

Decision: _____

Background: From February 23rd - 25th, NWMB staff (RK, LF; Michael was unable to attend due to personal circumstances) met with the members of the Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC or Committee) to discuss the revision of the *NWMB Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries*. Over the course of the two-day workshop, the Committee completed a comprehensive review of the Allocation Policy. Revisions to the document include:

- In reviewing the issues discussed at the Allocation Policy Workshop in October 2011, it is the opinion of the FAC and NWMB staff that the NWMB is not in a good position to consider moving to multiyear allocations at this time for two main reasons: 1) there was no consensus among the industry on this issue (there was a 50/50 split); and 2) the outstanding final decision on the inclusion of commercial harvests in the basic needs level has the potential to significantly impact the allocation of commercial

fisheries resources within the NSA. It was decided that the NWMB and the FAC should review the issue of multiyear allocations in two years.

The revisions discussed at the February NWMB/FAC meeting were made by NWMB wildlife staff (LF), and forwarded to the FAC and NWMB legal advisor for review on March 4th, 2011. Once a response is provided, the draft Allocation Policy will be further revised as necessary, and forwarded on to Industry and Co-management partners for review prior to the March Regular Meeting in Iqaluit.

At the time of this briefing note it was anticipated that NWMB staff would be in a position to provide a draft of the revised and reviewed Allocation Policy to the Board at the March Regular Meeting. Board members will be given the opportunity to review the document, after which staff will request approval of the document by conference call, likely in April.

Consultations: Robert Kidd, Director of Wildlife; Fisheries Advisory Committee

Prepared By: Lesley Farrow, Wildlife Management Biologist

Date: March 8th, 2011