

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
March 11, 2013

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada update.

Update:

Director, Northern Operations, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

I will be relocating to Iqaluit in the late spring or early summer. My duties include responsibilities in both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. I am responsible for the day to day operation of the fisheries management program but the Fish Protection Program (formerly the habitat program) and Oceans program reports directly to the south. My specific duties with these programs are yet to be decided.

I worked in Iqaluit as a fishery officer from 1988 to 1991. I enjoyed the time I spent in Iqaluit and although my new role does not allow me to go on the land anymore, I am looking forward to working with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, community Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, other co-management organizations and Nunavummiut.

A lot has happened in the past 20 years since I left. I'm glad to see that the turbot fishery has grown greatly during this period, especially the Cumberland Sound winter fishery. Back then I remember only one fisher having a gas powered winch, the rest had to do it manually. I will also have to get used to using both the words "turbot" and "halibut". Back in the day when Fisheries and Oceans had Fish Inspection responsibilities, only the word "turbot" could be used legally.

Other DFO staff will be presenting information to the board today. It is my plan to have DFO staff present at all board meetings to give updates related to their own programs and to answer questions.

I will speak to a couple of items, answer any questions and then let other DFO staff speak to their update.

Iqaluit Office Staffing:

It is hoped that a staffing process for a licensing position will be advertised in late spring. The position will be located in Iqaluit and will be responsible for all licensing duties in the NWT and Nunavut.

Fisheries and Oceans will be participating in the Inuit Learning and Development pilot project with other federal departments in May. Nunavut land claim beneficiaries will be hired for 4 month time periods and the goal is to help beneficiaries gain valuable work experience and job skills to assist in future job applications with the federal government.

The Science sector at the DFO Iqaluit office also has an Inuit work experience program.

Resource Management Operational Update

Staffing:

There are six Resource Management staff in the Iqaluit Office. Chris Lewis and Steve Schmidt focus on fish and marine mammal operations. Charlotte Sharkey and Richard Moore focus on shrimp and turbot operations. Sally Wong focuses on finfish operations. Martin Barbe looks after licensing operations for both Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Martin and Richard just started with Resource Management in early January.

Marine Mammal Operations:

Steve Schmidt is continuing to work with Hunters and Trappers Organizations to collect marine mammal harvest statistics (i.e., beluga, narwhal, and walrus) and marine mammal tag returns for 2012/13. Steve has summarized the walrus sport hunt information for 2012 with the help of walrus outfitters and Hunters and Trappers Organizations. Eighteen (18) licences were issued in 2012 for walrus sport hunts in the communities of Igloolik, Hall Beach and Coral Harbour. Four (4) hunts were successful. Steve also worked with Hunters and Trappers Organizations to collect harvest statistics for the three successful bowhead hunts in 2012.

Turbot and Shrimp Operations:

The 2013 ice turbot fishery in Cumberland Sound started in January this year. As of February 4, 2013, 88 fishers were licensed and a 52,447 kg (115,384 lbs) harvest was reported.

In 2012, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board sub-allocated the entire 100 t inshore exploratory quota in NAFO Division 0A to the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO). At its meeting in September 2012, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board heard a request from the HTO to use the 100 t for exploratory work adjacent to Qikiqtarjuaq but outside the Nunavut Settlement Area. The request was not approved. None of the 100 t was harvested.

In 2012, offshore Greenland Halibut (Turbot) sub-allocations were made to these Nunavut interests: Arctic Fishery Alliance, Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Cumberland

Sound-Pangnirtung Fisheries Partnership, and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. In 2012, Shrimp sub-allocations were made to these Nunavut interests: Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Cumberland Sound-Pangnirtung Fisheries Partnership, and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. Turbot and Shrimp sub-allocations for 2013 will be decided this month (February 2013), and DFO will notify recipients immediately.

In NAFO Division 0B (Davis Strait), the Nunavut Turbot allocation for 2012 was 2850 t. After quota transfers among fishing companies, Nunavut interests had 3037.31 t of quota to fish in 2012. They harvested 3092.427 t. This means there was a 55.113 t overrun to the available quota. This will be accounted for through the Quota Reconciliation process which means this amount will be deducted from this licence holder's allocation for 2013.

Table 1: Nunavut Turbot allocations and harvests in NAFO Division 0B for 2012

Original (mt)	Adjusted (mt)	Harvested (mt)	Remaining (mt)
2850	3037.31	3092.427	-55.113

In NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay), the Nunavut Turbot allocation for 2012 was 6400 t. After Quota Reconciliation for 2011 was applied, Nunavut interests had 6393.97 t of quota to fish in 2012. They harvested 6393.894 t. This means there was 0.076 t remaining in the available quota.

Table 2: Nunavut Turbot allocations and harvests in NAFO Division 0A for 2012

Original (mt)	Adjusted (mt)	Harvested (mt)	Remaining (mt)
6400	6393.97	6393.894	0.076

Final Quota Reconciliation for 2012 has not been completed, so these numbers may change slightly.

Two species of shrimp are harvested: Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) 1 and 2 East of 63°W, and Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) in SFA 2 inside the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) and SFA 3 inside the NSA. Qikiqtaaluk Corporation also has an offshore shrimp licence, with allocations in SFAs 0 to 7. Nunavut Shrimp allocations and harvests for 2012/13 are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Nunavut shrimp allocations and harvests for 2012/13

	SFA 1	SFA 2 East of 63°W	SFA 2 inside the NSA	SFA 3 inside the NSA	SFA 2 or 3 inside the NSA
	<i>P. borealis</i>	<i>P. borealis</i>	<i>P. montagui</i>		
Nunavut allocation (t)	3722	1750	2000	500	500
Harvest to date (t)	4.542	146.767	91.408	980.894	

A charter arrangement was made with two Canadian vessels to harvest Nunavut shrimp allocations. SFAs 2 and 3 have a fiscal year (April to March) management cycle, so there could be additional harvesting prior to March 31, 2013. There is a 400t bycatch allotment of *Pandalus borealis* in SFA 2 inside the NSA and SFA 3. Nunavut harvested 238.834 t of the bycatch. Makivik harvested some of the *P. borealis* bycatch in SFA 3 inside the Nunavik Marine Region. Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is fishing its offshore shrimp licence with its vessel *Saputi* in SFAs 4 and 5.

