, Shrimp Fishing Area boundaries would align with the Nunavut Settlement Area, the Nunavik Marine Region and the science survey assessment zone boundaries. New management units within these Shrimp Fishing Areas address conservation concerns for *P. montagui* in the Resolution Island area and eliminate overlapping management units and quotas. In addition, new/increased quotas would be introduced in Hudson Strait.

Consultations with all stakeholders have indicated that management changes to the shrimp fishery in the north are supported and necessary. Both Nunavut and Nunavik interests have indicated that sharing arrangements of the recommended Total Allowable Catch levels for both *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* for Nunavut and Nunavik should be negotiated between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and Makivik Corporation. Consultation with stakeholders on the management regime for these mixed fisheries continues. However stakeholders have indicated that discussions on the operational management of the fishery do not need to be finalized before the management boundaries and harvest levels are set.

1. Boundary Changes

The scientific data required to assess the status of both shrimp species come from two research survey time series that have been conducted in the area. The data from the two surveys cannot be combined so two science assessment zones (Figure 1) have been established to assess the status of *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* in each of these two zones. Under the proposal, to simplify management of the fishery, three new Shrimp Fishing Areas would be created and aligned with settlement area boundaries and the science survey assessment zones (Figure 4). New management units would be created within these Shrimp Fishing Areas to distribute fishing effort. Each management unit would have only one quota each for *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* (Figure 5). This eliminates overlapping management units for both species, and simplifies the management of the fisheries by aligning Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) boundaries with settlement area boundaries.

Fisheries and Oceans is seeking:

- A) NWMB decisions and recommendations (as applicable under the NLCA) regarding the proposed Shrimp Fishing Area and management unit boundary changes (Please refer to Figures 4 and 5):
 - i. SFA DS (Figure 4 blue area) = that portion of NAFO Division 0B north of 61°N outside the Nunavut Settlement Area and Nunavik Marine Region and including that portion of NAFO Division 2G west of 63°W and north of 60°30'N. The only changes would be to align the western edge with the Nunavik Marine Region and align the southern edge in 2G with the Eastern Assessment Zone at 60°30'N.

ii. SFA NU (Figure 4 yellow area) = that portion of Hudson Strait east of 70°W and NAFO Division 0B that is inside the Nunavut Settlement Area. SFA NU would be further divided into management units to distribute fishing effort for both species. Management Unit NU E = that portion east of 66°W inside the NSA. Management Unit NU W = that portion west of 66°W inside the NSA to 70°W.

iii. SFA NK (Figure 4 green area) = that portion of Hudson Strait east of 70°W and within the Nunavik Marine Region. SFA NK would be further divided into management units to distribute fishing effort for both species. Management Unit NK E = that portion east of 66°W inside the NMR and north of 60°30'N. Management Unit NK W = that portion west of 66°W inside the NMR to 70°W.

2. Harvest levels

The harvest levels proposed herein are to be considered in conjunction with the proposed management boundaries and would need to be re-examined should the management boundaries proposed not be adopted.

Under this proposal, existing quotas will be replaced by TACs for each species *P. borealis* and *P. montagui*, within each of the two science assessment zones (Eastern and Western Assessment Zones). Based on sharing arrangements of the recommended TACs yet to be determined, each TAC will then be divided into quotas for each relevant management unit. There will be reduction of some quotas in the eastern zone but these are offset by new/increased quotas introduced in the western zone (Hudson Strait) for *P. montagui* and *P. borealis*.

The proposed harvest levels for both species *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* are based on science survey assessments conducted prior to the current 2012 Science Response Report update and have not been changed to maintain consistency with previous presentations and avoid confusion.

It should be noted that TACs may have to be adjusted in the future as a result of the 2012 update and any future assessments. The 2011 Science Advisory Reports and the 2012 Science Response Report are attached for reference.

2.1 Harvest Level for *P. montagui* in Resolution Island Area.

Currently, the combined quotas for *P. montagui* prosecuted in the Eastern Assessment Zone produce a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 6,300t (as shown in Figure 3). This TAC results in a potential exploitation rate of 84% for 2011 and a mean potential exploitation rate of 62% for the period 2008-2011. To address conservation concerns of potential over harvest, it is proposed that the TAC be reduced to 2,250t based on an exploitation rate of 15%.

