

# PROPOSAL REVIEW

**Project Number:** 3-15-08

**Applicant:** Ross Tallman

**Title:** Determination of stock and climate effects on arctic char juvenile growth

**Funding Requested:** Single Year Funding - \$12,500 for 2015-2016

**Rank:** 7 / 17

**Total Score** 77.30 /100  
(no deductions)

**Scoring Breakdown:** NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50  
Regional Priority: 5.50 / 7.50  
Quality: 28.50 / 35.00  
Consultation: 12.00 / 15.00  
Funding: 13.80 / 25.00

## Project Summary:

This project will examine the relationship between stock and environmental variables and early growth of arctic char. The objectives of the project are to: 1) meet with the communities to gather traditional ecological knowledge regarding factors that might influence arctic char recruitment; 2) verify the use of back calculations as an effective method for predicting arctic char fish length; 3) determine whether the early growth rate in arctic char is stock dependent; and 4) determine if arctic char growth rate is variable among years.

## Project Contributions:

|                     |                 |            |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Requested from NWMB | \$12,500        | 22%        |
| Other Contributions | <u>\$45,000</u> | <u>78%</u> |
| Total               | \$57,500        | 100%       |

## NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: #1 - Contributes to the establishment, modification or removal of levels of Total Allowable Harvest (S 5.6.16 to S 5.6.18) for stocks or populations where there is believed to be a conservation concern or that are priority species for harvest by Inuit.

Regional Priority: #1 Baffin – Emerging Fisheries: where to focus resources (e.g. Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, and Igloodik).

Project design: In summer 2016, interviews will be conducted with elders and other community members in Pangnirtung and Iqaluit regarding their thoughts on how to find juvenile arctic char and what might be important for their growth. Fish will also be sampled in three lakes (Qasigiat, Kipisa, and Isuittuq) between mid-August to mid-September. Ages and lengths of juvenile fish will be used to predict growth, which will be compared between lakes to determine any variations.

Application of results: The results of this study will be used to provide advice to the NWMB and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the sustainability of harvest levels for Arctic char in the Cumberland Sound and Sylvia Grinnell systems.

Community involvement / consultation: The Project Leader has obtained a letter of support for this project from the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization but has not yet obtained support from the Iqaluit Hunters and Trappers Organization. In-community consultations are planned throughout the research, including a presentation of the results to the communities. The project will employ 3 to 4 local residents of Pangnirtung and Iqaluit for a total of 20 person days.

As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the researcher is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and provide evidence that the researcher has done a “conscientious” job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that “conscientious” consultation has been conducted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Recommendations:** If this project is funded, the following conditions should apply:

1. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

**Prepared By:** Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

**Consultations:** Karla Letto, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

# Cumberland Sound Fisheries

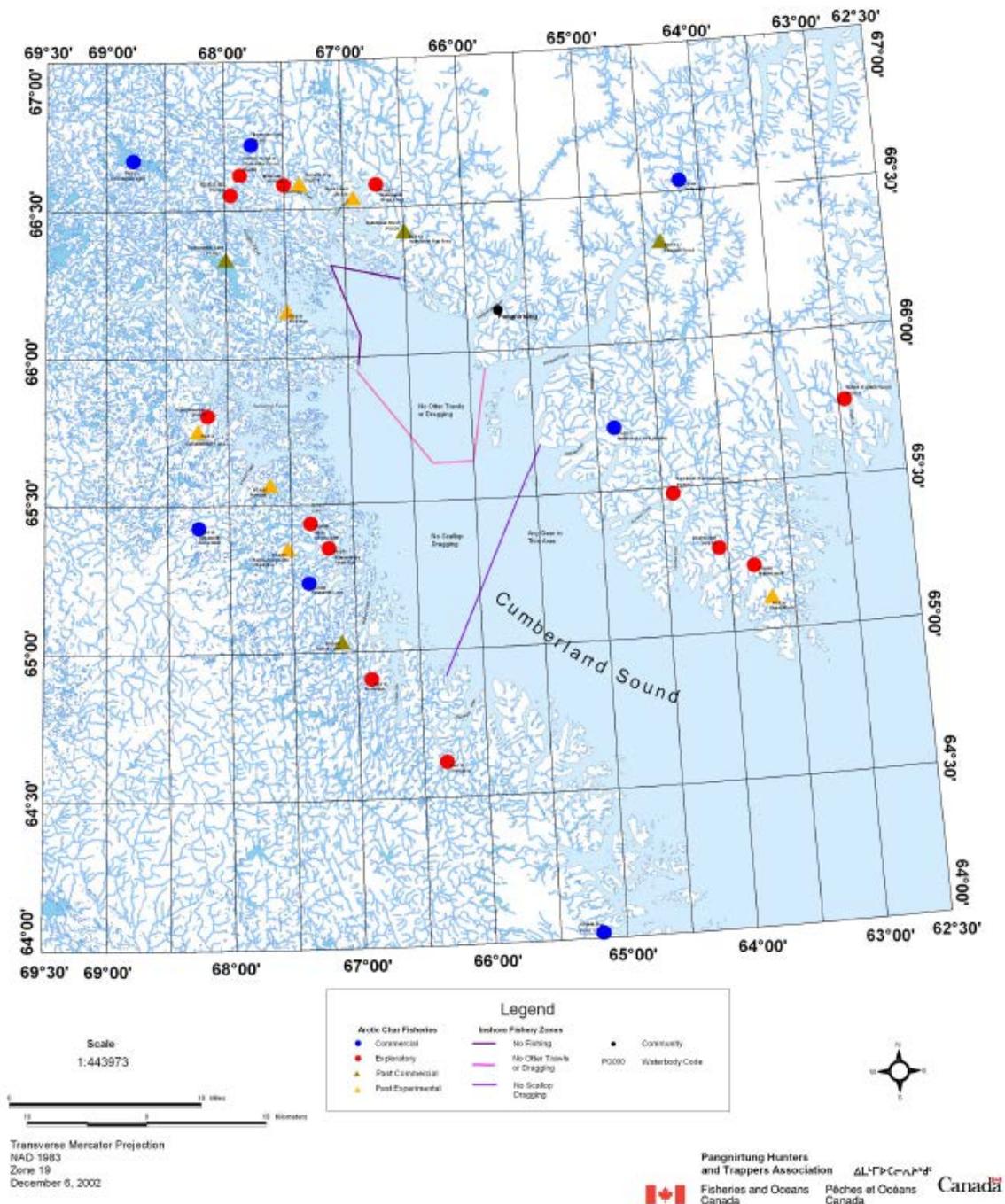


Figure 1. Arctic char fisheries around Cumberland Sound.