Arctic Char Operations:

The 2012 Arctic Char summer fishery in Cumberland Sound ran from late July to late August. Total reported harvest was 15,600 kg (34,300 lbs) and 11 water bodies were fished during this period. So far in 2013, the Pangnirtung Hunter and Trapper Organization requested licences for three more water bodies as part of their winter fishery.

The 2012 Arctic Char summer fishery in Cambridge Bay ran from July to September. Total reported harvest was 48,134 kg (105,894 lbs) and four water bodies were fished during this period. Kitikmeot Foods plans to purchase some Arctic Char from the Bathurst Inlet Exploratory fishery this winter.

Area staff have been in communication with Coral Harbour and Qikiqtarjuaq Hunters and Trappers Organizations this winter about their approved exploratory Arctic Char fisheries. Expectations are that both fisheries will proceed this winter. Other communities that have submitted exploratory Arctic Char fishery applications include Pond Inlet and Igloolik at this time.

General Licensing Operations:

The breakdown of licences issued by the Iqaluit office in 2012 was the following:

- Marine Mammal Fishing Licences – 29
- Domestic Fishing Licences – 10
- Commercial Fishing Licences (finfish) – 26
- Exploratory Fishing Licences – 17
- Licences to Fish for Scientific Purposes – 50
- Educational Licences – 3

Other:

In 2012/13, Eastern Arctic Area Office staff spent significant time supporting, participating in, and leading meetings on fish management issues in Nunavut. For example, turbot and narwhal integrated fishery management plan meetings and Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Annual General Meetings.

Conservation and Protection

There are now five Fishery Officers posted to the Eastern Arctic Area; all are located in the Iqaluit office. Previously, Conservation and Protection had two Fishery Officers stationed in Rankin Inlet but that office is now closed and those positions have been relocated to Iqaluit. Two more Fishery Officers are in the process of

relocating to Iqaluit which means there will soon be seven Conservation and Protection officers.

Highlights for 2012:

Conducted an At-Sea fishery patrol of the Davis Strait with Fishery Officers from Eastern Arctic Area

Conducted 39 days of At-Sea fishery patrols in the Davis Strait

Conducted 76.8 hours of Aerial Surveillance patrols

Initiated investigations of 122 occurrences

Laid charges related to a commercial fishery investigation

Had a Conservation and Protection presence in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Taloyoak, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, Qikitarjuaq and Pond Inlet

2013 Objectives:

Conduct 2 At-Sea fishery patrols - one on a CCG vessel and one on a RCN vessel

Conduct 10-12 aerial surveillance flights

Implement the new narwhal tusk certification system

Provide training to Government of Nunavut Department of Environment

Conservation Officers at their annual conference

Maximize presence in as many communities as possible by distributing effort across the 3 regions of Nunavut

So, far in 2013, Conservation and Protection has conducted two charter flights of Frobisher Bay and Cumberland Sound. The purpose of the flights is to observe activities such as marine mammal harvesting, commercial fishing activity in Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area, and to record ice conditions (e.g. location of floe edge and polynyas) in Frobisher Bay and Cumberland Sound.

Fisheries Protection Program Update

The Fisheries Protection Program has one office in Nunavut that is located in Iqaluit. One Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist works on project impacts to fish and fish habitat such as fish passage, sufficient water flow, screening (intakes), destruction of fish by means other than fishing, destruction of fish habitat (includes marine mammals) and the deposit of harmful (deleterious) substances.

The Fisheries Protection Program operates under the principles of the Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat with a goal of achieving a net gain in productive capacity of fish habitat in support of fisheries. The Fisheries Protection Program also works under the *Species at Risk Act*, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement through Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) environmental screenings and hearings.

Much of the Fisheries Protection Program time is spent reviewing mining projects in Nunavut including (but not limited to):

- Baffinland Mary River – now in the regulatory permitting phase and developing monitoring programs for shipping related impacts to marine mammals;
- MMG Izok Corridor Project – expecting ministerial decision on a NLCA Part 5 screening;
- Agnico-Eagle Meliadine Gold Mine – expecting NIRB conformity review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS);
- Meadowbank Gold Mine – the proponent has requested an updated *Fisheries Act* Authorization for the main mine site and new Authorization for Vault Lake Pit;
- Areva Kiggavik Uranium Mine – expecting Areva's response on Information Requests submitted by various responsible authorities;
- Iqaluit Hydro – now in baseline studies to determine potential impacts to fish and fish habitat from dam construction and operation with a DEIS to come soon.

There are changes to the *Fisheries Act* (June 29, 2012) and more are expected to become law (or come into force). The *Fisheries Act* will focus on managing Canada's commercial, recreational and aboriginal fisheries. The new definitions and changes to the *Fisheries Act* are now in place, and future changes will provide direction in decision making, and new prohibitions that may affect *Fisheries Act* Authorizations. DFO is working on updating policies and guidelines to aid regional staff. This work is ongoing and the information is not available yet.

The local DFO Fisheries Protection Program contact in Iqaluit is Elizabeth Patreau. Elizabeth can answer project-related questions and may be reached at: Elizabeth.Patreau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or (867)979-8019.

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