Note that to reach the sustainable exploitation rate of 15%, the offshore fleet has proposed to reduce its *P. montagui* harvest outside the NSA (DS –W) from a directed 3,300t quota to 1,100t under a by catch quota regime with the remaining 1150t designated for the directed fishery within the NU/NK E management units.

The offshore fleet considers a by-catch amount of 1100t a level required to prosecute their directed *P. borealis* quota of 5250t in DS W.

2.2 Harvest Level for *P. borealis* in Resolution Island Area

The *P. borealis* by-catch quota associated with the *P. montagui* fishery will be reduced from the current 400t for SFA 3 and 2 inside the NSA to 250t for management units NU/NK E. The *P. borealis* has been prorated to the reduction of *P. montagui* quota in these same management units.

Note that there would be no change in the *P. borealis* quota of 5250t in DS-W which is currently accessible to the offshore fleet.

2.3 Harvest Level for *P. montagui* in Hudson Strait

A TAC of 5,000t for *P. montagui* in management units NU/NK W is proposed and is based on a lower, more precautionary, target exploitation rate of 10% given the limited number of science surveys (2) in the Western Assessment Zone.

2.4 Harvest Level for *P. borealis* in Hudson Strait

A TAC of 1,5,00t for *P. borealis* in management units NU/NK W is proposed and is based on a lower, more precautionary, target exploitation rate of 10% given the limited number of science surveys (2) in the Western Assessment Zone.

Fisheries and Oceans is seeking:

- A) NWMB decision and recommendations (as applicable under the NLCA) on the proposed TAC level and exploitation rate for *P. montagui* in the Eastern Assessment Zone (ie NU/NK E plus DS W).
- B) NWMB decision and recommendations (as applicable under the NLCA) on the proposed 250t *P. borealis* by-catch quota for management units NU/NK E.
- C) NWMB decision and recommendation (as applicable under the NLCA) on the proposed TAC level and exploitation rate for *P. montagui* in the Western Assessment Zone (i.e. NU/NK W).
- D) NWMB decision and recommendation (as applicable under the NLCA) on the proposed TAC level and exploitation rates for *P. borealis* in the Western Assessment Zone (i.e. NU/NK W).
- E) A decision on harvest levels in the NSA for each shrimp species in each management unit (ie: NU/NK E and W). It is recognized that both Nunavut and Nunavik interests have indicated that sharing arrangements should be negotiated between NTI and Makivik for this purpose, and that the NWMB is seeking for submissions from NTI and Makivik on this matter.
- F) NWMB decision and recommendation (as applicable under the NLCA) on the management regime (directed vs. by-catch) for the *P. borealis* species in the Western Assessment Zone (i.e. NU/NK W).
- G) NWMB recommendation (as applicable under the NLCA) regarding the offshore fleet's proposal to reduce its *P. montagui* quota outside the NSA (DS -W) to from 3,300t quota to 1,100t under a potential by-catch regime.

The following tables summarize the proposed changes:

Table 1. Current and proposed quotas for *Pandalus borealis* within the Nunavut and Nunavik settlement areas by sector and management unit.

Sector	Current Regime			Proposed Regime				
	Quota(t) by Management Unit			TAC(t) by Management Unit		Quota(t) by Management Unit		Total
	SFA3	SFA2 W of 63°W	Total	Nunavut-West (NU-W)	Nunavik-West (NK-W)	Nunavut-East (NU-E)	Nunavik-East (NK-E)	
Nunavut	400 ¹		400	1500 ²		250 ²		1750
Nunavik								
¹ 400t bycatch allowed in SFA3 and SFA2 inside the NSA when fishing for <i>P. montagui</i>				² Split and management regime to prosecute the quota to be determined.				

Table 2. Current and proposed quotas for *P. montagui* within the Nunavut and Nunavik settlement areas by sector and management unit.

Sector	Current Regime				Proposed Regime				
	Quota(t) by Management Unit				TAC(t) by Management Unit				
	2,3,4 W of 63°W	SFA3	SFA2 inside the NSA	Total	NU-W	NK-W	NU-E	NK-E	Total
Nunavut	0	1000 ¹		3000	5000 ²		1150 ²		6150 ²
		2000							
Nunavik	0	0	0	0					
¹ 1000t allowed in SFA3 and SFA2 inside the NSA of which a maximum of 500t can be fished in SFA2					² Split to be determined.				

