

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Decision

Issue:

Discussion on the identification of Fisheries Act-area based closures and management measures currently in place in the Central and Arctic Region that can be added to Canada's list of protected areas in support of the Federal Government's 2017 Marine Conservation Target.

Background:

The mandate letter for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard includes a commitment to increase the proportion of Canada's protected marine and coastal areas to five percent by 2017, and ten percent by 2020 – supported by new investments in community consultation and science.

These protected areas will consist of a range of tools, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures' authorized under the Fisheries Act that meet the established criteria.

As a first step, the Department has been working to ensure that fisheries measures that have already been established by the Department and its Partners, including the NWMB, are recognized as relevant and informed mechanisms that can meet the protection criteria established by Canada.

Consultations:

The Department will be seeking to consult on existing Fisheries Act-based area closures and other measures with partners and stakeholders across the country. As the primary management partner in the Central and Arctic Region, the Department wishes to consult with the Board on those areas that could have directly impact fishing opportunity for Nunavut harvesters.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that a discussion on Marine Protected Areas in the Central and Arctic Region, including Fisheries Act-based protected areas, be added to the agenda of the March 9, 2017 meeting agenda.

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