

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**December 2013**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

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

**Updates:**

***Resource Management***

**Staffing:**

Jenna Kayakjuak joined Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in October 2013 for a four month rotation as part of the Inuit Learning and Development Pilot Project. Janice Moore also joined our office as a License Delivery Officer in October.

**Marine Mammals:**

We are currently working with our regional Resource Management team to complete narwhal post-season reviews at each of the three Regional Wildlife Organization Annual General Meetings this fall. All review meetings will be complete at the time this briefing note is presented to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. This is also a busy time for our marine mammal technician, who is working with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO) to finalize the harvest statistics from the 2013/14 narwhal season.

In October, Iqaluit staff supported our Resource Management Region lead at Bowhead Whale Working Group meetings in Iqaluit. In November, staff supported the Regional lead at the Baffin Bay – High Arctic and Foxe Basin Walrus Working Group meetings in Iqaluit.

**Turbot and Shrimp:**

As of October 28, 2013, two vessels have been added to the open water Greenland Halibut (Turbot) licence for Cumberland Sound. 1001 pounds (454 kg) have been landed at the Pangnirtung fish plant.

The Iviq HTO, working with the Arctic Fishery Alliance (AFA), conducted an exploratory vessel based longline Turbot fishery in Jones Sound, in September 2013. The HTO and AFA worked with DFO-Science to produce a survey design. The vessel fished for five days, at a range of water depths. Five fish were harvested.

In 2013, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board sub-allocated the entire 100 t inshore exploratory Turbot quota in NAFO Division 0A to the Nattivak HTO. The HTO, working with AFA, conducted a vessel based longline Turbot fishery with this quota

near Qikiqtarjuaq, in October 2013. 17,268 pounds (7832 kg) of the exploratory quota was harvested, both inside and outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area.

DFO licensed the vessel Atlantic Prospect to collect fish that had been harvested by the vessel Suvak, and transport the fish to St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, where it was landed. The transfer of fish from one vessel to the other took place in Qikiqtarjuaq harbour, and the Arctic Fishery Alliance felt that this would help demonstrate the viability of a deep water port at that location. Currently, there are no deep water ports in Baffin Island, and most of the fish that is harvested in Div. 0A is landed in Greenland, where port facilities exist.

As of October 28, 2013, about 5472 t of 6400 t of Greenland Halibut (Turbot) in NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay) had been harvested by Nunavut allocation holders. Some vessels had left Div. 0A to move back to Div. 0B (Davis Strait) and finish fishing allocations there. About 2243 t of 2850 t of Turbot in Div. 0B had been harvested by Nunavut allocation holders.

As of October 28, 2013, about 204 t of *Pandalus borealis* shrimp had been harvested in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) Davis Strait east of 63°W, by recipients of Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations. In SFA Nunavut east of 66°W (Resolution Island Area), about 748 t of *P. montagui* shrimp had been harvested by recipients of Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations, and about 137 t of *P. borealis* shrimp had been harvested as by-catch; quotas are 805 t and 200 t respectively. In SFA Nunavut west of 66°W (Hudson Strait), about 1796 t of *P. montagui* shrimp, and about 354 t of *P. borealis* shrimp, had been harvested by recipients of Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations; quotas are 2500 t and 750 t respectively. SFA Nunavut quotas have been harvested in SFA Nunavut as well as in SFA Nunavik, as per the joint Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) recommendation for a three year term.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is working together with staff at the NWMB and the NMRWB, to determine a process to align advice and decisions from these Boards on Total Allowable Catches in Eastern and Western survey Assessment Zones (Resolution Island Area and Hudson Strait), with multi-year science and management advisory processes in place at DFO.

#### Arctic Char:

The 2013 Arctic Char summer fishery in Cumberland Sound started on August 2nd of this year. The total summer harvest of Arctic Char was reported at 30,014 pounds (13,614 kg) of round weight.

The new Pond Inlet Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery commenced on August 17, 2013. Due to the late notice of approval, fishing started late in the season and only two fishing locations were fished this year out of the nine locations approved. Harvest at Koluktoo Bay was 1665 pounds (755 kg) with 211 fish sampled. Harvest at Tuapak was 1132 pounds (513 kg) with 200 fish sampled. Biological data and samples have already been sent and received by the Iqaluit office. DFO also had an

informal post season review with Mr. Inuarak and his son Niko. DFO will continue to work with them to help prepare for their 2014 summer fishing season.

### ***Conservation and Protection***

Conservation and Protection will provide a complete year-end review at the NWMB's March meeting.

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

The Fisheries Protection Program has one Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist who works on mining projects located in Nunavut out of the Iqaluit office. Other projects Fisheries and Oceans is reviewing in Nunavut are dealt with out of the Burlington, ON office, Yellowknife, NT office, or Winnipeg, MB office (e.g. Iqaluit Hydro).

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** –Type A Water Licence Issued on May 25, 2013. Marine Environment Working Group has been meeting regularly 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. DFO Fisheries Protection Program submitted technical review comments to the NIRB on October 18, 2013. The NIRB Technical Meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 25-29, 2013, location not yet determined. The NIRB Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for January 27-31, 2014, location not yet determined. .

**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. Date of Draft Environmental Impact Statement submission is not known.

No updates since last NWMB meeting on: **Doris North, Hope Bay Phase 2, Xstrata- Hackett River, and MMG Izok Corridor Project.**

**Agnico-Eagle Meliadine Gold Mine** – Regulators currently reviewing updated Draft Environmental Impact Statement and will be providing Technical Comments November 22, 2013 to NIRB. Technical Meetings and Pre-Hearing Conference are to be held in Rankin Inlet the first two weeks of December.

**Meadowbank Gold Mine** – the proponent has recently applied for an Amendment to their Fisheries Act Authorization to reduce the amount of the letters of credit and to reduce the frequency of fish habitat compensation monitoring for the all weather access road. Fisheries and Oceans forwarded the proposed amendments to NIRB for comment prior to considering amending.

**Areva Kiggavik Uranium Mine** – Regulators are awaiting a Final Environmental Impact Statement from the Proponent to be submitted to NIRB.

**Iqaluit Hydro** – This project is being reviewed by the Winnipeg DFO office.

**Shear Diamonds Jericho Mine** – No updates at this time.

**Department of Defence (DND) Nanisivik Naval Facility** – This project does not trigger the *Fisheries Act*. DFO has provided advice to NIRB.

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](mailto: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](mailto:Georgina.Williston@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or (867)669-4927.

**Prepared by:** Iqaluit Office – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Date:** Nov. 7, 2013