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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Department of Environment
Avatiliqiyikkut
Ministère de l'Environnement

Manasie Audlakiak
A/Chairperson, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
PO Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

RECEIVED
JUL 26 2013

Dear Mr. Audlakiak,
Re: NWMB written hearing on Nattivak HTO proposal

This letter is in regard to the request made to the NWMB by the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization for a one time transfer of all or part of the 100 tonne Qikiqtaaluk regional exploratory allocation of turbot from inside the NSA to outside the NSA in Division 0A for the purposes of exploratory fishing in the summer/fall of 2013.

As you know, sustainable fisheries development in Nunavut, both inshore and offshore, is a priority of the Department of Environment. However, identification of commercially viable fishing locations can be challenging, due to the relatively little data that exists on many Nunavut fish stocks. We support reasonable exploratory fisheries efforts by Inuit organizations and individuals.

Despite disappointing catch rates in the 2011 test fishery run by the Nattivak HTO within the NSA near Broughton Island, we agree that the deeper water outside the NSA boundary in this area holds good potential for summer turbot concentrations. As recent studies in Cumberland Sound show, turbot migrate between deep water in the summer and shallow water in the winter. Exploring deeper waters in the summer located outside of the NSA near Broughton Island may be paramount in determining if viable open water inshore fishery potential does in fact exist in that area, as these fish likely comprise the same stock.

The ultimate goal of the 100 tonne exploratory allocation is to support inshore fisheries development through test fishery research such as that proposed by the Nattivak HTO. We support a broader examination of fisheries potential in the Broughton Island area, including deeper waters immediately outside of the NSA, as both necessary and fundamental for the development of an inshore fishery in that area. However, following the 2013 summer/fall fishery, this 100 tonne exploratory quota allocation must continue to be allocated for inshore fishery development and should be fished (in most cases) within the NSA.

In summary, my department supports the applicant's one-time allocation transfer request because if successful, it may lead to the development of an economically important inshore fishery which would benefit not only the community of Qikiqtarjuaq, but Nunavummiut as a whole.

Sincerely,

Devin Imrie
A/Director of Fisheries and Sealing

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