

Submission
By
Makivik Corporation

To
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, (NWMB)
&
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB)

In consideration of the 2015 Total Allowable Catch levels for
Northern and Striped Shrimp

January 31 2015

Introduction:

Makivik Corporation has an extensive history in the northern and striped shrimp fishery and identified the resource in what is now the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) in 1979 and fished extensively throughout the Eastern Assessment Zone and Davis Strait since that time.

Recent changes in fishing effort combined with more scientific information and possible climatic conditions has lead to the recent developments in the WAZ and more research completed by the Northern Shrimp Research Foundation in the EAZ has also lead to a more precise scientific analysis over the last 9 years in an area that had no extensive or consistent research. Inuit of Nunavik have worked in the fishing industry in the area of Resolution Island and Northern Labrador for six decades.

Issues.

Scientific information:

Based on the surveys for both areas is not yet available. The date of this written submission (Feb 6) precedes the Zonal Assessment Process (ZAP). Therefore full information is not available for us to make a properly informed decision.

We do however have science from 2013 and we also have our own catch statistics by area and anecdotal advice from captains for the 2014 fishery.

Comments:

Western Assessment Zone:

Pandalus Borealis:

The fishery in this zone was assessed for a TAC of 2080 tons, of which Nunavik receives 1040 tons. Our catches of borealis were 27% of our TAC. The low catch rates for borealis reflect that there is greater effort on the montagui species.

Recommend that the TAC for Borealis remain at the 2014 level unless there is scientific information indicating substantial decline in the biomass.

Pandalus Montagui; Striped shrimp:

From the 2013 survey indications are that the biomass is strong and that advice provided by Fisheries and Oceans was for an overall TAC of 5860 tons is the 10% exploitation rate.

Catch reports indicate that we harvested 95% of the Nunavik allocation. These were evenly spread over the Nunavik and Nunavut zones of WAZ. This is also a good indication that the sharing agreement is working.

Recommend that the TAC remain the same as 2014.

Eastern Assessment Zone:

Pandalus Borealis:

The 2013 assessment indicated that the resource was strong and the SSB is strong the TAC of 6417 seems fair. Difficulty in the east and west of 63 line causes some issues and catch rates indicate a fairly strong resource on either side of 63.

Given that there is no science available to us but also based on catch rates we believe that there should be consideration for an increase.

Pandalus Montagu:

The 2013 information indicated some concern for this stock and the bulk of the resource is in what is now termed NU/NK east and west, geographically east of 66 degrees longitude.

We are not in a position to question the science. However catch rates during the time we fished were very good, indicating a spike in the resource. Whether this is due to west to east migration from WAZ, or even migration from SFA 4 is difficult to determine but to reduce the TAC further we believe would be a mistake.

We have no specific suggestion other than do not reduce the TAC. We would advocate for an increase within NU/NK east.

Note:

We understand the difficulty setting TAC for Montagu in NU/NK east however the resource has been there for over 35 years. The harvest of borealis is very positive and we believe that more work is required on montagu that may help determine migration between the 3 zones.

The sharing arrangement that exists works well and some consideration should be given to extending this far beyond 2016.