

# PROPOSAL REVIEW

**Project Number:** 3-15-07

**Applicant:** Ross Tallman

**Title:** Fishery Independent Biological Sampling of Cambridge Bay Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) Stocks: Completion of the Jayko and Halokvik Rivers

**Funding Requested:** Single Year Funding - \$20,000 for 2015-2016

**Rank:** 9 / 17

**Total Score** 74.00 / 100  
(no deductions)

**Scoring Breakdown:** NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50  
Regional Priority: 3.50 / 7.50  
Quality: 26.50 / 35.00  
Consultation: 10.00 / 15.00  
Funding: 16.50 / 25.00

## Project Summary:

This project continues fishery independent sampling of arctic char from the Jayko and Halokvik rivers. The objectives of this project are to: 1) continue the collection of fishery-independent data for several systems (the Jayko and Halokvik rivers) where a time-series has been established; and 2) provide an updated mark-recapture estimate of abundance using recaptures from approximately 1,000 arctic char from 2014.

## Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$20,000	25%
Other Contributions	<u>\$60,000</u>	<u>75%</u>
Total	\$80,000	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: #5 Kitkimeot – Arctic char: commercial water bodies – ensure sustainable harvest; updated stock assessment; accurate reporting of harvest information; development of an Integrated Fishery Management Plan.

Project design: In August and September 2015, 200 arctic char will be sampled using multi-mesh gillnets at two commercially harvested waterbodies (Jayko and Halokvik rivers) in the Cambridge Bay area. Age, sex, observations of parasites, health, fecundity of females, and stomach contents will be determined through various measurements and location data such as position of sampling, time of year, time of day, net depth, water temperature, and weather will be recorded. Tissue samples will also be collected to test for contaminants such as mercury and radium. To estimate abundance, a weir will be constructed at the Halokvik river where arctic char will be counted. Population size will also be estimated using a mark-recapture analysis of arctic char that were tagged in previous years.

Application of results: The results of this project will be used to provide advice to Fisheries and Oceans Canada Fisheries Management and the NWMB on the sustainability of harvest levels for Cambridge Bay arctic char. Results will contribute to the evaluation of fisheries management strategies and integrated fishery management plans. Additionally, abundance data gained from the weir assessment and the mark-recapture estimate at the Halokvik River will be important for validating current stock assessment models applied to the fishery.

Community involvement / consultation: The project leader has not yet requested support from the Ekaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay) Hunters and Trappers Organization but indicated plans to do so in the proposal. The proposal also indicated that consultations will take place in the community throughout the research and to present the results. This project will employ three residents of Cambridge Bay for a total of 45 person days.

As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the researcher is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and provide evidence that the researcher has done a “conscientious” job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that “conscientious” consultation has been conducted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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