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Société Makivik

Makivik Corporation

Presentation to
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Public Hearing
June 2012

Presented by
Makivik Corporation,
Fisheries Division

Thank you for the opportunity to present on behalf of Makivik Corporation, Fisheries Division.

Makivik's first involvement in shrimp was through an experimental fishery in Ungava Bay and Hudson Strait that started in 1978.

Our original research indicated that shrimp were in the area of Killiniq, this was done through local knowledge from the cod, char and seal fisheries in Killiniq through the late sixties and into the seventies further research carried out by Maclaren Marex Inc. confirmed these original indicators in a report started in 1978 and completed in April 1979.

The research indicated that the stocks of both *Pandalus Borealis* and *Pandalus Montagui* were in abundance from 70-degree longitude eastward to Resolution Island, major concentrations existed 300-400 meters depth in an area northeast of Quaqtaq and northwest of Akpatok Island, and also in areas near Resolution Island. The ability to fish around Resolution at the time was limited by vessel horsepower as the currents are very strong and required larger more powerful vessels to harvest.

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The first experience was with a chartered vessel MV Thorsbugvin, a 35 meter converted longliner/trawler. This vessel produced a combined commercial and scientific report of catches in Hudson Strait/Ungava Bay. Given the strength of the report especially of the commercial effort, we made application to Fisheries and Oceans for a full license. A restricted offshore license was issued and restricted us to fishing in Hudson Strait, Ungava Bay and Davis Strait and that we own and operate a Canadian registered vessel. It was decided that we would acquire a freezer trawler but also continue with our commercial research in Hudson Strait/Ungava Bay. Fishing in Hudson Strait/Ungava Bay (HSUB) was opened to other companies in 1981 and the area was no longer exclusive to Inuit. We were then competing with companies that had Atlantic offshore license for both shrimp and groundfish. In 1982 we closed the operations of this company and sold our assets and banked the license.

We re-started our efforts in 1984 and in conjunction with DFO also carried out research into near shore fisheries potential in Ungava Bay but also continued the shrimp research in the area that is now SFA 3. We also researched the scallop fishery in this area in 1985 with limited success however it did lead to small vessel fishery in Quaqtq and Salluit. We also chartered local vessels to carry out scallop surveys along the Hudson Strait; the only concentrations were in an area adjacent to Salluit and concentrations east of Akpatok at depths of 150-225 meters. A later survey in 2005 in the Akpatok area indicated no scallop.

As the commercial shrimp fishery grew in the early 1980's in the area it became very noticeable that the shrimp stocks were very mobile and were moving eastward. By this time the fishery was concentrated around Resolution Island and efforts were limited.

Fishing efforts were limited in the late 80' to today to the eastern Resolution with concentration moving further east and south into northern Labrador NAFO2G this overlapped into what is now SFA2. The move or mobility of the resource seems to have a lot to do with water temperatures.

It should be note that in 1989 through a collaborative effort between **Farocan Inc. Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and Makivvik Research surveyed the area of Hudson Strait west of 70 degrees into Hudson Bay. The "Kinguk Survey"** indicated very little productivity or commercial quantities of shrimp and very little species interaction. The water was very cold and it confirmed our suspicions of the eastward movement of shrimp concentrations.

In addition Makivvik Corporation and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation have operated in partnership in the fishing company Unaq Fisheries. This is a very successful cooperative joint venture and has been in existence since 1987.

This brings us to today.

Makivvik and other offshore license holders have expressed their agreement with the change of the fishing areas at the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC).

The change in delineation of fishing zones or SFA's allows the fishery managers to better manage the resource within the rules and obligations of the MSC and conservation. The added advantage is that it creates an area that will be Inuit exclusive. And in accordance with agreements sharing to be determined by Makivvik Corporation and NTI.

The resource indications in the western area are very good however there has been no extensive commercial fishery. Research indicates a biomass of 50,000 tons of *Pandalus Montagu* and 15,000 tons of *Pandalus borealis*, these number may vary from year to year as research continues.

At various meetings it was agreed that the exploitation rate for this area be set at 10%, this is below rates of exploitation in other SFA's, we believe that a rate of 12.5% would not impact negatively the resource. The management boards have the capacity to review and recommend to the Minister however the rate of 10% would allow for a harvest of 5,000 tons of *Pandalus Montagu* and 1,500 tons of *Pandalus Borealis*. Again we believe that this could be increased without significant impact

There is limited commercial history and we believe that we must take some care in this area. From current research and previous fishing effort there is no indication of any habitat issues and from our own information and local knowledge no issue with whales or seals in the area, however this may need further monitoring on species interaction in the area. This monitoring can be accomplished through the use of the observers that are on all offshore vessels.

With the limited history of effort in the area, we are not sure on what reaction the shrimp would have to increased commercial effort on these concentrations. We believe that there should be a limited effort in the first few years. by this we mean no more than two or three vessels. It may turn out that through too much fishing the shrimp will disperse and reduce concentrations much the same as they do in Davis Strait

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Indications are that a significant portion of the resource in the western part of SFA 3 lies within the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR) and in the eastern NU/NK-E portion somewhat more evenly distributed. The border between the nunavut settlement area(NSA) and the NMR encourages a me and you attitude. Makivvik has invested over \$6.0m in research and development in the area; this does not include commercial fishing costs. We continue efforts to assist in the development of marine developments in the area that may benefit the communities. We have promoted equal sharing of the resource and equal access to areas not withstanding the disproportional amount of shrimp in the NMR.

In conclusion Makivvik is in favor of the proposed changes. As a license holder we have made this clear, we have proposed interim sharing arrangements to NTI. We have supported the TAC proposal for the area. In the spirit of Inuit sharing that is widely used and accepted and promoted we believe that a quick decision by the board and between NTI and Makivvik would allow this fishery to proceed this summer.

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