



JUL 05 2013

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

Dear Mr. Audlakiak:

Thank you for your letters of May 9 and 14, 2013 regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decisions and recommendations on shrimp management in the Nunavut Settlement Area for *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui*.

First I would like to commend both the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) for the collaboration and cooperation in determining final harvest level decisions for the management units within the respective settlement areas and non-quota limitation decisions for the sustainable management of the shared shrimp resource. The efforts of the NWMB and NMRWB in working towards establishing a sound management structure for the sustainable management of the shared shrimp resource in the north has been appreciated.

I note that the joint decision letter of May 14, 2013 contains both final and initial Board decisions pursuant to the land claims agreements. I also note that the NWMB has provided separately on May 9, 2013 a related decision on the management regime in the Western Assessment Zone and on May 7, 2013 its recommendations on the sub-allocation of Nunavut's share of these shrimp resources. I have addressed each of the decisions and recommendations separately herein for simplicity.

Harvest levels

I accept the modified harvest levels in the Nunavut Settlement Area for *P. montagui* (2500t) and *P. borealis* (750t) shrimp for the Nunavut West management unit which represents a 50% share of the established Total Allowable Catch for each shrimp species in the Western Assessment Zone for a three year term (2013 to 2015 inclusive).

I also accept the modified harvest levels in the Nunavut Settlement Area for *P. montagui* (805t) and *P. borealis* (200t) shrimp for Nunavut East management unit which represents a 70% share of the established quota for *P. montagui* and 80% share of the established by-catch quota for *P. borealis* for the Nunavut /Nunavik East management units for a three year term (2013 to 2015 inclusive).

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Management Regime

I agree with the joint NWMB and NMRWB recommendation that, for the purpose of commercial shrimp fishing, respective shares in the Nunavut/Nunavik West and East management units are permitted to be fished in either land claims settlement area for a three year term (2013 to 2015 inclusive).

I accept the NWMB's non-quota limitation decision set out in its May 9, 2013 letter to have both *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* shrimp species managed as directed fisheries in the Western Assessment Zone for a three year term (2013 to 2015 inclusive).

With respect to the joint non-quota limitation decision for the conservation of the *P. montagui* shrimp species in the Nunavut/Nunavik East management units, I note that the NWMB has indicated that it is prepared to rescind this decision if the Department advises that this additional conservation measure is unnecessary for the conservation of the shrimp resource in the Resolution Island area. You will recall that the conservation concerns for the *P. montagui* shrimp stock in the area resulted from the old management system which allowed quotas to be fished across management units all of which could be fished near Resolution Island. The new management measures put in place along with the reduction of the Total Allowable Catch for *P. montagui* to 2250t addressed the conservation concerns to my satisfaction. However I am prepared to accept this non-quota limitation decision for the three year term if the NWMB and NMRWB deemed it necessary.

I have asked my officials to provide the NWMB and NMRWB with background information to assist the Boards in evaluating the need for this non-quota limitation.

Sub-Allocation

I appreciate the detailed information on how the NWMB determined its sub-allocation recommendations of Nunavut's share of the shrimp resources in the Nunavut East and West management units. I have given considerable deliberation to the NWMB's recommendations, along with other relevant considerations, and have decided to allocate Nunavut's share of the shrimp resources to Baffin Fisheries Coalition for the 2013 season as recommended in your letter of May 7, 2013.

I look forward to continued collaboration with the Board in the management of this important resource.

Sincerely,


Keith Ashfield