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**Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization**

**NWMB Submission:  
CSTMA - Inshore Fishing Boundary**

May 2013

**Paul Hiscock**  
Atlantica Solutions Inc.



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## **1. Introduction**

The PHTO would like to extend the inshore fishing boundary (CSTMA) to include all of Cumberland Sound up to the 12-mile territorial limit at the mouth of Cumberland Sound (as outlined in the original Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA)).

## **2. Background**

### **2.1. NWMB Mandate**

This request is within the NWMB's mandate including its mission of "conserving Wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and scientific knowledge".

According to Inuit harvester experience, and local IQ, turbot moves outside the current inshore boundary (CSTMA) to open water within Cumberland Sound. Acoustic data from the Government of Nunavut also supports this. Some of the data is presented in Appendix 3.

This request is also in line with the NWMB's vision to make Nunavut "a world class model for the cooperative management of healthy wildlife populations".

As previously established, harvesting within Cumberland Sound is 'hook and line' only and the use of gill nets is not permitted. Vessel size is also limited to <85'. These harvesting restrictions contribute to Cumberland Sound being a world-class model of cooperative management, which contributes to a healthy, sustainable resource.

As per section 1.3.2.1.1, the NWMB has the authority "to establish, modify or remove non-quota limitations (NLCA 5.2.33(k), 5.6.48-5.6.51)", thus the PHTO is requesting that the NWMB 'modify' the existing inshore turbot fishing boundary (CSTMA) to include all of Cumberland Sound (see Section 4 Map)

### **2.2. Why Is this Issue Being Presented:**

This request is being made as the local fishermen in Pangnirtung want to develop a summer fishery, but it is believed that Turbot in Cumberland Sound move outside the

current inshore fishing boundary (for winter fishing through the ice). Therefore, this request is being made to move the fishing boundary (CSTMA) in Cumberland Sound.

### ***2.3. Key Facts and Circumstances Relating to this Issue:***

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and the initial acoustic data collected by the Government of Nunavut (Appendix 3) indicate that Turbot move beyond the current fishing boundary (CSTMA) to open water in Cumberland Sound. The NSA boundary has also been established which includes all of Cumberland Sound (see map in section 3.).

Both the Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the Government of Nunavut support this request (see Appendices 1 & 2)

