

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR



Information:

Decision: X

Issue: 2012 Commercial Marine Fishery Allocations

Background:

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has been undertaking a review of its “*Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries*” since early 2010. The review has involved extensive consultation with industry, which included a workshop in October 2010.

At the present time, there are a number of substantial policy revisions that require further consideration and consultation with industry, which include but are not limited to the following:

- DFO’s annual verification report (including relevant details about the process);
- “*Stewardship*” activities, such whether vessels move to a different fishing area when they first detect corals/sponges, or when a certain threshold is reached;
- Registration with the Inuit Firm Registry;
- Change to the November 1st deadline for transferring any remaining small boat allocation to a vessel of any size;
- Transfer of Nunavut allocations;
- Change to the April 30th deadline for submission of the Annual Report;
- A fair response time to any necessary decrease in Nunavut’s overall allocation;
- Multi-year allocations; and
- Potential additional confidentiality, conflict of interest and/or restrictive covenant obligations on FAC members.

As per the current “*Allocation Policy*” the NWMB is required to issue a call for applications by no later than June; to date the call has not been issued because the revisions of the “*Allocation Policy*” have not been completed and there are concerns from some industry players regarding current confidentiality and conflict of interests issues pertaining to the FAC.¹

On June 9th 2011, Wildlife staff requested that industry provide a recommendation on how the 2012 commercial marine fisheries allocations should proceed. In response, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC) referred to a May 27th letter that was sent cooperatively by QC, Arctic

¹ Jeff Maurice was Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated’s FAC appointee but has recently moved to Chairperson of the Baffin Fisheries Coalition;

Fishery Alliance (AFA), Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd (PFL) and Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd (CSFL). The letter recommends that the NWMB “...suspend any further actions related to future allocations of quotas...until it provides all existing and potential quota applicants with assurance of a fair and impartial process...” In addition, the NWMB received separate email correspondences from Arctic Fisheries Alliance (AFA) and Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited / Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited (CSFL/PFL) recommending a carry-over of allocations to allow sufficient time to (a) resolve outstanding Allocation Policy changes, including further consultation and (b) appropriately respond to concerns arising from the “Jeff Maurice situation”. The NWMB did not receive an “official” response from Baffin Fisheries Coalition (BFC).

On August 19th 2011, the NWMB wrote to all appropriate parties (including industry) formally requesting a response pertaining to a roll-over of allocations from 2011 to 2012 and a proposed schedule prepared by NWMB staff outlining a process for the completion of revisions to the Allocation Policy (refer to Appendix 1 for proposed schedule).

In response, the NWMB received a joint letter from the AFA, CSFL, PFL and QC which indicated support for a carry-over of allocations for 2012 based on: (1) an understanding that revisions to the Allocation policy would take place before engaging in an application process; and (2) a carry-over of allocations allows remaining serious concerns pertaining to conflict of interest issues surrounding the FAC to be addressed. In response to the proposed schedule, the four members of industry indicated the following concerns: (1) the proposed schedule involves more consultations and input that is necessary to complete the revisions to the allocation policy; (2) the proposed schedule does not take into account the October workshop and the follow-up process; (3) the NWMB allocation and reporting processes are extremely time consuming and this should be considered in determining how much time, effort, and input is required from industry to complete the consultation process; (4) the submission requirement for the November workshop be removed; and (5) the February workshop should only proceed if there is an agreement that another workshop is needed.

The NWMB also received a response from BFC pertaining to the request for responses from the NWMB, however the response did not directly address what the NWMB was requesting (i.e. views on allocation carry-over and proposed schedule for revisions to the Allocation Policy). Taking this into consideration the DWM contacted BFC and it was communicated that: (1) BFC does not have any specific concerns with a carryover for 2012; (2) that BFC is currently preparing for long-term allocations; and (3) that BFC had no concerns with the proposed schedule.

The Board also received a response from DFO that requested that the Board identify how the separate allocation in 2011 (i.e. 1000mt SFA 2 EX) will be dealt with in 2012. DFO did not identify any concerns with the proposed schedule.

Recommendation-2012 Commercial Allocations:

As there is support from all industry players, it is recommended that the Board approve a carry-over of allocations from 2011 to 2012²

Recommendation-Schedule for completing consultations and revisions to Allocation Policy

In light of the comments from a majority of the fishing industry, it is recommended that the following modifications be made to the schedule identified in Appendix 1:

Revision 1-remove the requirement for written submissions to be provided prior to the November workshop.

Revision 2-that the requirement for step (c) (i.e. holding of a follow-up workshop) be determined following step (b) in consultation with industry.

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Prepared By: Adam Schneidmiller, Director of Wildlife Management, NWMB

² This would include all 2011 allocations including the NWMB's recommendations on allocations for the 1000mt in SFA 2 EX; thereby addressing DFO's concern identified in the response letter.

Appendix 1-Proposed schedule for completing consultations and revisions on the Allocation Policy

1. The week of September 19th 2011, the NWMB provides formal notice to the fishing industry and relevant co-management partners that it is planning a November 8th to 10th 2011 workshop to consider further revisions to the Allocation Policy, and requests written submissions on specific revisions³ by October 21st 2011;
2. Taking into careful account the results of the November workshop, the NWMB prepares draft revisions to the Allocation Policy by no later than the week of January 16th 2012, for distribution to, and comment by, all interested parties;
3. The NWMB holds a follow-up workshop with the fishing industry and relevant co-management partners on February 14th and 15th 2012;
4. The NWMB considers proposed final revisions to the Allocation Policy at its March 2012 in-person meeting, and approves the revised Allocation Policy at that time; and
5. Shortly thereafter, the NWMB publicly issues the Allocation Policy, and proceeds with the commercial marine fisheries allocation process for 2013.

³ At the same time as it sends out the notice, the NWMB will provide a list of policy areas where revisions are being contemplated, and that require further consultation and consideration.