Table 3. Current and proposed quotas for *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* outside the Nunavut and Nunavik settlement areas.

Sector	Species	Current Regime Quota (t)	Proposed Regime
Offshore	<i>P. borealis</i> *	5250	5250
Offshore	<i>P. montagui</i> **	3300	1100

*No change to *P. borealis* quota in Davis Strait West.

** Management regime for the *P. montagui* quota in management unit DS W to be determined.

Note that Davis Strait-East (SFA 2EX) *P. borealis* quotas would remain unchanged. The 3,500t TAC is currently divided between Nunavut (1750t) and the offshore fleet (1750t).

Prepared by: Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Central & Arctic and National Capital Regions

Date: March 22, 2012

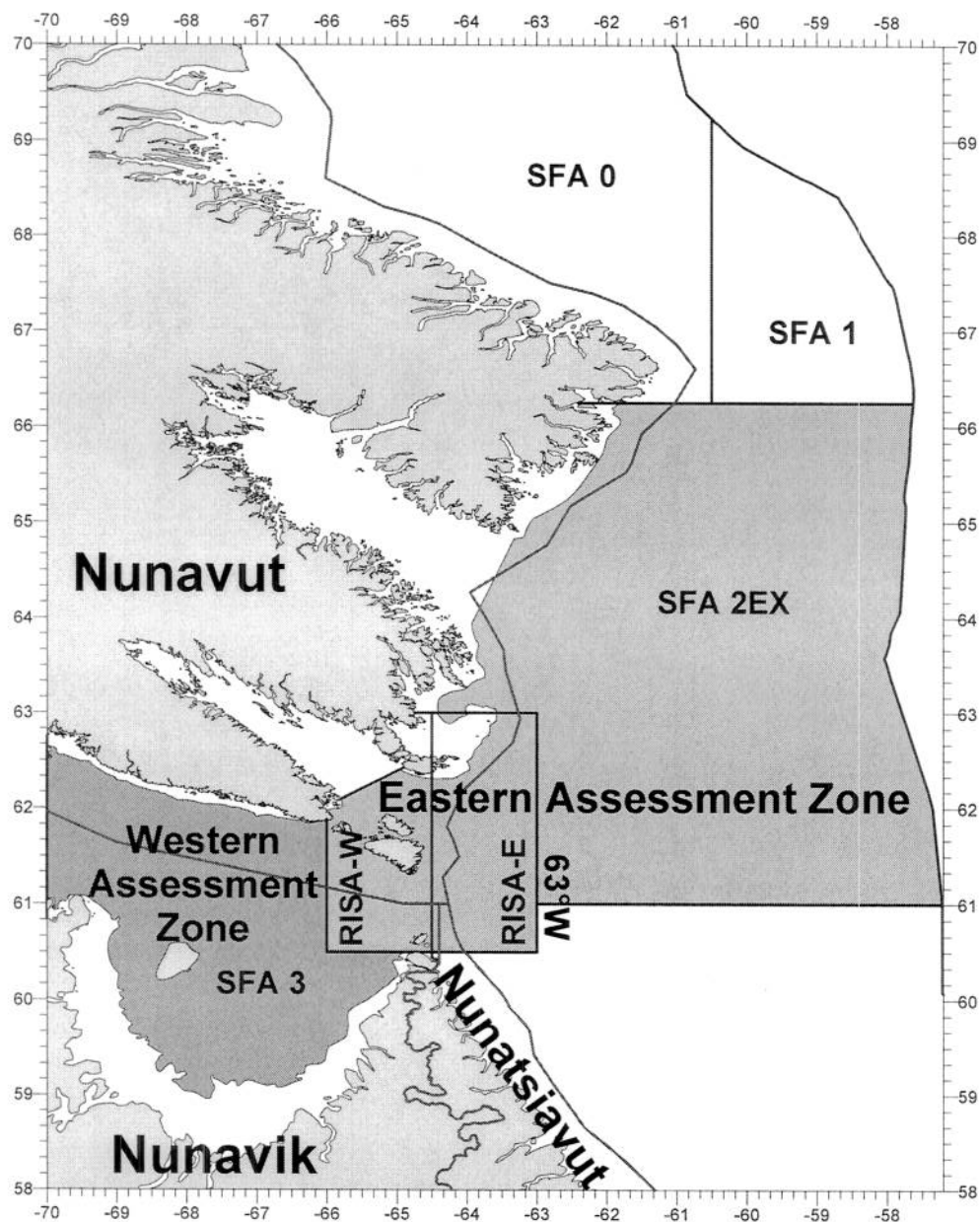


Figure 1: Two science surveys are conducted in the north using different ships and trawl gear. These surveys provide biomass, distribution and other data required to assess both shrimp populations.

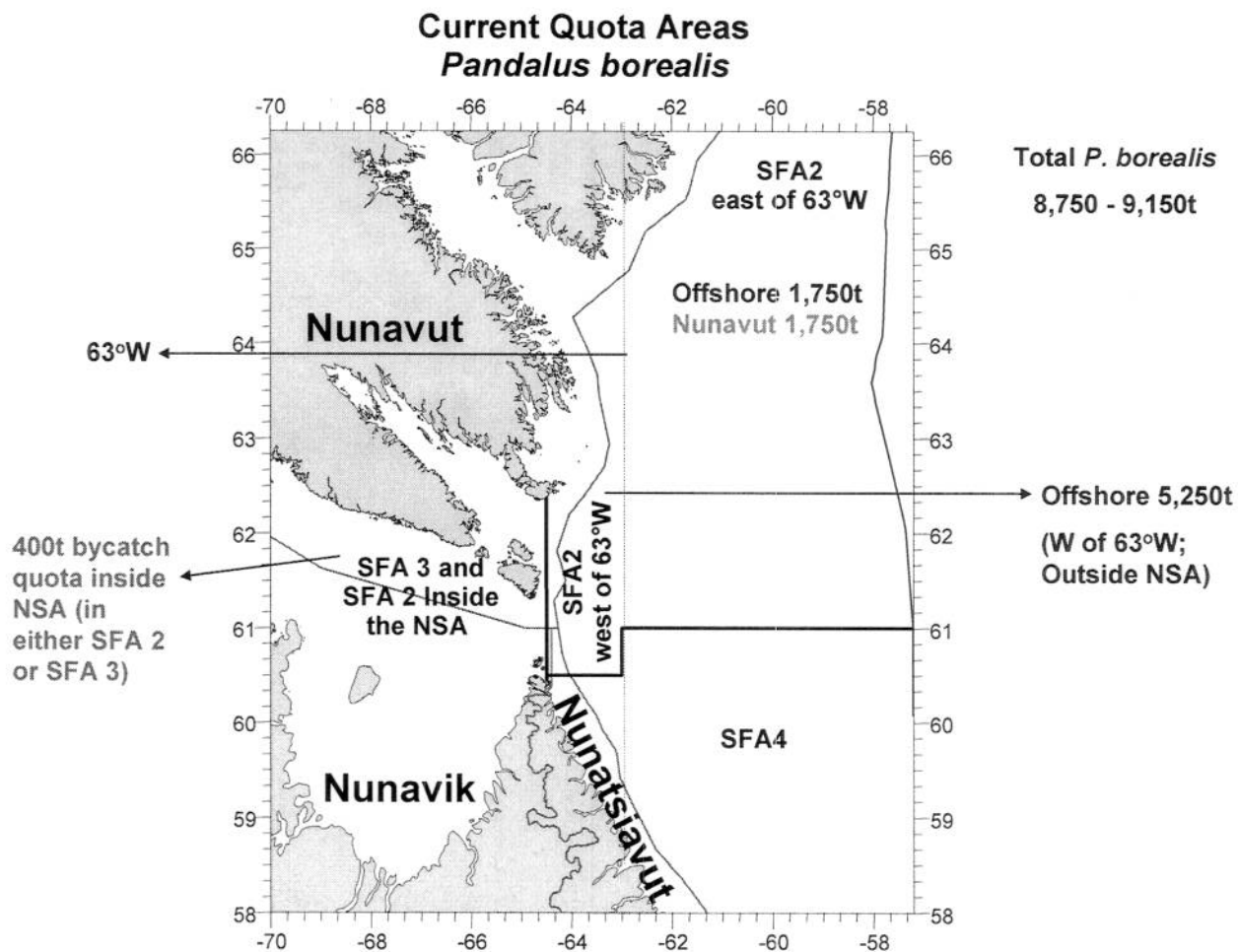


Figure 2. Current Quota Areas for *Pandalus borealis*.

