

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
March 2014

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

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

Updates:

Resource Management

Marine Mammals:

The narwhal post-season reviews at each of the three Regional Wildlife Organization Annual General Meetings were completed in the fall of 2013. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) staff are working with co-management partners to follow up on the recommendations from these meetings. This is still a busy time for our marine mammal technician, who is continuing to work with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO) to verify the harvest statistics from the 2013/14 narwhal season.

Arctic Char:

The 2014 Arctic Char winter fishery in Cumberland Sound is planned to start in the second week of February. As of early February, the ice conditions in the Sound were too thin and there was not a lot of snow on the ground. The Pangnirtung HTO plans to allocate the remaining 2013/14 quota to fish harvesters on February 4, 2014.

The Pond Inlet Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery that commenced last summer on August 17, 2013 is currently seeking funding through the Government of Nunavut (GN) Department of Economic Development and Transportation under the Nunavut Economic Foundations Fund. Mr. Charlie Inuarak has requested funding assistance to purchase equipment such as freezers, which will help prepare him for the second year of this exploratory fishery.

The new Igloolik Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery for the Unnamed Lake in the Igloolik area (coordinates 69 ° 25 'N 83°09' W) is planned to start on March 17th, 2014. The Igloolik HTO is working with GN Fisheries and Sealing via the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan to have approximately 10 fishermen trained on biological data collection for the first year of this exploratory fishery at the Unnamed Lake. This training program is expected to take ten days and the end goal of the program is that fishermen will know how to collect catch and effort and biological information to support exploratory fishery development.

Turbot and Shrimp:

The Pangnirtung HTO will be chairing a public meeting in Pangnirtung, on February 12, 2014, to discuss options for a research plan to obtain scientific data on Turbot movements and stock structure in Cumberland Sound. This data would supplement existing traditional knowledge and socio-economic considerations, to make up the best available information when considering the HTO's request to move the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area boundary to the mouth of the Sound. NWMB staff, representatives from DFO Science and Resource Management, an Ocean Tracking Network scientist, and Government of Nunavut representatives, will present background on the request and the decision-making process thus far, and some research options for discussion. The purpose of the meeting is to have public discussion about the equipment, methods, costs and timelines of various research options. Following this meeting, the HTO will meet and make a decision on the research option that will be supported.

The licence for the Cumberland Sound ice fishery was issued to the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization on January 9, 2014. Fish harvesters were ready to start fishing at this time, but the storm that happened earlier that week blew the ice out of the Sound and delayed the start of the season. As of February 1, no fishing had occurred. DFO and fish plant staff met with ice Turbot harvesters, representatives of Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Pangnirtung Fisheries, Pangnirtung HTO, and the local Conservation Officer in Pangnirtung on January 10 for a pre-season meeting to discuss management of the fishery. The meeting was well attended and fish harvesters raised many questions and comments.

In 2013, 6402 t of Greenland Halibut (Turbot) was harvested by Nunavut allocation holders in NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay). In accordance with the Quota Reconciliation program, a 3t overrun will be reconciled against individual organizations' 2014 allocations. In NAFO Division 0B (Davis Strait), 3096 t of Greenland Halibut were harvested by Nunavut allocation holders, and there was no overrun on the available quotas. The Nunavut sub-allocations in these fishing areas were decided for a 3 year term, and 2014 will be the second year of this term. A sub-allocation decision will be required for 2014 for 1500t of new allocations to Nunavut in Division 0A.

About 204 t of *Pandalus borealis* shrimp was 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 802 t of *P. montagui* shrimp was harvested by recipients of Nunavut Shrimp sub-allocations; the quota is 805t. About 199 t of *P. borealis* shrimp was harvested as by-catch; the by-catch limit is 200 t. In SFA Nunavut west of 66°W (Hudson Strait), about 2428 t of *P. montagui* shrimp, and about 635 t of *P. borealis* shrimp, was 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. The season for these fishing areas is April 1 – March 31; however, no fishing has occurred since

November 2013. The Nunavut sub-allocations in SFA Nunavut east of 66°W (Resolution Island Area) and SFA Nunavut west of 66°W (Hudson Strait) were decided for 2013 only, so a new sub-allocation decision will be required for 2014.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is working together with staff at the NWMB and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board, 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.

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Date: Feb. 3, 2014