

gear and learn how to use the equipment and fish effectively. If we are able to do this successfully in the fall of 2026 with a small test fishery, fish harvesters will be able to gear up for the fall of 2027, order the boats and equipment necessary for the fishery with the knowledge that they can have an effective and commercially viable fishery based on the test fishery. If the test fishery does not occur, the harvesters simply won't be able to make the necessary investments and will not have had the opportunity to have the Greenlandic harvesters train them, resulting in the quota being left unharvested. Allowing the test fishery would build on the momentum from the positive results of the past winter's fishery, continue that momentum by have the Greenlanders help train the Pangnirtung harvesters and motivate them to make plans and investments for 2027.

Next it is necessary to consider the amount of fish required for this very important test fishery.

First of all, the catch rates and size of fish being caught in the CSTMA indicate the stock is very strong. The catch rates per hook are far better than other hook and line fisheries for turbot in Greenland and Canada. Most significant is the size of the fish being caught. In the CSTMA fishery, the great majority of the fish being caught in the 3-5 kg range whereas in the Davis Strait, in Greenland inshore and offshore fishery and turbot fisheries of the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, the fishery is based on 1-2 kg and 2-3 kg fish. The size difference is so great that while using the same 18 kg boxes, those packed in Pangnirtung can only hold 15 kg due to the large fish and extra airspace created in the box with the bigger fish. Given the very high catch rates and the size of the fish, there can be no measurable risk to the CSTMA stock for the small amount required for this test fishery.

Since the May 14 letter was written to you, catch data and landings from the winter ice fishery have been finalized and the final number is 574.5t of fish caught, leaving .5t. While the .5t is not enough to conduct a test fishery, it reduces the amount required for the test fishery to 9.5t and potentially less if there is early and clear results about catch rates and bycatch as outlined in the May 14 letter. There is also the possibility that fish could be released alive from the hook and line gear. Most fish will come to the surface alive and if the concerns over the extra mortality are so significant that another 9.5t cannot be harvested without negative impact on the stock, then fish that are successfully removed from the hook without damage could be released. We hope that this will not be necessary but if essential, this is a way to keep the retained catch down to 5t.

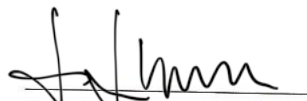
Finally, we would like to reiterate the point that we are willing to work with DFO Science in the development of this test fishery, get their input on the design of the test fishery, data to be collected, bycatch assessment and mortality rates, and collection of samples from the turbot or bycatches.

We hope that this addendum will provide useful information and context for the Board's review. We would welcome any requests for clarification or additional details.

Sincerely,



Mark Kilabuk
Manager
Pangnirtung HTO



Jon Johansson
Manager
Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited

cc. Jade Owen, NTI, Department of Marine
Jeff MacDonald, GN, Director, Fisheries and Sealing Division
Christi Friesen, DFO Arctic Region