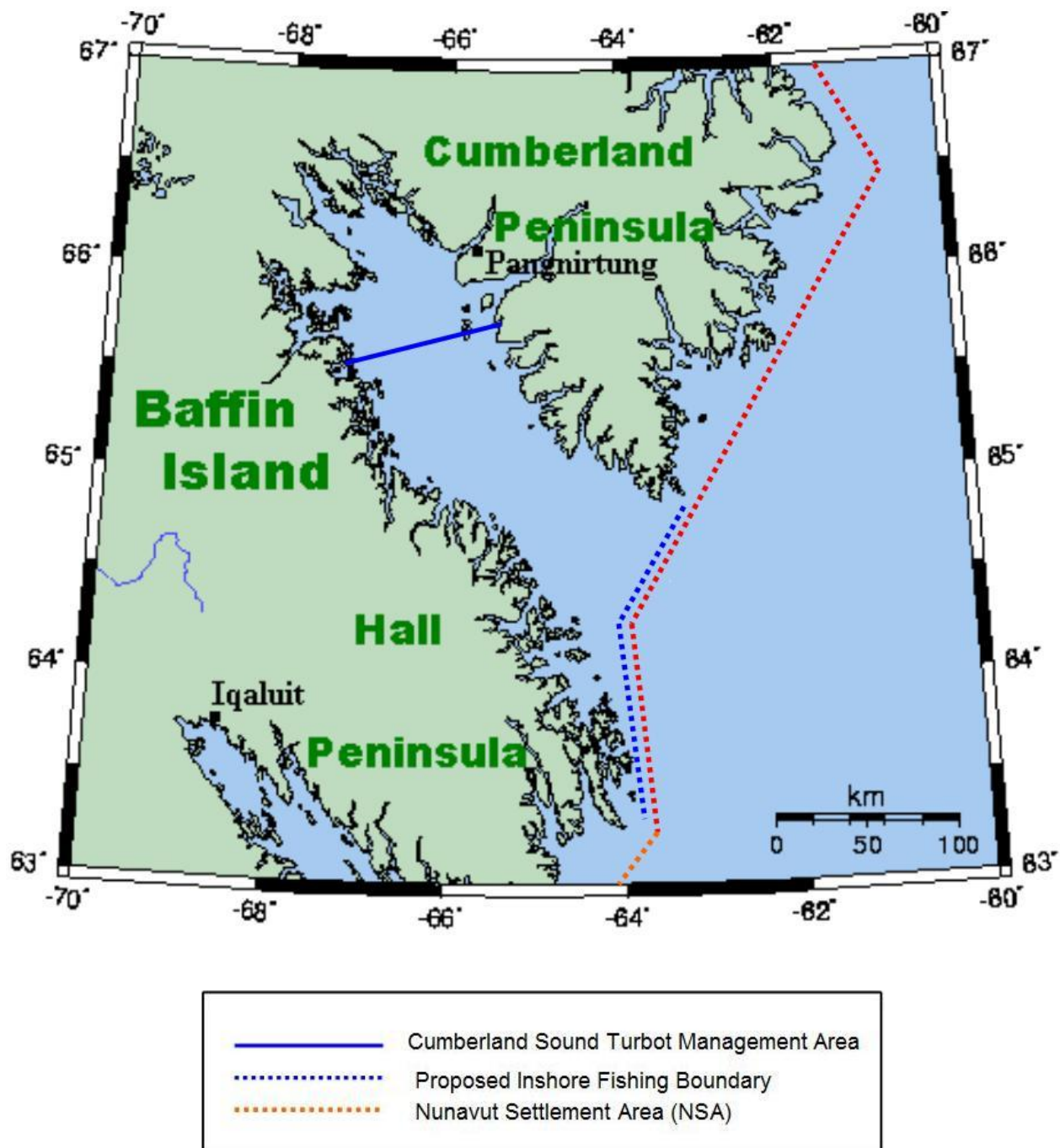
## **3. Consultation**

Consultation was made by telephone and e-mail to the following:

1. Jeffrey Maurice & James Eetoolook, NTI
2. Wayne Lynch, Brian Burke and Devin Imrie, Gov. of Nunavut
3. Kevin Hedges, DFO Winnipeg
4. Charlotte Sharkey, DFO Iqaluit

Overall, both NTI and the Government of Nunavut were supportive of this request (see Appendices 1 & 2). DFO would prefer to see more acoustic data (3 years vs. 1 year).

## 4. Map Of Cumberland Sound



As outlined on the map, the PHTO is requesting that the inshore fishing boundary (CSTMA) be extended to the mouth of Cumberland Sound to the boundary of the Nunavut Settlement Area (i.e. 12 mile limit). (Note: the map illustration, particularly the fishing boundaries, is shown for illustration purposes and is not drawn to scale.)

## **5. Rational for changing the CSTMA Fishing Boundary:**

- 1) According to Inuit harvester experience, and local IQ, turbot moves outside the current inshore boundary (winter fishing) to open water within Cumberland Sound. Acoustic data from Government of Nunavut also supports this (Aug 2011 to Aug. 2012);
- 2) Also IQ information supports movement of the Inshore fishing boundary. The NWMB's mission is "conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and scientific knowledge." The moving of the boundary does not negatively impact on conservation.
- 3) The current fishery is developing & growing. There may be other species, including a summer fishery for Turbot, that can be pursued in the future thus further enhancing the local (Pangnirtung) economy; and
- 4) Similar boundaries have been implemented in other jurisdictions (i.e. Bays in Atlantic Canada). The NSA already has the 12-mile boundary outside Cumberland Sound.

