

**SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**FOR**

**Information:**

**Decision: X**



**NWMB Decision to Allocate the Surplus for Greenland Halibut (Turbot) in the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area**

**Purpose**

The NWMB is considering allocating the surplus stock of Greenland halibut (also known as turbot) located within the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area.

**Background**

Section 5.6.19 legally requires the NWMB to strike a Basic Needs Level once a Total Allowable Harvest is determined. When the Basic Needs Level is lower than the Total Allowable Harvest, the difference is the surplus and Section 5.6.31 requires the NWMB to determine how that surplus is allocated.

On February 2, 2005, the NWMB established a Total Allowable Harvest of 500 tonnes for Greenland halibut (turbot) in the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area. In the same decision, the Board calculated a Pangnirtung community basic needs level of 4.4 tonnes for this stock pursuant to section 5.6.21(a) and based on data from the *Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study*. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans accepted the Board's decision on April 6, 2005.

In its decision letter to the Minister concerning the Total Allowable Harvest and Basic Needs Level decision, the Board stated that once the NWMB-Minister decision-making process is finalized, it will allocate the surplus. To date, the Board has not allocated the surplus, and this step remains pending.

**Issue**

The Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization has requested that the NWMB temporarily increase the Total Allowable Harvest for turbot in the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area from 500 tonnes to 510 tonnes.

Section 5.6.31 of the Nunavut Agreement directs that the NWMB allocate any surplus, representing the difference between a Total Allowable Harvest and the Basic Needs Level, in the following order of priority:

- a) to provide for personal consumption by other residents as described in Sections 5.6.32 to 5.6.37;
- b) to provide for the continuation of existing sports and other commercial operations as described in Section 5.6.38;
- c) to provide for economic ventures sponsored by Hunters and Trappers Organization and Regional Wildlife Organizations

The request received from the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization presents an opportunity for the Board to complete its work and allocate the surplus of turbot found within the Cumberland Land Sound Turbot Management Area in line with the requirements established under the Nunavut Agreement.

When allocating the surplus, the NWMB will consider the record of harvesting since the Total Allowable Harvest and Basic Needs Level were established. Notwithstanding the order of priority for the allocation of surplus referenced above, the harvest records confirms that, since at least as early as 2009, all the surplus has been harvested through a commercial fisheries license issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited, an Inuit owned business based in Pangnirtung that is co-owned by individual Inuit shareholders, the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, and the Pangnirtung nuit Co-op.

Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited appears to fit within the type of economic venture that may receive a surplus allocation under section 5.6.31 of the Nunavut Agreement.

It is not known to NWMB staff whether other Pangnirtung residents have sought access to the surplus for personal consumption, or that another eligible commercial entity has expressed interest in harvesting the surplus. The Board has, however, not formally sought input from other residents of Pangnirtung who may want access to the surplus stock for turbot.

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
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The Board may make whatever decision it deems reasonable with reasons, and the Board may hear further evidence during the Regular Meeting that it considers relevant. Based on the above analysis, NWMB staff present the following decision options for the Board's consideration.

1. Allocate the surplus of 505.6 tonnes to provide for the harvesting need of the Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited.

Or,

2. Provide a period of 30 days for stakeholders to submit any request to either participate in the allocation of the surplus or otherwise raise any concerns or objections to the proposed allocation of the surplus to Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited, and:

- a. Where no request to participate in the allocation of the surplus, or no concerns or objections to the proposed allocation of the surplus to Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited are received within the stakeholder consultation period, allocate the surplus of 505.6 tonnes<sup>1</sup> to provide for the harvesting need of the Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited.

Or,

- b. Where a request to participate in the allocation of the surplus, or concerns or objections to the proposed allocation of the surplus to Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited are received within the stakeholder consultation period, defer the question concerning the allocation of the surplus to the next available Board meeting for full deliberation.

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**Date:** June 09, 2026

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<sup>1</sup> The surplus will become 505.6 tonnes if the temporal TAH increase request is approved.