

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Dec 2015

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 3 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 2015.
- Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Advisory Reports regarding the tag transfer policy and abundance estimates and total allowable landed catch recommendations of narwhal stocks in the Canadian High Arctic was published in November 2015.

2) Harvest Reporting:

- Coral Harbour and Hall Beach were approved for a total of 27 walrus sport hunts in 2015. A total of 21 licences were issued to sport hunters. At least 18 hunters were successful.
- 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:

Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:

- 2015 was year 3 of an Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery near Pond Inlet. Initial reports indicate that the third year of this fishery was successful.
- The Department is working with Mr. Inuarak and his crew to summarize the details and samples that were collected this year. A quick review suggests that 5 waterbodies and 999 fish were sampled.

Northern Shrimp:

- Fishing in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) Davis Strait and SFA Nunavut started on July 14, 2015.
- Total harvest for Nunavut sub-allocations as of Oct. 28, 2015 was 1267 mt.

Greenland Halibut:

1) Inshore Emerging Fisheries:

- In September 2015, the Arctic Fishery Alliance (AFA) carried out an emerging fishery for Turbot using longlines and whelk pots. Once again ice conditions hampered the fishing efforts of the crew in some areas; although, fishing did take place adjacent to Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay.
- In October fishing commenced outside the Nunavut Settlement area in NAFO Division 0A near Qikiqtarjuaq using longlines, turbot pots, and whelk pots.

2) Offshore:

- As of Oct. 30, 2015, the total harvest for Nunavut sub-allocations in NAFO Division 0B and 0A were 6374.3 mt and 1142 mt, respectively.

Conservation and Protection:

Highlights for this past season include:

- Extensive work with Government of Nunavut (GN) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with the narwhal tusk certification process in communities.
- C&P presence in Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay, and Sanikiluaq.
- The bowhead hunt licences were delivered to community officials in Hall Beach and Naujaat.
- C&P had two Fishery Officers visit the community of Cambridge Bay to monitor and observe the commercial and recreational Arctic Char fishing activities, meet with the local fish plant and follow up on outstanding files.
- Several aerial surveillance flights to monitor the offshore Greenland Halibut and Northern Shrimp fisheries.
- A recreational fishing file on the Sylvia Grinnell River resulted in a significant penalty to two individuals charged. The result was a total of \$3500 in fines and forfeiture of fishing equipment.

Prepared by: Northern Operations – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: Oct. 30, 2015