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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

Mr. Jim Noble
Chief Operating Officer
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

May 30, 2012

RE: Proposed shrimp fishery management changes in SFAs 2, 3 and 4

Dear Mr. Noble:

The Government of Nunavut is writing to reiterate its position on the proposed changes to shrimp fishery management in Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) 2, 3 and 4 adjacent to Nunavut. This position has been previously outlined in discussions with NWMB staff and in letters sent to Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Fisheries and Oceans Canada and copied to the NWMB. A copy of each of these letters is attached.

On the issue of structural changes to the management regime, the GN does support changes that will help to streamline and clarify the management regime in these areas, as proposed by DFO. On the issue of quota changes, the GN supports a conservation approach to fisheries and, as such, is in general agreement that quota levels should be adjusted to reflect biomass estimates and prevent overexploitation of the resource.

With respect to the potential sharing of quotas under the new regime, our position remains as follows:

- At present, in SFAs 2 and 3 (within the NSA), Nunavut holds 3,000 t of *P. montagui* quota and a 400 t allowable bycatch quota for *P. borealis*. Nunavik currently does not hold any direct quotas in these areas. The current proposal calls for a reduction of this *P. montagui* quota and *P. borealis* bycatch in the revised SFA 2 area to levels of 1,150 t and 250 t respectively. With Nunavut's current holdings in this area, it is the position of the Government of Nunavut that it should maintain 100% of these reduced quota levels.
- For the new SFA 3 area, which is adjacent to both Nunavut and Nunavik, the potential exists for the establishment of a new quota of 5,000 t of *P. montagui* and 1,500 t of *P. borealis*. The Government of Nunavut's view is that Nunavut should obtain a minimum of 50% of this new quota (2,500 t of *P. montagui* and 750 t of *P. borealis*).

The proposed changes to the shrimp fishery in SFAs 2, 3 and 4 have the potential to benefit Nunavut, Nunavik and the shrimp industry in general, along with establishing a more simplified and straightforward management structure and ensuring that conservation concerns are reflected in the assigned quotas.

Sincerely,

Wayne Lynch

Wayne Lynch
Director, Fisheries and Sealing Division
Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut

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Minister of Environment
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Ministre de l'Environnement

Ms. Cathy Towtongie
President
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
P.O. Box 638
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

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Dear Ms. Towtongie:

Thank you for copying me on your May 3, 2011 letter to Makivik Corporation. I am very pleased to hear that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is now in a position to negotiate with Makivik on the sharing of the potential new shrimp quotas in SFA 3.

Over the past several months, my staff has been actively participating in the several conference calls and meetings held on the proposed revisions to the shrimp fishing areas and quotas in SFAs 2 and 3. Several discussions have been held between the various Nunavut stakeholders, i.e. NTI, NWMB, GN and industry, on this issue and the potential future sharing with Makivik. I would like to take this opportunity to outline the Government of Nunavut's position with respect to such potential sharing arrangements, in advance of the start of negotiations with Makivik.

At present, in SFAs 2 and 3 (within the NSA), Nunavut holds 3,000 t of *P. montagui* quota and a 400 t allowable bycatch quota for *P. borealis*. Nunavik currently does not hold any direct quotas in these areas. The current proposal calls for a reduction of this *P. montagui* quota and *P. borealis* bycatch in the revised SFA 2 area to levels of 1,150 t and 250 t respectively. With Nunavut's current holdings in this area, it is the position of the Government of Nunavut that it should maintain 100% of these reduced quota levels.

For the new SFA 3 area, which is adjacent to both Nunavut and Nunavik, the potential exists for the establishment of a new quota of 5,000 t of *P. montagui* and 1,500 t of *P. borealis*. The Government of Nunavut's view is that Nunavut should obtain a minimum of 50% of this new quota (2,500 t of *P. montagui* and 750 t of *P. borealis*). Under such an arrangement, even though the SFA 2 quotas have been reduced to reflect a conservation approach, Nunavut's overall quotas in SFAs 2 and 3 would increase by 650 t of *P. montagui* and 600 t of the more desirable *P. borealis*.

Box 2410, Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0, Canada

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The Government of Nunavut looks forward to receiving updates on NTI's negotiations with Makivik and we are available at any time to discuss any issues that may arise. Thank you in advance for considering the GN's position on this issue and I wish NTI the best in concluding a successful negotiation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Shewchuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a trailing flourish at the end.

Daniel Shewchuk
Minister of Environment

Cc: Mikidjuk Akavak, Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

March 4, 2011

Bob Lambe
Central & Arctic Region
Fisheries & Oceans Canada,
520 Exmouth St.
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 8B1

Re: DFO's Briefing Note to the NWMB on New Shrimp Boundaries

Dear Mr. Lambe:

On Friday, February 25, 2011 the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board shared a copy of DFO's briefing note on the proposed new boundary changes for Northern shrimp with the Government of Nunavut. This was shared due to the inclusion of a proposed "interim" sharing arrangement for the new Nunavut/Nunavik shrimp fishing area. The NWMB expressed its surprise at the inclusion of this information.

From the GN's perspective we were also very surprised that DFO would have placed numbers on a proposed sharing arrangement between Nunavut and Nunavik prior to the start of negotiations between NTI and Makavik. To believe that this approach would not have an impact on negotiations is, at the best, naïve. Strong concern regarding this approach was expressed at this week's NSAC meeting by the representatives from the GN, NTI, NWMB and industry.

Although we understand the desire to move the process forward on establishing the new boundaries and quotas, the approach taken is shortsighted and appears to us to be inconsistent with the Land Claims process. NTI have indicated that they will be starting negotiations with Makavik late this month; it is up to them to negotiate without outside influence, a fair sharing arrangement for the parties. A delay in the process beyond April 1st will have little or no consequences. This resource is not being fished at a high level and there is no reason why an agreement should not be brought forward to the Minister during the season.

I feel that your approach in this case is not appropriate. As co-management partners, I am sure we all seek to work together towards Nunavut's benefit.

Sincerely,

Saddaloo

Earle Baddaloo,
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Wayne Lynch, Director, Fisheries and Sealing Division
Jeff Maurice, NTI
Jim Noble and Robert Kidd, NWMB
Nunavut fishing industry