

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Support for the annual Northern Shrimp Research Foundation (NSRF)- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) research survey.

Background:

2011 will be year seven of the annual NSRF-DFO shrimp research survey conducted in Shrimp Fishing Area 2EX (SFA2EX) and Resolution Island Study Area (RISA) adjacent to Nunavut (see attached figures). The survey provides fishery independent scientific data required to assess the status of the shrimp stocks commercially fished within these study areas. The assessment allows DFO scientists to provide advice to the fishery co-managers (NWMB and DFO), which is vital to maintaining a sustainable fishery. This time series of surveys produces the data required for management of the shrimp stock at no cost to the NWMB or Nunavut industry, other than Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC). The survey is planned to continue indefinitely on an annual basis.

The survey is a standard stratified random stock assessment survey with the same number of sets (samples) allocated to each study area each year. In SFA2EX there are 121 sets allocated and in RISA 60 sets. Each study area is divided into smaller areas based on depth. The number of sets within a depth stratum is proportional to the area of that depth stratum within the study area. The sample locations within a stratum will change from year to year but the total number of samples within a stratum will remain the same. This is the basis of a standard scientific survey and must be maintained each year to produce a time series index of biomass and abundance. This basic survey design will not change over the time period of the survey.

The samples are taken in 15 minute tows using a Campelen 1800 shrimp trawl. The survey collects both environmental information such as water temperature and salinity with a net mounted SeaBird CTD and biological information on biomass and abundance of all species captured in the trawl.

Current Situation:

This survey is conducted under the authority of a DFO Science Licence issued through the Area Office in Iqaluit. Annual reviews of the licence application by both DFO and the NWMB are conducted. The NWMB has approved the licence application in each of the first six years subject to the same two conditions: 1)

The licence for the survey work explicitly states that there is no historic attachment for any vessel or fisher participating in the research survey; and 2) A representative from the Eastern Arctic Area (Nunavut office) of DFO continues to be appointed as a member of NSRF.

In preparation for year six of the survey, DFO presented a briefing note at the NWMB's regular meeting #61 (September 2009) recommending that the NWMB support the NSRF-DFO survey for the life of the survey with a letter of indefinite term reiterating the conditions above plus a condition that the survey design does not change from the one used in the first five years (2005-2009). After the NWMB's September regular meeting, the NWMB wrote to the DFO Area office in Iqaluit and recommended that DFO also consult with the Government of Nunavut (GN), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Nunavut fishing industry. On April 6, 2010, DFO sent a letter to the GN, NTI and the Nunavut fishing industry requesting that any concerns pertaining to DFO's request for the NWMB's indefinite letter of support for the life of the NSRF-DFO research survey be sent to DFO by May 6, 2010.

Baffin Fisheries Coalition (BFC) informed DFO that a letter would be sent; however, no letter was received. The GN responded to DFO's letter indicating that they support the continuation of multi-year stock surveys in Nunavut's adjacent waters; however, they did request that an additional condition be attached to the survey: "that a Nunavut representative (industry or government) be appointed as a member(s) of the NSRF." The NSRF Board and Joint Project Agreement both have representatives from the Nunavut Fishing Industry; thus the GN's additional condition is already being met. QC also responded to thank DFO for their letter. No further letters were received in response to DFO's letter.

In year six, the NWMB again advised DFO of the Board's continued support of the NSRF-DFO survey for a period of one year. The Science Licence has been issued in all six years following the receipt of NWMB support.

Recommendations:

DFO requests that the Board issue a letter of support for the NSRF-DFO survey for the 2011 season.

OR

Given that DFO has formally consulted with the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Nunavut fishing industry in 2010, and that no concerns were expressed, except for one condition that is already being met, DFO requests that the Board issue a letter of support for a three-year period for the NSRF-DFO research survey. Such a letter would be beneficial to the NWMB by not having to review the application annually, streamlining the consultative process with DFO and reducing the workload for both.

