

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 3-15-03

Applicant: Margaret Treble

Title: Eastern Arctic Marine Multi-species survey

Funding Requested: Multi Year Funding¹ - \$75,000 for 2015-2016

Rank: 10 / 17

Total Score 73.90 / 100
(no deductions)

Scoring Breakdown: NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50
Regional Priority: 1.50 / 7.50
Quality: 23.00 / 35.00
Consultation: 13.50 / 15.00
Funding: 18.40 / 25.00

Project Summary:

This project seeks to provide information for the assessment and sustainable management of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0 fisheries. The objectives of this project are to: 1) collect the data required to establish age structure, estimate population abundance, biomass, and recruitment of Greenland halibut; 2) record numbers caught and collect length and weight data on all other commercial species caught, to allow calculation of abundance, biomass, and size structures of these species; 3) record numbers and collect weight data on all non-commercial species caught, to allow calculation of abundance and biomass of these species; 4) collect additional data and biological samples as time permits; and 5) collect oceanographic, including temperature, salinity and depth, at each fishing station.

Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$75,000	9%
Other Contributions	<u>\$737,000</u>	<u>91%</u>
Total	\$812,000	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: No Regional Priority identified, but the researcher has provided a letter of support from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.

Project design: In autumn of 2015, 2016, and 2017, the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources research vessel Paamiut, equipped with a bottom trawl, will be used to survey Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0 (Baffin Bay and Davis Strait). The Paamiut will sample approximately 165 randomly selected stations between depths of 400 and 1500 metres. Information such as length, sex, and number and total weight caught

¹ This proposal did not meet the minimum criteria required to qualify for Multi Year Funding; therefore, it is being brought to the Board for Single Year Funding for 2015-2016.

will be collected to estimate biomass and abundance for Greenland halibut. Oceanographic data, including temperature, salinity and depth, will also be recorded during sampling.

Application of results: Results of this project will be used to improve the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council assessment of Greenland halibut in Subarea 0 and 1. Results will assist Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the NWMB in their evaluation of the commercial fishery. The survey will also provide data that could be used to form a basis for ecosystem analysis including forage species for Greenland halibut and marine mammals.

Community involvement / consultation: The project leader has obtained a letter of support from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and results of the project will be communicated to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board by correspondence. The project will employ and train one Nunavut resident for a total of 33 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 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 researcher 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