SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

nformation:	<u>X</u>	Decision:	

Issue: Update on the Revision of the NWMB Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries

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:

- Substantial effort was made to reduce redundancies throughout the document, and to update the content to better reflect the current context of Nunavut's commercial marine fisheries;
- The Guiding Principles of the document were revised to better reflect the importance of responsible stewardship, and adding principles regarding the rights of Inuit to harvest (NLCA S.5.1.2(b)), and the importance of reinvestment of revenues into fisheries development;
- Under the section 'Determination by the NWMB of Commercial Allocations within the NSA', text
 was added to better describe the allocation of resources in situations where the NWMB has not
 established a TAH, as is the case with most of Nunavut's inshore fisheries;
- A process of verification was built into the allocation process, whereby the FAC may request a
 report on the performance of Nunavut fishers from DFO to verify compliance with the
 Mandatory Requirements for Responsible Stewardship, and to balance with the Governance,
 Business, Benefits and Stewardship Plan provided during the application process, to ensure that
 allocation holders are delivering on their commitments;
- Improved clarification of terms is provided, both with regards to the Allocations Guidelines, and to the definitions of inshore and small boat fisheries development;
- A provision that applicants must register with the Inuit Firm Registry was added, so that ownership and business structure can be independently assessed by NTI;
- A section on the transfer of Nunavut sub-allocations to non-Inuit owned fishing ventures was added to ensure maximum benefits of Nunavut allocations to Nunavut.

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

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Date: March 8th, 2011