

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
March 2017

EOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Updates

Updates:

Marine Mammals:

1) Narwhal

- Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) have begun returning their 2016 tags. Within in the next few months DFO will be sending out requests for tag returns and harvest numbers and placing an order for the 2017 tags.

2) Walrus:

- The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board recently approved the Walrus Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Nunavut Settlement Area, excluding the Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy with Nunavik.
- DFO is in the process of coordinating meetings with HTOs in walrus harvesting communities in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions, who have not yet had in person consultation, to review the Management Plan and discuss how HTOs can be more involved in the future

3) Cumberland Sound Beluga:

- On January 17th & 18th DFO met with the Pangnirtung HTO and held a Public Meeting in Pangnirtung to discuss the results of the 2014 aerial survey of Cumberland Sound Beluga, the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Report, and the proposed Species at Risk Act listing.
- The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the available information and to work on a way forward to address any information gaps, which includes the collection of traditional knowledge.
- DFO will be reviving the Cumberland Sound Beluga Working Group and continuing to develop the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.

Arctic Char:

1) Qikiqtarjuaq Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:

- DFO issued an exploratory fishing licence to Nattivak HTO this winter. This will be the third year for the exploratory fishery in the Confederation Fiord Area.
- DFO was advised that the fishers began fishing on January 21, 2017.

Greenland Halibut (Turbot):

1) Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishery

- As of January 27, fishing had not started in Cumberland Sound as the ice was not in yet.
- DFO plans to meet with ice Turbot fishers in Pangnirtung the week of January 30, to provide in person support for effective management of the fishery. The licence will be issued that same week.

2) Pond Inlet Emerging Fishery:

- DFO issued an exploratory Turbot fishing licence to Pond Inlet fishers for through ice fishing in Eclipse Sound. The Government of Nunavut Fisheries & Sealing Division plans to assist fishers to collect biological samples and catch per unit effort data as a follow-up to the Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (N-CAMP) training that Fisheries & Sealing delivered in Pond Inlet in 2015.
- This fishery uses the Division 0A inshore Turbot quota that is set aside for fisheries development purposes inside the Nunavut Settlement Area.
- Baffin Fisheries Coalition has also indicated interest in helping to facilitate an exploratory Turbot fishery in Pond Inlet this winter/spring.

3) Offshore Fishery:

- On January 18th and 19th DFO held a Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Subarea 0 Greenland Halibut Fishery Review Meeting with stakeholders in Iqaluit. The meeting agenda is appended to this briefing note. Stakeholders were engaged in discussions, making for a productive meeting.
- The Total Allowable Catches (TACs) in NAFO Divisions 0A and 0B have increased from 8000t and 7000t in 2016 to 8,575t and 7,575t for 2017 and 2018. The TAC increases were based on advice provided by the NAFO Scientific Council, as well as stakeholder consultation.
- In Division 0A the entire allocation is to Nunavut, and Nunavut will receive 100% of the TAC increase. In Division 0B Nunavut will receive 90% of the TAC increase and Nunavik Inuit will receive 10%.
- In 2016 fishing season, about 7500t of Nunavut's 7900t Division 0A allocation was harvested, leaving about 300t in the water; all of Nunavut's 2850t Division 0B allocation was harvested.
- All landing reports for the 2016 Division 0B Fixed Gear Competitive Greenland Halibut Fishery have now been received by DFO. The 416t overharvest in 2015 was reconciled against the 2016 allocation resulting in a 484t quota for 2016. The total catch was 438.686t, leaving 45.573t in the water.
- DFO is consulting with stakeholders on the 2017 management regime for

the Division 0B 900t Fixed Gear Competitive Quota.

Northern Shrimp:

- About 720t of the new 1083.600t Nunavut allocation in Davis Strait West has been harvested.
- About 120t of the 1604t Nunavut allocation in Davis Strait East has been harvested.
- About 480t of the 1040t Nunavut *Pandalus borealis* allocation has been harvested in Management Unit (MU) Nunavut West.
- About 1930t of the 3069t Nunavut *Pandalus montagui* allocation has been harvested in MU Nunavut West.
- About 130t of the 301t Nunavut *Pandalus montagui* allocation has been harvested in MU Nunavut East.
- The season for the above fishing areas is April 1 – March 31; however, no fishing is taking place at present.
- No harvesting of the Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 1 Nunavut allocation took place in 2016. The season for SFA 1 is January 1 – December 31.

Prepared by: Central and Arctic Region – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: Jan. 27, 2017