

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 3-15-11

Applicant: Ross Tallman

Title: Kivalliq Community Knowledge for Multispecies Harvest and Habitat Assessment

Funding Requested: Multi-Year Funding - \$50,000 for 2015-2016 and \$40,000 for 2016-2017

Rank: 2 / 17

Total Score 89.00 / 100
(no deductions)

Scoring Breakdown: NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50
Regional Priority: 7.50 / 7.50
Quality: 30.50 / 35.00
Consultation: 15.00 / 15.00
Funding: 18.50 / 25.00

Project Summary:

This project seeks to gain understanding of the dynamics of Arctic char stocks in the Kivalliq region as well as the relationships between co-existing species by: 1) gathering all information on productivity and habitat usage of fish species in the region, especially in the Diana, Peter Lake and Meliadine systems; 2) engaging elders and fisherman in traditional knowledge gathering on key systems; and 3) executing field work with the community to inform a model of relative productivity and habitat usage of Arctic char and key species co-existing with char (lake trout and whitefish).

Project Contributions:

	Year 1		Year 2	
Requested from NWMB	\$50,000	32%	\$40,000	30%
Other Contributions	<u>\$105,000</u>	<u>68%</u>	<u>\$95,000</u>	<u>70%</u>
Total	\$155,000	100%	\$135,000	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 Kivalliq – Management planning for Commercial Fisheries

Project design:

Interviews will be conducted in winter 2015 with up to ten knowledgeable fishers from Rankin Inlet regarding their Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of arctic char, lake trout and whitefish habitat use, migration patterns, and diet. Interview questions will be informed by an exploration of existing information. During the interview, spatial information will be mapped for the three lakes of focus and interviewee comments will be recorded in notes, audio, and video recordings. The information collected will be compiled and presented to all interviewees at a workshop in summer 2015 to verify the information.

Additionally, in March and July of 2015 and 2016, multimesh gill-nets will be set in Peter and Little Meliadine Lakes to assess catch-per-unit effort and biological differences between the three species at various depths. Fifteen fish of each species in Little Meliadine Lake will be tagged with acoustic transmitters between July 2015 and July 2016 to determine movements of this fish. Data and samples will also be collected from a winter 2015 whitefish/trout test fishery in Peter Lake, commercial sampling at Kivalliq Arctic Foods, and the Rankin Inlet fishing derby in early May 2015 and 2016. Catch-per-unit effort and biological data from the various data sources will be compared by habitat within and between lakes, species and size classes.

Application of results:

The results of this study will contribute to management planning for commercial Arctic char fisheries in the Kivalliq region and provide information for advice on the sustainability of arctic char harvesting. The results will be used to inform fisheries management about the risks of different management strategies and provide a connection between community knowledge and science.

Community involvement / consultation:

In-person consultations with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization took place in February and November of 2014. A letter of support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization was provided with the application. In-person consultations are planned to continue during the research and a final report and presentations of the results will be given to the community. The project will employ and train three to four local residents of Rankin Inlet for a total of 80 person days.

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, 2015; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30th, 2015 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, 2015.

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

1. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

Prepared By: Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Consultations: Karla Letto, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

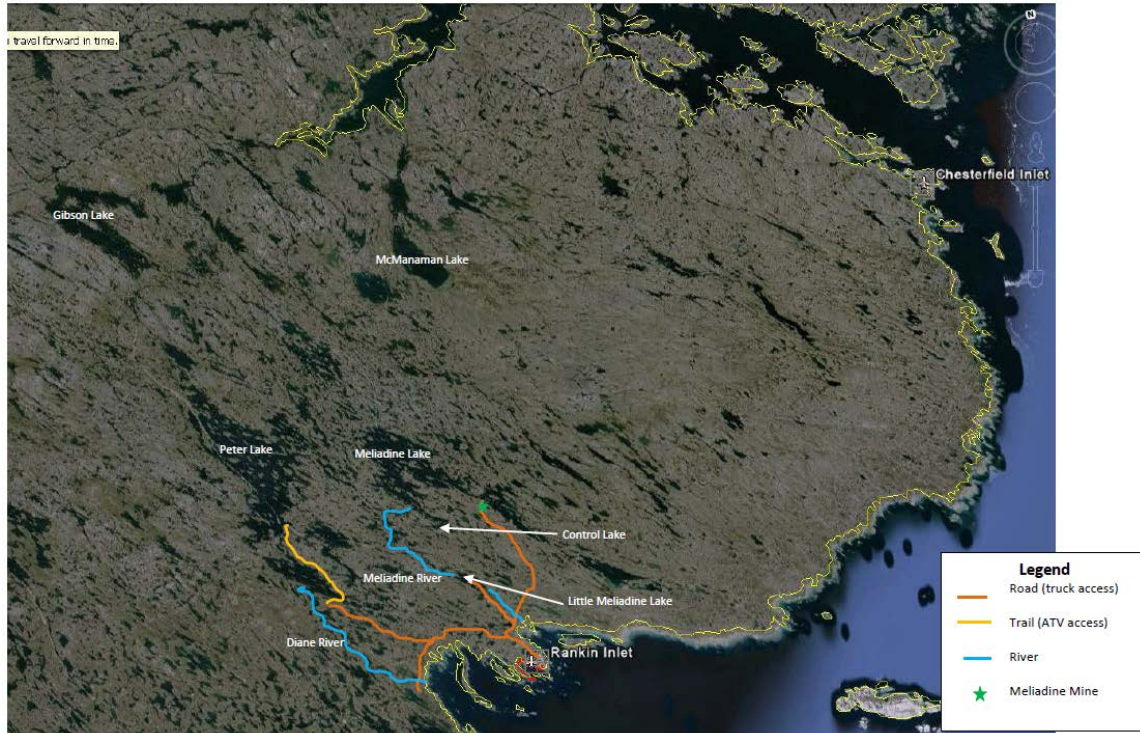


Figure 1. Proposed study area.