Moving the inshore fishing boundary (CSTMA) also supports the goal of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement: to encourage self-reliance. Local harvesters will have more opportunity to fish Turbot, and possibly other species thus benefiting the residents of Pangnirtung.

It should be noted that Cumberland Sound harvesting is already a model for others in that NO gillnets are permitted in the Sound. Only hook and line fishing is permitted.

## 6. CONCLUSION

This request is reasonable and within the NWMB's mandate. Extension of the fishing boundary to the already existing NSA 12-mile limit is also reasonable and will enhance the economic opportunities available to the people of Pangnirtung. While enhancing the turbot fishery, the potential to develop new fisheries in Cumberland Sound will also be possible.

Further developing a summer fishery will contribute to the local fish processing operation at Pangnirtung allowing for an extended operating season.

**This request also supports the Goal of Nunavut Land Claims Agreement: To encourage self-reliance.**

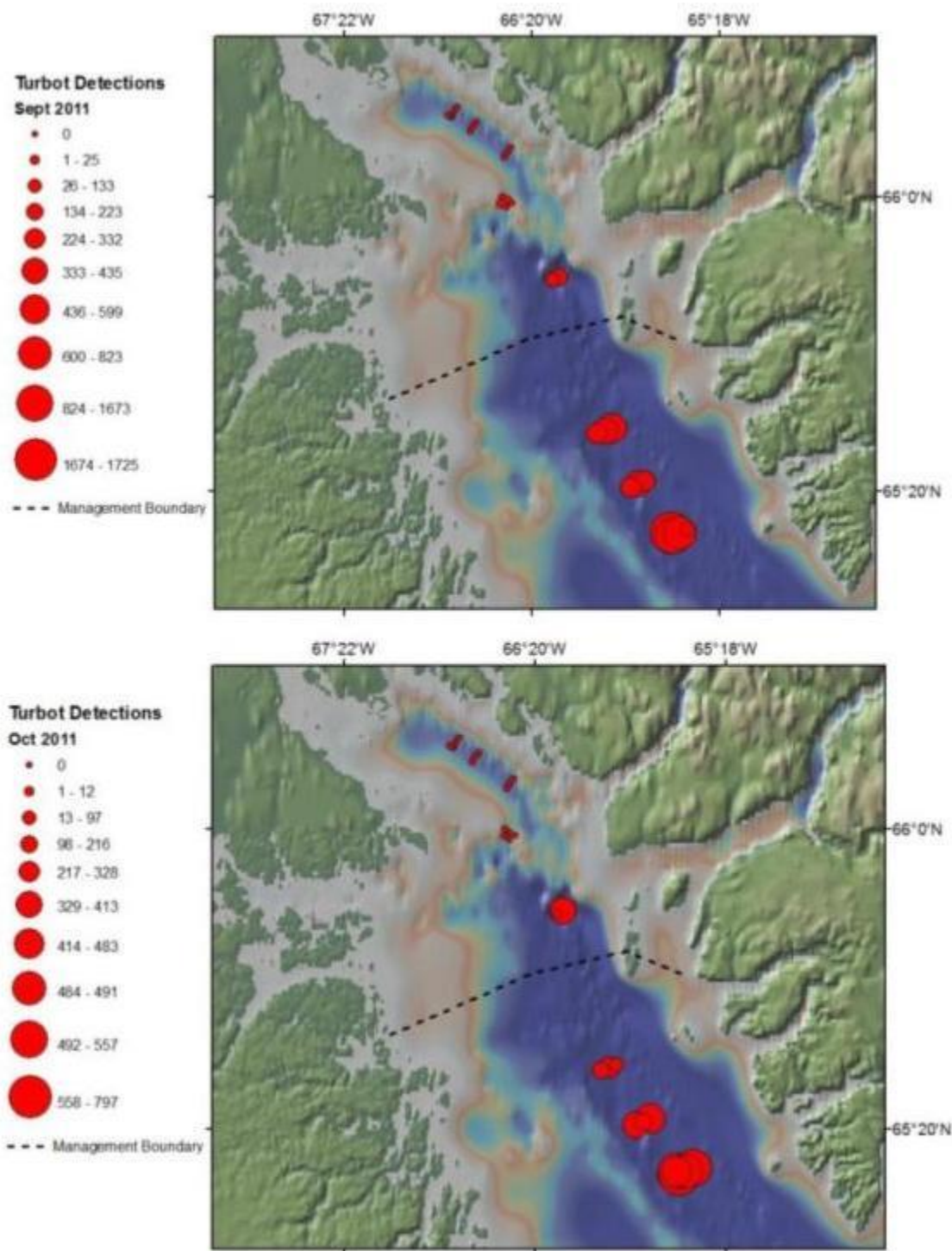


## **7. APPENDICES**

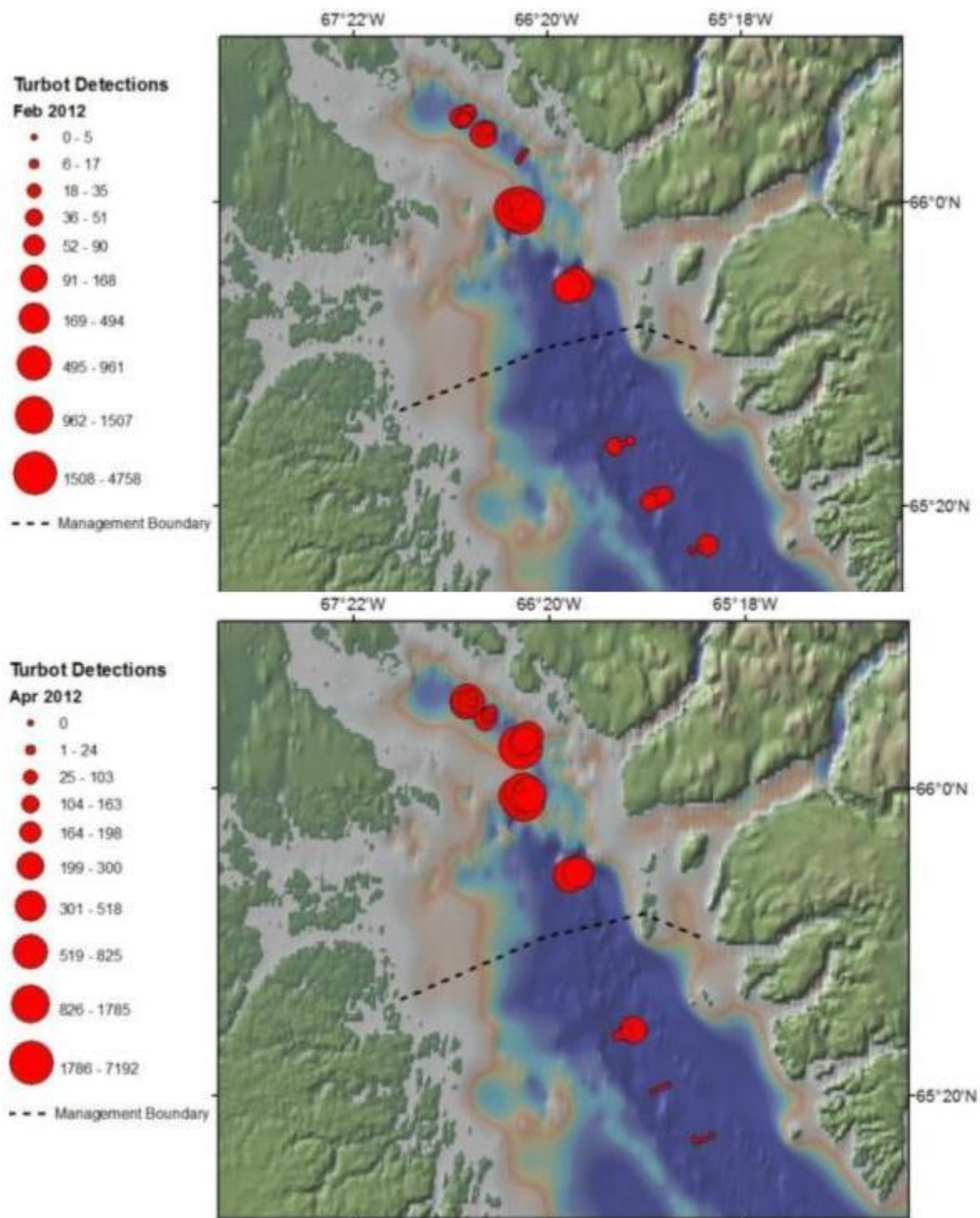
## **APPENDIX #1: Letter of Support from NTI**

