

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**September 2014**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

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

**Updates:**

***Resource Management***

***Marine Mammals:***

Iqaluit staff worked with Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) and Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) in July and early August to distribute carried over narwhal tags as per the interim flex-quota system for 2014-15. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is also planning to conduct post-season narwhal reviews during each of the RWO Annual General Meetings.

Iqaluit staff have also been working with walrus sport hunt outfitters to ensure that licences and sample kits are distributed in a timely fashion. As of, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 walrus sport hunts were licensed in 2014. At this time, there were still 5 walrus sport hunts planned to take place prior to the end of summer 2014.

Licences were issued to the Chesterfield Inlet and Clyde River bowhead hunt captains on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>, respectively. Clyde River hunters successfully harvested a whale on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chesterfield Inlet hunters plan to start hunting on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Kugaaruk bowhead hunters plan to start hunting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

***Arctic Char:***

The Pond Inlet Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery was licensed on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Fishing was planned to start soon afterwards. The Pangnirtung Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery was licensed on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Fishing started the same day.

***Turbot and Shrimp:***

Research on Greenland Halibut (Turbot) movements and stock structure in Cumberland Sound is scheduled to be carried out from the vessel *Nuliajuk*, beginning August 1 through to August 28, 2014. This work will include use of electronic tags and bottom monitors, as approved by the Pangnirtung HTO.

The Cumberland Sound ice Turbot fishery took place from January 31 – May 22, 2014. Around 370 tonnes (t), or 816,900 pounds, were harvested by 73 fishers. There were 105 names added to the HTO's licence.

The licence for the Cumberland Sound open water Turbot fishery was issued to the Pangnirtung HTO on June 30, 2014. As of July 29, two local boats are added to the HTO's licence.

Nunavut sub-allocations for a 1500t increase in Nunavut's Greenland Halibut (Turbot) allocations in NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay) were decided for a 2 year term: 2014 and 2015. The 8000t Total Allowable Catch is allocated entirely to Nunavut.

Six vessels have been fishing Nunavut sub-allocations in NAFO Division 0B (Davis Strait). As of July 27, about 2121 of 2850 t of Turbot had been harvested. Fishing in NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay) began on July 22, 2014, and about 204 of 8000 t of Turbot had been harvested as of July 27.

Nunavut sub-allocations for Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) Nunavut were also decided for a 2 year term: 2014 and 2015.

Fishing in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) Davis Strait and SFA Nunavut started on July 30, 2014.

### **Science**

In the past, DFO Science provided an update on the Emerging Fisheries Program and other Science programs currently operating in Nunavut e.g. Narwhal Aerial Survey, Offshore Trawling Survey, Bowhead Tagging, Arctic Char Stock Assessment Research and Killer Whale Research.

Currently, DFO Science is in the process of planning and executing field work for the 2014 season. This is a very busy time with many people travelling to remote locations in Nunavut. At this time DFO Science personnel are on the ground working closely with local communities and Hunters and Trappers Organization to collaboratively collect the best data possible.

DFO Science would like to inform the board that in June 2014 we were able to hold a Regional Advisory Process Meeting regarding the Ikaluit Lake Arctic Char Stock. The purpose of this meeting was to evaluate the Science analysis regarding the Stock Assessment of the Ikaluit Lake Arctic Char stock. The meeting was successful, we had good participation from Science, stakeholders and community members. We are hoping to have the final report prepared for internal approval in August 2014 and made available to the public in August 2015.

Within DFO Science there will be some temporary personnel changes, the area office Science Biologist (Zoya Martin) will be on maternity leave starting August 2014 until July 2015. In the interim we hope to have someone backfill the position but nothing has been arranged as of yet. Should Zoya's position not be backfilled, the NWMB should direct all Science related question to the staff at the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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

**Date:** Aug. 6, 2014