ᑲᑐᑎᓗᒍ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᐱᕈᖅᐸᓕᐊᑎᓪᓗᒍ
Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble
Nunavut

ᐊᕙᑎᓕᕆᔨᒃᑯᑦ
Department of Environment
Avatiliqiyikkut
Ministère de l'Environnement

Mr. Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

February 6, 2015

Dear Mr. Kovic;

RE: Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*Pandalus montagui*) shrimp Total Allowable Catch (TAC) levels and TAC setting methodology for the 2015-16 season

In response to the NWMB's written public hearing concerning TAC levels for Northern and Striped shrimp for the 2015-16 season in the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) and Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) and the methodology by which TACs are determined in these areas, please find below the comments and position of the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment on these issues:

- Analysis for shrimp should continue to be based on the agreed upon PA Framework approach, which included participation from NU stakeholders. If this approach is to be applied elsewhere, it should be applied equally in Nunavut. We believe that the following recommendations are in keeping with this PA Framework;
- For the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ), given the new survey design implemented in 2014 and subsequent restarting of the time series, and considering that 2013 biomass indices were within the Healthy Zone, we agree with DFO's recommendation to maintain the current TAC in this area (10% ER).
    - We note that at 10% the ER is very conservative (at the level the PA Framework sets as the maximum for when in the Critical Zone, whereas this stock is currently well within the Healthy Zone), but due to the agreed upon survey approach that necessitated a restarting of the WAZ time series, we support a 10% ER in the short term.
- For the Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ), we support DFO's Option 2, whereby the TAC would remain unchanged, unless exceeding 20% ER in the Healthy Zone, 15% ER in the Cautious Zone or 10% in the Critical Zone, in which case a

P.O. Box 1000, Stn.1320
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

(867) 975-7700
(867) 975-7740
www.gov.nu.ca

reduction in TAC would occur to lower ER to the appropriate threshold for that Zone.

- In addition, we support DFO's proposal for what constitutes a "precipitous change in TAC" as any change in TAC greater than 25%, which would trigger a special meeting of NSAC to discuss a way forward.

Thank you for considering the Government of Nunavut's position on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Devin Imrie
A/Director of Fisheries and Sealing
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut