SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
June 2016

FOR

Information: X **Decision:**

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Operational Updates.

Updates:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Marine Mammals:

1) Narwhal:
- The majority of the 2015/16 narwhal tags have been returned to the Iqaluit office and the harvest statistics have been summarized.
- The 2016/17 narwhal tags (including carryover tags) and information packages are currently being distributed in coordination with the Regional Wildlife Organization's (RWOs) Liaison Officers.

2) Walrus:
- DFO staff has been working with Walrus Sport Hunt Outfitters in Hall Beach and Coral Harbour regarding booked hunts to ensure licences and hunt packages can be issued in a timely and organized manner.

3) Bowhead:
- The following five communities are confirmed as hosts for the 2016 bowhead hunts: Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, Igloolik, Arviat and Coral Harbour.

Arctic Char:

1) Pangnirtung Arctic Char Fishery:
- The 2016 Arctic Char winter fishery in Cumberland Sound was active and approximately 8400 kg was landed.

2) Other Exploratory Arctic Char Fisheries:
- Qikiqtarjuaq also had an active exploratory Arctic Char fishery in spring 2016 at the Confederation Fiord Area.

Greenland Halibut:

1) Offshore:
- Nunavut allocation holders have started requesting their licences to fish Division 0B Greenland Halibut for the 2016 season. Licences have been issued based on interim quotas. Once sub-allocation decisions are finalized, Nunavut allocation holders will be able to fish their full quotas under these

licences.

2) Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area:
   - The first day of fishing in the 2016 Cumberland Sound ice Turbot fishery was February 3, 2016.
   - As of April 19, around 318 tonnes (t), or 700,000 pounds, had been harvested by 61 fishers.
   - There are currently 117 fishers on the licence.
   - DFO Conservation & Protection completed a fishery patrol by snowmobile, with 3 days out on the fishing grounds.
   - DFO Science sent a technician who is based in Iqaluit to do catch sampling at the fish plant in April and approximately 160 fish were sampled.

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION:

Currently, there are 5 Fishery Officers posted to the Nunavut Detachment. All Officers are located in the Iqaluit office and are responsible for the territory. There is currently one vacant position, with ongoing efforts being made to staff this position. A Fishery Officer from another region is completing a 13 month assignment at the end of June at which time that individual will return to their office. Additionally, effort is being made to hire a summer student who has an interest in becoming a Fishery Officer in Nunavut.

Highlights for 2015:

- C&P conducted one operational visit to Greenland to continue work with authorities there and to observe the offloading of Canadian fishing vessels landing in Nuuk, Greenland.
- C&P visited Aalborg, Denmark and met with authorities and observed the process that Canadian fish product landed in Greenland are subjected to once it arrives in Denmark. This included the time from when the container ship arrives in port to sorting at the cold storage facilities.
- Eight aerial surveillance patrols were conducted for the purpose of monitoring harvests adjacent to Nunavut.
- C&P continues working with our partners to implement the Narwhal post-harvest tusk certification process and initial reports indicate that while there have been some issues, overall it has improved the post-harvest tracking and trade on narwhal ivory domestically and internationally.
- C&P had an in-person presence in 12 communities.
- C&P provided support in Pond Inlet in January and certified all narwhal tusks from the humane harvest in December.

2016 Objectives:

- Continue to implement the Narwhal post-harvest tusk certification system and review to ensure the process is effective.
- C&P will contribute to the development of various IFMPs.
- Continue to provide training to Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment Conservation Officers at their annual Conference and in the communities with regard to activities done on DFO's behalf.
- Conduct 10-12 aerial surveillance flights.

- Build opportunities for students from the Environmental Technology Program for graduates within C&P.
- Continue to expand upon the work done with authorities in Greenland regarding the offshore fisheries.

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