

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**June 11, 2013**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Update.

**Updates:**

***Resource Management Operations***

**Staffing:**

There are currently five Resource Management staff in the Iqaluit Office. Chris Lewis focuses 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. Our acting Marine Mammal technician has returned to his substantive position with Conservation and Protection. We are expecting Amanda Currie to resume her role as the Marine Mammal technician in July.

**Marine Mammals:**

The 2013/14 narwhal harvest season has commenced. A significant amount of time and effort has been put into distributing the new tags, as well as information packages to Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO). Area office staff will continue to support HTOs via phone, e-mail and in-person support as the new narwhal management regime rolls out. For the four communities with migratory and summer tags, we plan to distribute the summer tags two weeks prior to the start of their season. The area office has also issued the first walrus sport hunt licence for 2013. We are continuing to work closely with outfitters to ensure sport hunt licence packages are distributed in a timely fashion.

**Turbot and Shrimp:**

The 2013 ice turbot fishery in Cumberland Sound started in January this year. As of May 8, 2013, 101 fishers were licensed and a harvest of just over 300 tonnes was reported. The ice fishery is coming to an end for this season: three fish harvesters landed catches at the fish plant on May 3, and no catches have been landed since. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will be meeting with the Pangnirtung HTO on May 28, 2013, to review the recent ice fishery.

In 2013, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board has sub-allocated the entire 100 t inshore exploratory Greenland Halibut (Turbot) quota in NAFO Division 0A to the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO). The Nattivak HTO may conduct a small winter fishery. The HTO, working with the Arctic Fishery Alliance (AFA), also hopes

to conduct a vessel based longline fishery with this quota, in August. A request from the HTO has been submitted to the June 2013 meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, to use the 100 t to pursue exploratory work adjacent to Qikiqtarjuaq but outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

The Iviq HTO, working with AFA, hopes to conduct an exploratory vessel based longline Turbot fishery in Jones Sound, in August. Jones Sound is not part of any NAFO Division and is inside the NSA. The HTO and Government of Nunavut conducted an exploratory ice based fishery in Jones Sound in 2011, with the objectives of assessing the number and characteristics of Turbot in Jones Sound, and testing the accessibility and catch effort of a Turbot fishery in Jones Sound. This would be the first vessel based fishery in the area, and objectives would be similar to those of the 2011 ice fishery. The HTO and AFA would work with DFO – Science to produce a survey design.

Recipients of Nunavut Turbot sub-allocations in NAFO Divisions 0A (Baffin Bay) and 0B (Davis Strait) have been notified of their sub-allocations for a three year term of 2013 to 2015. As of May 7, 2013, one Nunavut vessel has started fishing in NAFO Division 0B. It is anticipated that more vessels will start fishing in Div. 0B before mid-May.

Recipients of Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations in Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) 1 and 2 east of 63°W have been notified of their sub-allocations for a three year term of 2013 to 2015.

As the Board is aware, there have been changes to the boundaries of the SFAs inside the Nunavut Settlement Area (around Resolution Island and in Hudson Strait). The quotas for these new SFAs, as well as the details of the management regime for the mixed fishery (two species of shrimp), are currently in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement decision-making process. Shrimp sub-allocations in the new SFAs have not yet been decided.

#### Arctic Char:

The 2013 Arctic Char winter fishery in Cumberland Sound started in January of this year. As of May 7, 2013, the winter harvest of Arctic Char was reported at 3729 kg or 8,223 lbs.

The Qikiqtarjuaq Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery in Confederation Fiord also commenced this past winter. Exploratory fish sampling kits were sent to the Nattivak HTO for them to provide to the fishers. The last update from the HTO Secretary Manager at the time, Harry Alookie, indicated that the harvest is going well. Final harvest numbers are still being compiled. The Coral Harbour Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery has still not commenced, even though there have been many discussions between DFO staff and Aiviit HTO. DFO Resource Management and Science have also been working closely to review and provide feedback on an application received for an exploratory fishery in the Pond Inlet area.

Furthermore, we are currently working with the fish plants to streamline harvest reporting and we are also looking at ways to streamline some of the data collection for exploratory fisheries.

*General Licensing:*

The breakdown of licences issued so far in Nunavut by the Iqaluit office in 2013 is the following:

Marine Mammal Fishing Licences – 2  
Commercial Fishing Licences (finfish) – 5  
Exploratory Fishing Licences – 15  
Licences to Fish for Scientific Purposes – 1

Testing for the National Online Licensing System that will be used to issue offshore licences is still in progress.

