

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**FOR**

**Information:** X

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Written public hearing concerning the proposed increase to the commercial quota for Arctic char at Lauchlan River (Byron Bay)

**Background:**

The Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization (EHTO) has requested that the commercial Arctic Char quota for Lauchlan River (Byron Bay) be varied to 5000kg. The original quota established in 1979 for the Lauchlan River, as set out in Schedule V of the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations, is 9100 kg. The quota was varied to 2400 kg in 1995 based on Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) science advice, and has since remained at that level (with the exception of three years (2003-2005) where due to an administrative error, the fishery was opened under the Schedule V quota of 9100 kg). It should be noted that this quota applies only to commercial fishing activities.

The Cambridge Bay Commercial Arctic Char fisheries, including Lauchlan River, are managed under an established Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP). DFO works closely with the EHTO and Kitikmeot Foods Ltd in the sustainable management of Nunavut's largest commercial Arctic Char fishery.

DFO supports the request to vary the quota on Lauchlan River to 5000 kg. This support is provided with the understanding that daily reporting and quota management will be conducted by Kitikmeot Foods to ensure there is no over-harvest, the plant sampling program that collects fishery-dependent biological data will occur, and harvesters will capture catch-per-unit effort, bycatch and discard information. DFO Science has also committed to conduct a multi-year fishery-independent program beginning in 2018 to collect biological and catch-effort information if the quota is varied and commercial harvesting occurs. The data and information collected through both the fishery-independent and fishery-dependent program will enable a stock assessment to be conducted in the future for Lauchlan River.

**Recommendations:**

Based on a review of the available information, DFO is supportive of the EHTO's request to vary the commercial quota of Arctic Char at Lauchlan River to 5000 kg.

**Consultations:** R. Tallman (DFO Science – Winnipeg), T. Jivan, J. Moyer, A. McPhee (DFO- Resource Management – Winnipeg), S. Romberg (DFO- Resource Management- Ottawa)

**Date:** May 5, 2017