## **APPENDIX #2: Letter of Support from the Government of Nunavut**

### **APPENDIX #3: Government of Nunavut Acoustic Data**



### Acoustic Data showing Turbot outside CSTMA



**Acoustic Data showing Turbot inside CSTMA**





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Minista Avatiliritjutiut  
Minister of Environment  
Ministre de l'Environnement

May 14, 2013

Manasie Audlakiak  
A/Chairperson, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
PO Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

**Re: Support for the Pangnirtung HTA's Request to Relocate the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area Boundary Line**

Dear Mr. Audlakiak,

This letter is in regards to the request made to the NWMB by the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Association to relocate the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA) boundary line.

Since its establishment in the 1990s, the Cumberland Sound winter Turbot fishery has been a pillar of the economy in Pangnirtung, and is currently the only established inshore Turbot fishery in Nunavut. In subsequent years, the department has put significant resources into supporting the development of an open water fishery in Cumberland Sound, including scientific research, fisheries training, and multiple test fisheries. With this being said, the location of the CSTMA is of great interest to my department; as the location of the line will influence the conservation of the stock as well as the development of an open water fishery in Cumberland Sound.

Upon its creation in 2005, the location of the CSTMA boundary line was delineated by an area that best described the location of the winter Turbot fishery and was based on the best available scientific data available at the time. However, using the data collected through the abovementioned test fisheries and recent acoustic research, it has become obvious that the CSTMA does not describe the entire home range of the Cumberland Sound Turbot stock, as Turbot appear to migrate past the CSTMA boundary line and travel further into Cumberland Sound making seasonal migrations between shallow and deep water.

With this being said, my department is concerned that the present location of the CSTMA boundary line presents two distinct conservation concerns. The first concern lies in the potential for the stock to be exploited by offshore fishing vessels. Since the remaining waters in Cumberland Sound outside of the CSTMA are considered OB fishing grounds, a large fishing vessel (82' or less in length) could enter Cumberland

Sound and legally utilize OB offshore quota to fish any area that is not designated within the CSTMA. This could result in overfishing of the Cumberland Sound Turbot population since the above-mentioned research strongly suggests that this stock's home range lies only partially within the CSTMA. The second concern is that as the summer fishery continues to develop, the few known summer fishing areas within the CSTMA could quickly become overfished. Moving the CSTMA boundary line further down Cumberland Sound to better represent the home range of the stock would alleviate both of these management concerns as this would prevent offshore vessels from exploiting the stock and would open up additional fishing grounds for the open water fishery, reducing the risk of areas becoming overfished.

The department is committed to continuing to support the development of an open water fishery in Cumberland Sound while ensuring the protection of this economically important fish stock. Although disappointed that the community of Pangnirtung chose to halt all acoustic research activities in Cumberland Sound which may have strengthened the case to move the CSTMA boundary line from a scientific standpoint, the Nunavut Department of Environment supports the request of the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Association to move the CSTMA boundary line and will continue to support this initiative.

Yours Sincerely,



Hon. James Arreak  
Minister