

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
December 2017

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Updates

Updates:

Marine Mammals:

1) Narwhal:

- The Minister of DFO has accepted the NWMB's decision to approve the full implementation of the Flex-Quota System and Tag Transfer Policy Phase II components of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Management Plan) for Narwhal within the Nunavut Settlement Area.
- The Minister of DFO has accepted the NWMB's decision to modify the total allowable harvests for the Somerset Island; East Baffin Island, Jones Sound and Smith Sound Narwhal Stocks. The decision making process to modify Total Allowable Harvest for the Admiralty Inlet and Eclipse Sound Narwhal stocks has been adjourned until the results from the 2016 Aerial Survey have been finalised.
- The 2016 Aerial survey photographs and results are still be analyzed. A working paper will be presented at the annual National Marine Mammal Peer Review Committee (NMMPRC) meeting November 28–December 1, 2017. The goal is to have the Science Advisory Report finalized for a PART 2 meeting of the NMMPRC in late February 2018

2) Walrus:

- A total of 18 Walrus Sport Hunt licences were issued by DFO for the 2017 season. Coral Harbour (11 hunts), Iqaluit (2 hunts) Hall Beach (4 hunts) and Igloolik (1 hunt).
- The Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Walrus was approved by the NWMB in June 2016, and the decision accepted by the Minister in September 2016.
- At the request of Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, DFO conducted additional consultations with walrus harvesting communities on the walrus IFMP over the winter of 2017. No concerns were identified, and the consultation report has been provided to the NWMB.

- The IFMP is being presented to the NWMB for formal signature. Based on the 2016 NWMB decision, the final IFMP includes the following changes:
 - The IFMP has been updated to exclude the Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy, and the maps have been revised to reflect this;
 - “Nunavut Lands Claims Agreement” has been changed to “Nunavut Agreement”;
 - The harvest table has been updated; and
 - An appendix has been added to include the management unit boundary coordinates.
- 3) Cumberland Sound Beluga:
- A total of 38 Beluga were reported harvested in Pangnirtung this summer
 - Four biological sampling kits were submitted to DFO from this year’s annual subsistence harvest in an effort to obtain genetic evidence of the second group of whales, which is thought to enter Cumberland Sound
- 4) Bowhead:
- Due to financial and logistical issues only two of the five selected host communities proceeded with a Bowhead Hunt for 2017.
 - DFO issued Marine Mammal Fishing Licences for Coral Harbour and Kimmirut to conduct a hunt; however, neither community was able to harvest a Bowhead for 2017.
 - Due to scheduling conflicts the Bowhead Working Group meeting scheduled for the first week of October had to be postponed. The new date for the meeting has not been determined.
 - Goals for this meeting were to introduce new members, nominate a co-chair, review progress to date, identify additional items for discussion, and develop a timeline to complete a draft Management Plan for public consultation.
- 5) Harvest Reporting:
- DFO office contacted HTOs, requesting harvest updates for beluga, walrus, and narwhal. Reports of total marine mammal hunting mortality (landed + lost) are essential to develop reliable advice on sustainable harvests.
 - DFO urges continued reporting of unusual marine mammal occurrences and events e.g. beached carcass, ice entrapments, etc.
 - Timely and accurate reporting is required under the Fisheries Act, Marine Mammal Regulations, and the Nunavut Agreement. It is strongly recommended that co-management organizations emphasize the importance of harvest reporting and monitoring

Arctic Char:

1) Pangnirtung Fishery

- A total of 16,508kg was harvested in the Pangnirtung Summer Fishery
- A total of 51,100kg was harvested in the Cambridge Bay Summer Fishery

2) Pond Inlet Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:

- The Pond Inlet Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery was licensed on July 28, 2017.
- A DFO Fisheries Technician participated for a portion of this year's summer sampling
- The 2017 data and samples have been submitted to DFO and currently in the process of organising and inventorying the data.
- Five years of data collection has now been accomplished for two waterbodies; Tuapak and Kooluktoo Bay and DFO is currently examining options for ageing these samples.

Greenland Halibut (Turbot):

1) Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishery

- The open water Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area licence was issued to the Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited's vessel the Pijjuja II.
- The licence is for 50.605mt of Turbot, which is the remainder of the 500mt Total Allowable Harvest after the ice fishery.
- A total of 9,109kg was reported landed at Pangnirtung Fisheries from nine good days of fishing. Adverse weather conditions caused a delay in the fishing effort

2) Offshore Fishery:

- A total of 6687.30mt has been harvested in NAFO Division 0A
- A total of 3007.84mt has been harvested in NAFO Division 0B
- A total of 860mt has been harvested in the NAFO Division 0B Competitive Fishery
- DFO is still waiting on offload documents from landings made in Greenland to finalize harvest statistics for 2017
- Supplementary licence conditions were issued to Arctic Fishery Alliance to conduct experimental fishing for 1000kg of Porcupine Crab in NAFO Division 0B

Northern Shrimp:

- For Nunavut fishing industry in shrimp fishing areas adjacent to Nunavut:
- A total of 784.33mt has been harvested in Davis Strait East
- A total of 915.641mt has been harvested in Davis Strait West
- A total of 418.295mt has been harvested in Shrimp Fishing Area 1

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