

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Pangnirtung HTA – Request for Arctic Char Exploratory Fishery Licence for Kingnait Fjord

Background:

A commercial fishery operated at Kagitugulu Lake (66°23'N 64°19'W), one of two small lakes in the river system flowing into head of Kingnait Fjord. In six of the ten years from 1986 to 1995 the commercial harvest exceeded the quota of 4,500 kg. In 2000, citing concern for the stock, the HTA requested that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) close the Kingnait Fjord exploratory char fishery. The NWMB agreed to close the commercial fishery for at least five years. However, in 2002, the HTA requested that Kingnait Fjord be reopened. The NWMB deferred any change to the closure until they could undertake the setting of a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and Basic Needs Level (BNL). In late 2003, the HTA requested support from Fisheries & Oceans in another attempt to reopen the commercial fishery. Data, available from 1991 and 1997 were analyzed and indicated that there were more of the larger and older fish present in the 1997 sample. Length-frequency data from 197 fish collected in the subsistence harvest in 2003 were analyzed to assess the current status of the stock. Ages had not been determined at the time of the 2004 January meeting. The data have now been analyzed by DFO science and, based on the age structure; this stock appears to be healthy. As a precautionary approach, DFO has proposed to the HTA to open Kingnait fjord under an exploratory license which was agreed by the HTA Board members.

Assessment:

Option 1: Retain the closure, which has the lowest level of risk to the population.

Option 2: Allow an exploratory harvest, which should include the requirement to collect biological data. This would provide a moderate level of risk to the population.

Biological data should including length, weight, age, CPUE and total harvest as per the five year data collection plan for new fisheries. Total harvest from both the exploratory and any subsistence/domestic fishery should be reported. If an exploratory harvest is allowed then it is suggested that a total harvest from all sources (including both lakes on the river system and subsistence and commercial harvest) should be limited to 2000 kg.

Option 3: The highest level of risk for this population would be to open the exploratory fishery at the original level.

DFO has consulted the Pangnirtung HTO. Their preference is to use any allocation for this waterbody on an exploratory (commercial) fishery with biological data collected from the fishery to assess the status of the stock.

Recommendations:

Waterbody and location: Kingnait Fjord 66°23'N 64°19'W

Gear type: gillnet mesh size of 5½ "

Recommended Total Allowable Harvest: 2000 kg including exploratory/subsistence/domestic fishery

The NWMB will need to establish a BNL and adjusted BNL and assess how the TAH should be divided.

License Conditions:

The fishery should be monitored (sample/data collection and catch effort data) to assess the effect of any fisheries on the stocks.

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Date: May 27th 2005

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May 25, 2005:-----

Eastern Arctic Area
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Ullakut,

The board of directors had a meeting last night and discussed about Kingait fjord .
They were hoping to get the lake re-open on July but there were miscommunications.
Total allowable harvest of 2000kg the board of directors decided they want to use it for
commercial fishing quota for this summer .
If you have any question please don't hesitate to get in touch with our office.

Sincerely,



Daisy Keenainak
A/Chairman