***Science – Emerging Arctic Char Fisheries***

DFO Science sector under the Emerging Fisheries Policy has been completing research on fisheries licenced as exploratory in Nunavut. The intent of this research is to fill in knowledge and data gaps on existing fisheries licenced as exploratory and to provide a stock assessment for these fisheries. DFO Science has provided advice on 4 stocks listed as exploratory in Nunavut since 2004. Presently, DFO Science is planning to provide advice on at least 8 more stocks by 2020. A summary of the current and future exploratory fisheries research plans for DFO Science will be presented at this meeting.

***Conservation and Protection***

Currently, the Conservation and Protection Eastern Arctic Detachment is at full staffing level since early 2010. There are seven Fishery Officers posted in Nunavut and all are located in the Iqaluit office.

Highlights to date for 2013:

- Visited the communities of Clyde River, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay
- Conducted a joint snowmobile patrol from Pond Inlet to Arctic Bay with Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment Conservation Officers
- Conducted two charter flights of Frobisher Bay and Cumberland Sound
- Conducted one snowmobile patrol of the Cumberland Sound winter Greenland Halibut fishery
- Began implementation of the new Narwhal tusk certification process
- Laid charges related to two separate violations in the offshore Greenland Halibut fishery in North Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0; a third prosecution is also before the courts
- Have made significant progress on the found narwhal tusk files in all communities that have reported to DFO

- Initiated investigations of 122 occurrences

#### 2013 Objectives

- Conduct two At-Sea fishery patrols - one onboard Canadian Coast Guard vessel and one on a Royal Canadian Navy vessel
- Conduct 10-12 aerial surveillance flights
- Implement the new Narwhal tusk certification system and provide ongoing training and review as required
- Maximize presence in as many communities as possible with proper distribution across the 3 regions of Nunavut
- Finalizing our 2013/14 work plan.

Conservation and Protection is looking forward to a successful year with the plan to visit as many communities as possible.

### ***Fisheries Protection Program***

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 (NLCA) 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** – NIRB Project certificate issued on December 28, 2012 for the original proposal- railroad construction and shipping via Steensby Inlet. Final Hearing for the Type A Water Licence held in Pond Inlet April 22-25, 2013. Awaiting Nunavut Water Board determination on issuance of Type A Water Licence and finalization of Fish Habitat Off-Setting Plan. Marine Environment Working Group has been established to work on the development of Monitoring and Management Plans.

**Baffinland-** Early Revenue Phase- New proposal submitted by proponent- 3.5MT/A will be trucked from Mary River mine site to Milne Inlet via the Tote Road for the life of the project. NIRB will reopen project certificate to assess this phase of the project. Draft environmental impact statement expected June/July 2013.

**Sabina Back River Project-** Will undergo Part 5 Review under NLCA as recommended by NIRB- Ministerial decision has been received, NIRB Scoping Document and Guidelines have been finalized. Draft Environmental Impact Statement expected December 2013.

**Xstrata/Sabina- Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project-** With new ownership has re-engaged the NIRB Part 5 review of the project. Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected July 2013.

**Doris North-** Project placed into care and maintenance - January 2012.

**Hope Bay Phase 2-** NIRB scoping document and guidelines developed and finalized. Project now on hold.

**Xstrata- Hackett River-** No information received on this project.

**MMG Izok Corridor Project** – NIRB has requested an updated Project Description from MMG prior to initiating public scoping.

**Agnico-Eagle Meliadine Gold Mine** – Regulators to undertake review of the Environmental Impact Statement recently updated by Agnico Eagle, and report back to NIRB.

**Meadowbank Gold Mine** – the proponent has recently received an updated *Fisheries Act* Authorization for the main minesite and a new Authorization for operations at Vault Lake. DFO is monitoring the project.

**Areva Kiggavik Uranium Mine** – Regulators awaiting response to second round of Technical Comments submission to Areva and NIRB. A Technical Working Group meeting is upcoming in Rankin Inlet May 28-31, 2013 and Pre-Conference Hearing in Baker Lake June 3-7, 2013. DFO will attend both meetings.

**Iqaluit Hydro** – now in baseline studies to determine potential impacts to fish and fish habitat from dam construction and operation with a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to come soon.

**Shear Diamonds Jericho Mine** – DFO is awaiting legal response prior to taking next steps on the project while Shear remains unreachable. There are outstanding *Fisheries Act* Authorization obligations.

**Department of Defence (DND) Nanisivik Naval Facility** – DFO is awaiting updates from DND prior to responding to NIRB and DND on whether the project triggers the *Fisheries Act*.

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.

Georgina Williston is the DFO Fisheries Protection Program contact for Baffinland, Sabina, Xstrata, BIPAR, Doris North and Hope Bay projects and may be reached at: Georgina.Williston@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or (613)925-2865 x 131

**Prepared by:** Eastern Arctic Area Office – Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Iqaluit, Nunavut

**Date:** May 7, 2013