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> Baffin Fisheries Coalition P.O. Box 6008 Iqaluit, Nunavut XOA 1H0

Baffin Fisheries Position Statement on Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board revisiting Total Allowable Catch for Northern and Striped Shrimp for 2016/17

Background

Baffin Fisheries Coalition (Baffin Fisheries) was formed in 2000 to develop the capacity and infrastructure required for stable fisheries adjacent to Baffin Island, Nunavut, where its members have lived and fished for millennia. Recognizing that the intent of the initial fisheries allocation was to provide Nunavut the opportunity to develop a self-sufficient fishing industry, including a new offshore shrimp fishery, Baffin Fisheries has transitioned away from partnerships to become owners of large multispecies trawlers and gillnetters, which are required to access the offshore fishery. Baffin Fisheries is now 100% Inuit owned and has invested more than \$30 million to acquire the assets, knowledge, equipment and experience necessary to return the true value of this natural resource to the people of Nunavut.

Baffin Fisheries has invested strategically in modern fishing vessels that support environmental stewardship and allow the company to compete globally. These investments are based on sound business and economic practices, including the assumption that Baffin Fisheries will be able to harvest its shrimp quotas where science and past experience indicate the fishery is healthy and sustainable.

Shrimp Harvesting

Since securing Inuit control and ownership, and expanding its fleet, Baffin Fisheries has developed the capacity, and put in place a strategic plan, to consistently harvest 100% of its allocated shrimp quota, thereby maximizing benefits to Nunavummiut.

In Nunavut and Nunavik West, Baffin Fisheries recommends establishing borealis as a by-catch, rather than having it appear as a quota. This helps ensure sustainability while demonstrating the maximization of economic benefit. Baffin Fisheries has always closely monitored its harvesting of borealis in Nunavut and Nunavik West, to minimize borealis harvest and ensure a full harvest of the available, sustainable resource.

Baffin Fisheries has harvested shrimp in a sustainable manner since 2004. Information obtained over this period, and particularly over the past three years, indicates the shrimp population in the Nunavut/Nunavik East and West zones, and Davis Strait West zone, is healthy and sustainable at current



total allowable catch levels. Baffin Fisheries is a strong proponent of the adjacency principal, and supports those who have legitimate claim to natural resources in their established territories.

LIFO

Baffin Fisheries believes the pending review of Last In First Out for southern fisheries zones is unrelated to the situation in the North and should not be a factor in determining the quotas for Nunavut's and Nunavik's Eastern and Western Assessment zones. Baffin Fisheries supports a rollover of 2015/16 shrimp quotas in Nunavut's Eastern and Western Assessment zones and believes a 50% allocation may pose a risk to its significant financial investment and its ability to deliver the current level of economic benefits to Nunavut.

Montagui Quota

Baffin Fisheries agrees that the Montagui Shrimp in Nunavut and Nunavik West (Western Assessment Zone) the Montagui is a highly dynamic resource, which is stable, healthy and sustainable. We support a 15 percent increase in this fishery, and we support continued scientific research to increase the body of knowledge in areas such as overflow from other zones and interaction between shrimp populations. We believe that the adjacency principle should be applied to any increase and that Nunavut and Nunavik interests should be considered ahead of others. We are confident that the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board, as caretakers of our fishing quotas, will continue to ensure that federal and territorial governments fulfill their obligations made under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

Long-term Growth

Baffin Fisheries shrimp and turbot harvesting and marketing activities provide tremendous economic benefit for Nunavummiut, including employment for more than 50 Inuit Land Claims Beneficiaries annually, profit-sharing among community Hunters and Trappers Associations, and the development of a major international Inuit-owned fisheries company with tremendous growth potential. Baffin Fisheries has recently embarked on a major Northern Expansion program which is creating new full-time jobs in Nunavut, and will double the number of Inuit working on Baffin Fisheries Vessels within five years. The total economic impact of Baffin Fisheries to Nunavut is approximately \$2.5 million in wages and benefits alone, and the Corporation plans to more than double this within five years.

Sincerely,

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Jacopie Maniapik, Chairman and President Baffin Fisheries



On behalf of the Baffin Fisheries Board of Directors and Senior Executive:

- Methusalah Kunuk, Vice-President and Vice-Chair; Board Member for Amorak HTO
- Leo Mucktar, Corporate Treasurer and Board Member for Mittimakalik HTO
- Noah Mosesee, Board Member for Pangnirtung HTO
- Ben Kovic, Board Member for Amarok HTO
- Mikidjuk Kolola, Board Member for Mayukalik HTO
- Joannie Ikkidluag, Board Member for Mayukalik HTO
- Jerry Natanine, Board Member for Namautaq HTO
- Sam Palituq, Board Member for Namautaq HTO
- Matthias Kaunak, Board Member for Mittimakalik HTO