The Board may wish to make the decision in #2 subject to any or all of the following four conditions:

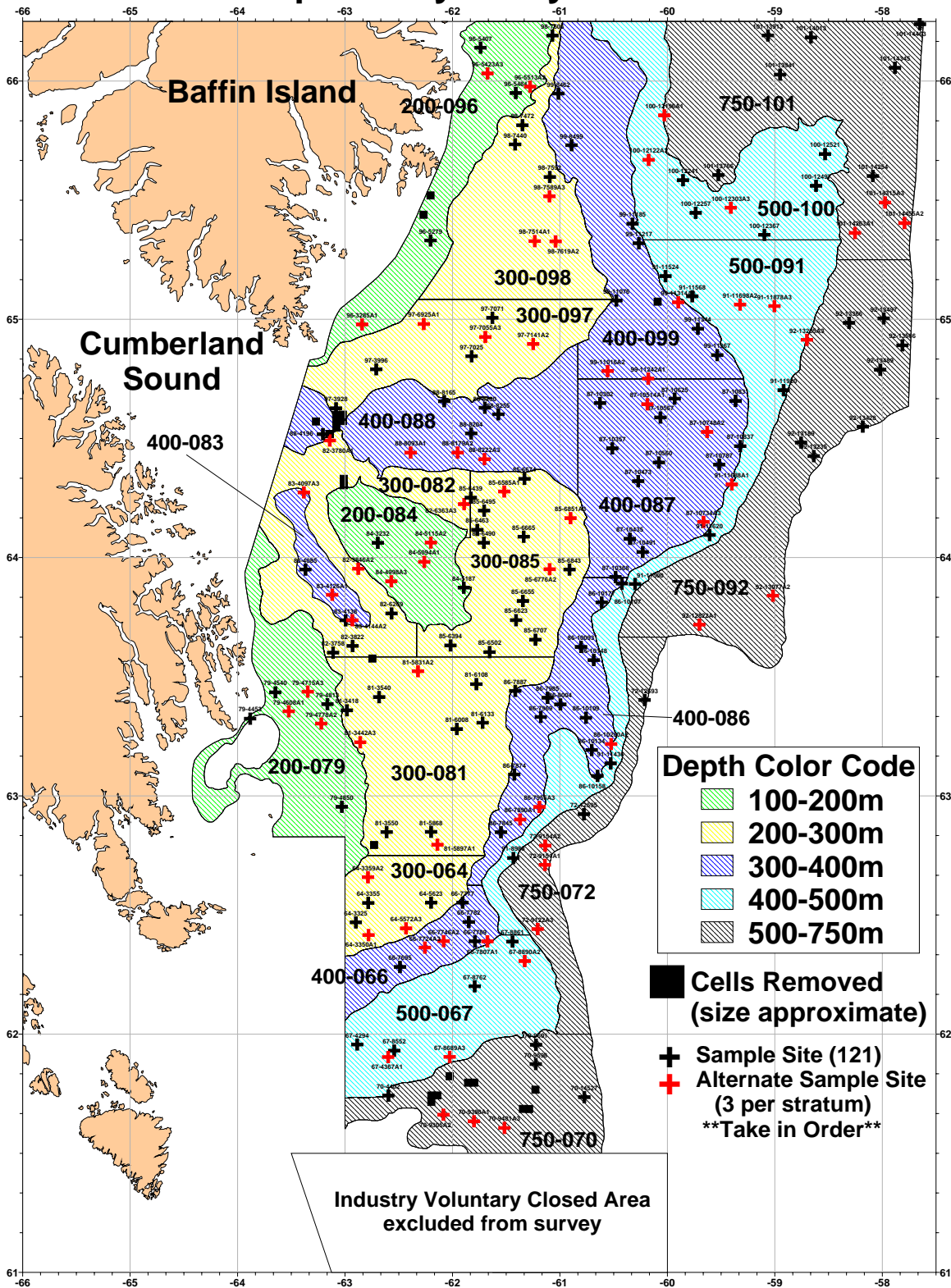
- 1) That the basic survey design, as described above and as used in the first six years of the survey, will not change over the next three-year period of the survey.
- 2) That the licence for the survey work explicitly states that there is no historic attachment for any vessel or fisher participating in the research survey.
- 3) That a representative from the Eastern Arctic Area (Iqaluit office) of DFO continues to be appointed as a member of NSRF.
- 4) That a Nunavut representative (industry or government) continues to be appointed as a member(s) of the NSRF.

Consultations: Charlotte Sharkey (DFO Resource Management – Iqaluit)

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Date: May 10, 2011

2011 SFA2 Exploratory Study Area Set Allocation



2011 Resolution Island Study Area Set Allocation

