

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 3-14-09

Applicant: Ross Tallman

Title: Pond Inlet Arctic Char Exploratory Fishery Analysis: Preliminary Stock Delineation and Harvest Structure Research

Funding Requested: Preliminary Study Funding - \$10,000 for 2014-2015

Rank: 15 / 18

Total Score 70.16 / 100
(no deductions)

Scoring Breakdown: NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50
Regional Priority: 7.50 / 7.50
Quality: 24.50 / 35.00
Consultation: 9.00 / 15
Funding: 11.66 / 25

Project Summary:

The objectives of this project are to: 1) collect Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit on where Arctic char fished in the open-ocean may originate from (i.e. identify the freshwater source populations); 2) collect genetic samples from the harvest to assess the level of genetic difference among Arctic char populations from the Pond Inlet region to determine if a more in depth study resolving contributions to harvest is warranted; and 3) determine if there are areas where genetic boundaries exist.

Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$10,000	25%
Other Contributions	<u>\$30,000</u>	<u>75%</u>
Total	\$40,000	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: #1 Baffin – Arctic Char: Explore commercial fishing opportunities

Project design:

This study will include interviews with elders and fishers in the community of Pond Inlet to collect and document Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit on potential freshwater sources of the Arctic char captured at open-ocean fishing locations, general knowledge of Arctic char in the Pond Inlet area, knowledge of location and intensity of subsistence fishing from the Pond Inlet community, and knowledge of how best to access freshwater sources of Arctic char believed to be contributing to the proposed fishery. Local fishers will also be trained to collect basic biological samples from their harvest (length, weight, tissue samples) and to fill out Catch-Per-Unit-Effort data booklets. 50 genetic samples will be collected by local fishers from their harvest of Arctic Char under an exploratory license. Genetic samples will be analyzed at the Freshwater Institute.

Application of results:

This project will provide baseline information identifying which potential stocks are contributing to the open ocean fishery in the Pond Inlet area. With a better understanding of potential freshwater sources contributing to the fishery and the degree of mixing that is occurring in the open-ocean, a more detailed stock assessment research plan may then be developed in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pond Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organization.

Community involvement / consultation:

The application indicates that support has been requested from the Pond Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organization but has not yet been obtained. Consultation with the Hunters and Trappers Organization has occurred by phone and email thus far and the application includes plans for in-person consultation during and upon completion of the research, with email and phone call updates as required.

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