

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: _____

Decision: X

Issue: Request for NWMB advice on the recommended Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Greenland halibut in Division 0A and 0B for 2012

Background:

On May 18th 2011, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) requested that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) conduct a review of the total allowable catch (TAC) of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division 0A and 0B turbot fishery for 2012. In response (July 20th 2011), the NWMB received the recommended NAFO TAC recommendations for 2012 from DFO along with a request for advice from the NWMB on the recommended TAC levels for 2012.

NWMB Wildlife Section staff reviewed the NAFO Scientific Council Meeting Report (NAFO SCS Doc. 11/16), which recommends that the current TAC for Div. 0A +1AB should not exceed 13,000 t (status quo) and that the current TAC for Div. 0B+1C-F should not exceed 14,000 t (status quo) based on recent increases in TAC and that the biomass and CUPE have remained stable over recent years.

NWMB staff circulated the NAFO Scientific Council Meeting Report to the Fishery Industry and the Fisheries Allocation Committee (FAC) requesting any views or comments for NWMB consideration. The NWMB received responses from Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC) and Arctic Fisheries Alliance (AFA) which indicated that the news was “disappointing” and that they would like to see an increase in the TAC for 2013. At the time of the completion of this briefing note no response was received from Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited / Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited (PFL/CSFL) or Baffin Fisheries Coalition (BFC). However, BFC’s position is clearly outlined in an April 29th 2011 which requests an increase in the TAC for Div. 0A.

Recommendation:

Based on the review of the information provided to the NWMB, it is recommended that the NWMB support the recommended NAFO TAC’s for Div. 0A and 0B. The NAFO recommendations appear to be reasonable and conservative, however without a more comprehensive analysis of associated impacts on the stock based on different levels of TAC for NWMB consideration it is not possible to conduct a risk analysis.

It is further recommended that in addition to supporting the 2012 NAFO TAC recommendations, that the NWMB request that at the next NAFO Scientific Council meeting in 2012 that the Council review the impacts of percentage increases in the TAC for the stock (e.g. 5%, 10%, 15%) and that this information be provided to the NWMB prior to DFO requesting advice on the TAC for 2013 from the NWMB. The provision of this information would allow the NWMB and DFO to consider requests from the fishing industry for increases in the TAC.

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Date: August 12th, 2011

APPENDIX 1: NAFO MAP

