

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**Dec 2014**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Operational Updates.

**Updates:**

**Marine Mammals:**

1) Narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan:

- Implementation of year 2 of the Narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) was discussed during post-season reviews at each of the three Regional Wildlife Organization's (RWOs) Annual General Meetings in October and November 2014.

2) Walrus Integrated Fisheries Management Plan:

- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), along with representatives from our co-management partners, held community and Hunters and Trappers Organization meetings in Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Arctic Bay in October 2014.

3) Bowhead Integrated Fisheries Management Plan:

- The minutes from the March meeting and IFMP revisions will be circulated shortly for review and comments. Consultations are expected to resume later this fall/winter.

4) Harvest Reporting:

- Coral Harbour, Igloolik, Hall Beach, and Pangnirtung were approved for a total of 66 walrus sport hunts in 2014. A total of 13 licences were issued to sport hunters.
- In September and October, technical staff from the Iqaluit office were in contact with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), requesting mid-season harvest updates for beluga, walrus, and narwhal.

**Arctic Char:**

1) Pangnirtung Arctic Char Fishery:

- The 2014 Arctic Char Summer Fishery in Cumberland Sound commenced on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and finished on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- A total of 12 waterbodies were fished and a total of 30,124 lbs (Round Weight) were landed.

## 2) Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:

- 2014 was year 2 of an Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery near Pond Inlet. Fishing started on August 7, 2014.
- Mr. Inuarak and his crew fished the following three sites in summer 2014: Kolucktoo Bay, Tuapak, and Saatut. Total harvest is estimated in excess of 4000 lbs (Round Weight).
- During the fishery, Mr. Inuarak collected biological samples, catch-effort information, and genetic samples.
- DFO also worked with the Pond Inlet HTO and community in June 2014 to collect some information about fish movement within the Pond Inlet area.
- The Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery is a good example of many stakeholders working together to support the sustainability and economic development of Nunavut fisheries. For example, DFO provided support for the data collection requirements and communicated closely with other stakeholders to ensure that Mr. Inuarak would have their support as well. The Government of Nunavut Fisheries and Sealing Division was able to provide funding for an ice maker, fish bins, and freight subsidies and Kivalliq Arctic Foods provided labelling tags, cardboard boxes and plastic bags to line fish boxes. This continued support is important in contributing to the success of the Pond Inlet Fishery.
- Here are some photos taken by Mr. Inuarak showing the exploratory fish sampling:



Niko Inuarak removing otoliths (ear bones) from a char near Pond Inlet.



Niko Inuarak measuring a char.



Charlie Inuarak and his team member with their catch of Arctic Char near Pond Inlet.

### **Northern Shrimp:**

- Three vessels have been fishing Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) Nunavut (NU). As of October 21, about 87 t of *P. montagui* shrimp had been harvested in SFA NU east of 66°W (Resolution Island Area), and about 43 t of *P. borealis* shrimp had been harvested as by-catch; quotas are 301 t and 183 t respectively. In SFA Nunavut west of 66°W (Hudson Strait), about 2655 t of *P. montagui* shrimp, and about 362 t of *P. borealis* shrimp had been harvested; quotas are 2930 t and 1040 t respectively.
- Quotas have been harvested in SFA NU as well as in SFA Nunavik, as per the joint Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) recommendation for a three year term (2013-2015). One vessel has fished 0.4 t of Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations in SFA Davis Strait east of 63°W. Nunavut's Shrimp sub-allocations in this management unit are 1604 t.

### **Greenland Halibut:**

#### 1) Inshore Emerging Fisheries:

- In Jones Sound in September 2014, the Arctic Fishery Alliance (AFA) carried out an emerging fishery for Turbot using longlines and for invertebrates using whelk pots. The AFA had planned to do similar exploratory fisheries in the Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay areas, but these did not happen because of ice conditions.
- In the Qikiqtarjuaq area in October 2014, the AFA carried out an emerging fishery for invertebrates using whelk pots.
- The AFA is planning to try fishing for Turbot using turbot pots, in NAFO Division 0A outside the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA). The AFA wants to find out whether turbot pots can catch turbot and reduce bycatch of sharks and skates.
- There is a 100 t allocation for exploratory Turbot fishing in NAFO Division 0A inside the NSA, which is sub-allocated annually by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB). There was no sub-allocation made in 2014.

#### 2) Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area:

- Two local boats were added to the Pangnirtung HTO's licence for the Cumberland Sound open water Greenland Halibut (Turbot) fishery. One fishing trip took place in August 2014.

#### 3) Nuliajuk Research in Cumberland Sound and Clyde River:

- In 2014, research was conducted on Turbot movements and stock structure in Cumberland Sound used electronic tags and bottom monitors, as approved by the Pangnirtung HTO, as well as an annual longline survey, and testing of different gangion materials to find out which materials can catch turbot and reduce bycatch of Greenland Sharks and Arctic Skates.
- Fish assessments were also carried out in the Clyde River area, to look for potential inshore fishing opportunities for the community, and to find out what

kinds of animals are present in the waters of the area. This research used longline fishing, bottom trawling, and fish tracking using electronic tags and bottom monitors, as approved by the Nangmoutaq HTO. DFO and Ocean Tracking Network scientists are also working with the community of Clyde River to learn about Greenland Shark ecology in the area.

4) Offshore:

- Six vessels – two trawlers and 4 gillnetters – have been fishing Nunavut Turbot sub-allocations in NAFO Division 0B (Davis Strait). As of October 21, about 2311 of 2850 tonnes (t) of Turbot had been harvested. Seven vessels have been fishing in NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay), and about 6566 of 8000 t of Turbot had been harvested as of October 21.

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