Current Quota Areas ***Pandalus montagu***

Total *P. montagu*

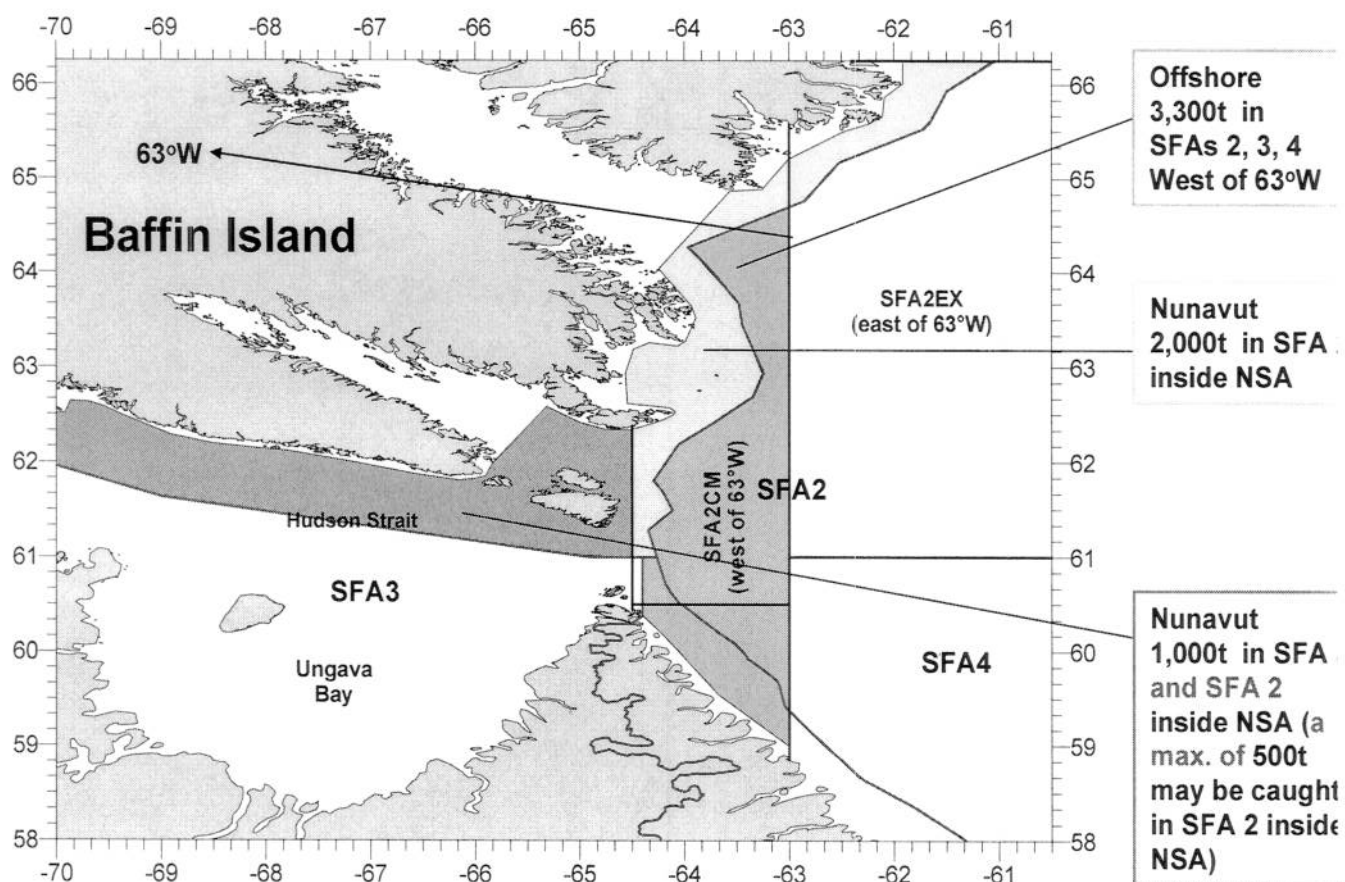


Figure 3. Current Quota Areas for *Pandalus montagu*.

