

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 3-14-10

Applicant: Margaret Treble

Title: Eastern Arctic Marine Multi-species Survey

Funding Requested: Multi Year Funding¹ - \$75,000 for 2014-2015

Rank: 14 / 18

Total Score 71.30 / 100
(no deductions)

Scoring Breakdown: NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50
Regional Priority: 0.00 / 7.50
Quality: 25.00 / 35.00
Consultation: 10.50 / 15
Funding: 18.30 / 25

Project Summary:

The main objectives of this project are to: 1) collect the data required to establish age structure, population abundance, biomass, and recruitment of Greenland Halibut and northern and striped shrimp; 2) record the numbers caught and collect length and weight data on all other commercial and non-commercial species caught to allow calculation of abundance, biomass, and size structure of these species; 3) collect additional data and biological samples as time permits (e.g. lengths for bycatch, maturity information, coral and sponge samples); and 4) collect oceanographic data (temperature, salinity, and depth) at each fishing station.

Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$75,000	6%
Other Contributions	<u>\$1,114,000</u>	<u>94%</u>
Total	\$1,189,000	100%

NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: #1 - Contributes to the establishment, modification or removal of levels of Total Allowable Harvest (S 5.6.16 to S 5.6.18) for stocks or populations where there is believed to be a conservation concern or that are priority species for harvest by Inuit.

Regional Priority: Does not address regional priorities from any region.

Project design:

In autumn of 2014, 2015, and 2016, the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources research vessel Paamiut and the Aqviq (both equipped with bottom trawls) will be used to survey Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0 (Baffin Bay and Davis Strait) and the Western Assessment Zone for shrimp (Hudson Strait/Ungava Bay). In Subarea 0, which includes the Eastern Assessment Zone for shrimp, the Paamiut will sample 165 randomly selected stations between depths of 200 and 1500 meters. In the Western Assessment Zone the Aqviq will sample 70 randomly selected stations between

¹ This proposal meets the minimum criteria to qualify for Multi Year Funding; however as this project is requesting more than the \$55,250 that the NWMB has available for multi-year projects, this proposal is being brought to the Board for Single Year Funding for 2014-2015.

100 meters and the maximum depth. Trawling will take place throughout a 24-hour period.

Oceanographic data, including temperature, salinity, and depth, will also be recorded during the sampling. Numbers and total weight caught will be recorded for each trawl. Detailed recording will be carried out for Greenland Halibut and shrimp, the focal species of this project. These records will contribute to estimates of total abundance and biomass for Greenland Halibut, and female spawning stock and fishable biomass for shrimp.

Application of results:

The results of this project will be used to improve the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council assessment of Greenland Halibut in Subareas 0 and 1, and the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Zonal Assessment Process for shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones. Results will assist Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the NWMB in their evaluation of commercial fisheries in these areas. The survey will also provide data that could be used to form a basis for ecosystem analysis including forage species for Greenland Halibut and marine mammals.

Community involvement / consultation:

As per the NWRT policy, the requirement for projects that affect more than five communities is a letter of support from the affected Regional Wildlife Organization. The Project Leader has sent a letter requesting support from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, but support has not yet been obtained. The application indicates that consultation with the Qikiqtaaluk wildlife board will occur at the end of each year of the project by correspondence, including a preliminary report of results.

As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the project is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30th, 2014; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30th, 2014 and provide evidence that the research has done a “conscientious” job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that “conscientious” consultation has been conducted by June 30th, 2014.

Recommendations: If this project is funded, the following conditions should apply:

1. Funding should be conditional on other funding, as identified in the proposal, being approved. This should be confirmed in writing; and
2. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

Prepared By: Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Consultations: Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB