

**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE RESEARCH TRUST FUND  
FINAL PROJECT REPORT  
2018/2019**

**NWRT PROJECT NUMBER:** 3-18-04 Preliminary Study Funding

**PROJECT TITLE:** Preliminary meetings in the three regions to discuss potential harvest increase studies on Arctic Char

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## **SUMMARY**

Currently there is no known knowledge on the pressure limits that Arctic Char in Nunavut can sustain. This missing information makes it difficult for managers to determine harvest rates that are sustainable for Arctic Char in Nunavut on all fisheries. We proposed to travel to all three regions and discuss with one (or more) community(ies) in each region the potential/interest of collaborating on a harvest pressure study in their area.

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Our research question is: *To meet with one (or more) community(ies) from each region to discuss their community's and HTO's interest, willingness and ability to collaborate on research looking at harvest pressure on Arctic Char.*

UPDATE on objectives:

We have met with one community (Pangnirtung) in the Qikiqtaaluk Region to discuss this research. That community would like to see Science Advice from existing work before proceeding with planning this research. We are working on getting these reports done, currently waiting for lab results to be complete.

We have met with all Kivalliq HTOs (except the Coral Harbour HTO) at a meeting lead by Fisheries and Oceans Resource Management in February in Rankin Inlet. The outcome from the meeting will be published in the coming months, focusing on the information provided by HTOs.

We have met with the Kugaaruk HTO to discuss Arctic Char research in their area and including presenting the idea of doing a Harvest Pressure Study. The community is excited to work with us and we have agreed to start slow and steady to make sure that the research is well developed.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

We will send a translated letter (and follow up by email and calling) to the HTO's of all communities with viable Arctic Char fisheries, sharing a little bit about our research idea and explaining that we are interested in developing collaborative research. Should a community be interested we will plan a meeting to speak with the local HTO and community. Additionally, we will aim to gather local knowledge that will include: information about their Arctic Char fishery, knowledge on sustainable harvest levels from the community, how the community fishes, what they wish their fishery to be, and any other information they wish to share on the Arctic Char fishery of their community. Should multiple communities from one region be interested, we will have to make a decision regarding which community is best suited to collaborate with us, our aim is to have one community per region.

For the future we will ask the community to nominate a Research Champion to be the main contact between DFO and the community during the beginning stages of research development. The idea would be to have research champions will be paid an honorarium (rate to be determined by the HTO).

All interested communities, HTOs, the Research Champions and DFO will be part of the team that designs the project, secures funding (outside of DFO) and manages the project.

## **REPORT BY INUIT PARTICIPANTS**

The Report by Inuit Participants have not been handed out as most of these meetings have not taken place yet and the intention of this proposal was to meet communities and HTO to discuss the potential research and look at future meetings to develop community specific objectives and research plans.

## **RESULTS/DISCUSSION/MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

This is Preliminary Study Funding and followed the intention of that funding pot, which is to consult on potential future research and look towards developing collaborative research from inception. As such we have no results, discussions or management implications to present at this time.

## **REPORTS TO COMMUNITIES/RESOURCE USERS**

A Newsletter from this year's consultations will be prepared in April 2019, translated and sent to all communities that showed interest in this research. We will follow up by email and phone, and apply for funding to develop a research planning workshop that will include HTOs, fishers and researchers collaboratively working together to develop a research plan. The research plans will consist of both Fisheries and Oceans objectives, AND community specific research objectives.