

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA) 2010 Greenland Halibut (turbot) fishery update

Background:

A separate inshore stock management area, the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA), was established in 2005 with a 500 t Total Allowable Harvest. The CSTMA is located entirely within the Nunavut Settlement Area marine waters, adjacent to the community of Pangnirtung. Traditionally an ice based winter longline fishery, an open-water longline fishery commenced in summer 2009, and both ice based and open-water fishing took place in 2010. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is working closely with Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. (PFL), Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd. (CSFL), and the Government of Nunavut (GN), to develop this inshore fishery.

A number of concerns have arisen respecting the open water fishery, including very high Greenland Shark bycatch, as well as Arctic Skate bycatch; issues with the independent Observer coverage that has occurred in the fishery; and problems experienced with the vessel's onboard Vessel Monitoring System.

DFO has been flexible on these issues, in support of developing this fishery; however, there is a need for all partners to work together towards resolving the issues to ensure a sustainable fishery that can provide benefits to the community and to Nunavut. DFO plans to initiate an annual post-season review meeting with industry (PFL, CSFL) and co-management partners (GN, NWMB), to discuss successes and challenges over the past season, and to plan for how we will work together to address these in 2011. DFO will prepare a report from this meeting, and provide copies to the NWMB and its Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Recommendations:

DFO hopes that the NWMB supports this approach of meeting together to resolve the issues. It is recommended that the NWMB support the initiative through participation of its Wildlife Management Biologist in the post-season review meeting.

Consultations: Joe Justus (Fisheries Mgmt, Iqaluit), Jeff MacDonald (Conservation & Protection, Iqaluit), Rory MacDonald (Fisheries Mgmt, Iqaluit)

Prepared by: Charlotte Sharkey, Fisheries Management Officer
Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Eastern Arctic Area

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