Proposed Shrimp Fishing Areas

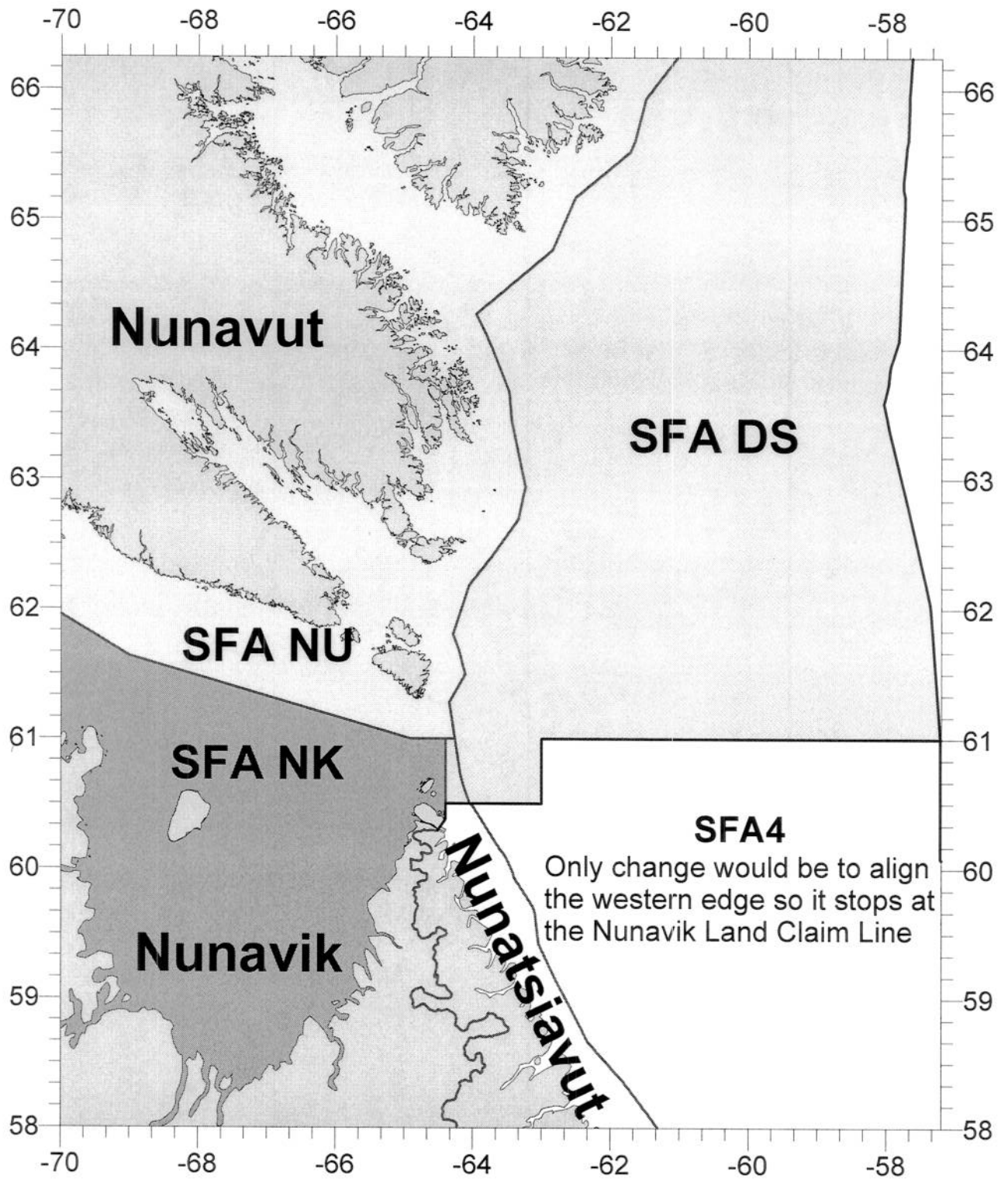


Figure 4. Proposed Shrimp Fishing Areas.

Proposed Management Units within the New SFAs

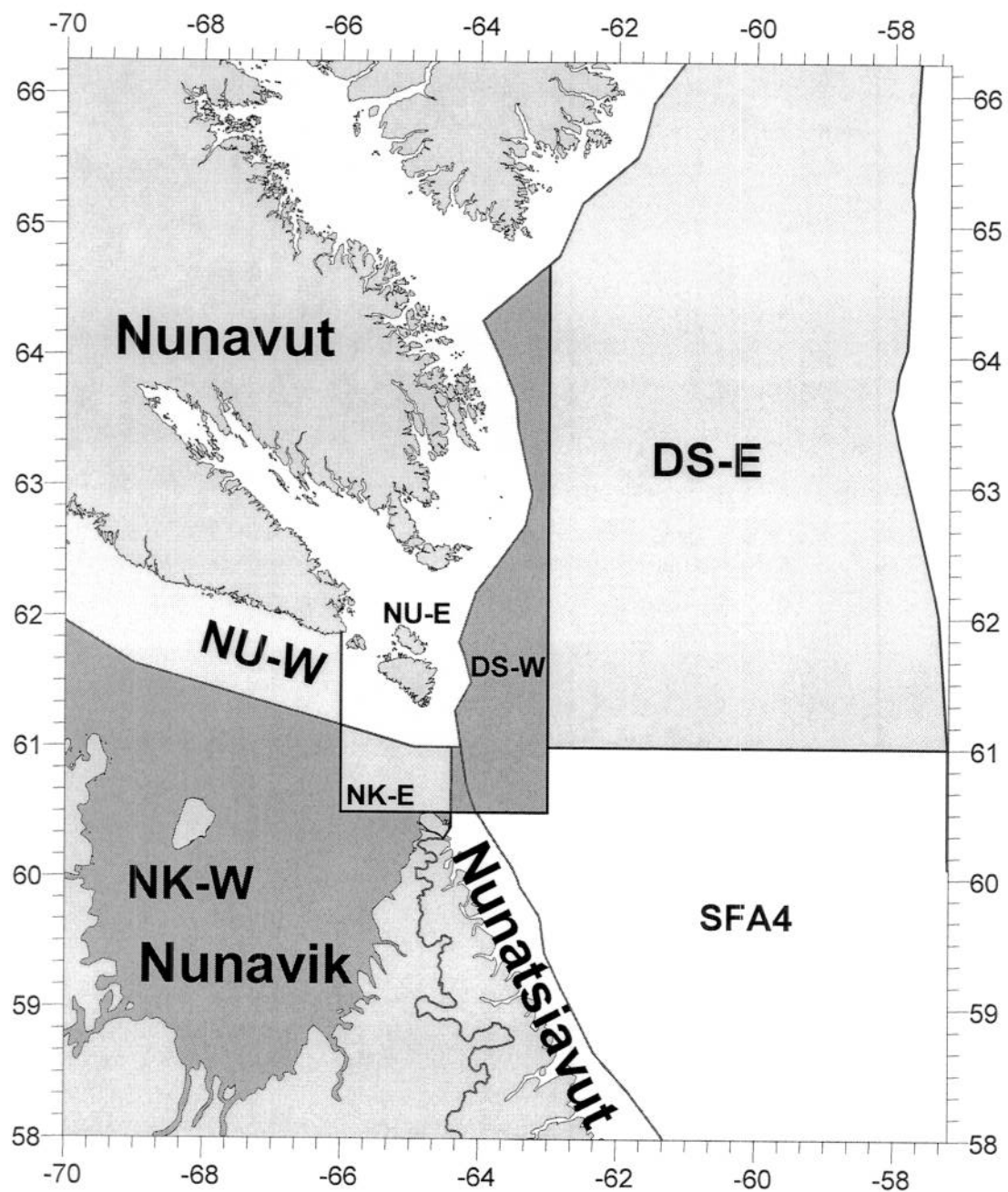


Figure 5. Proposed Management Units within the New SFAs.