



Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Organization
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February 3, 2017

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

Proposal to increase the commercial quota of Arctic Char for Lauchlan River (Byron Bay) in the Cambridge Bay Area

The Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization (EHTO) of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut has considered the interests of the community, its local commercial fishers and Kitikmeot Foods Ltd., and recent advice from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The EHTO Board is requesting Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) approval to increase the commercial quota at Lauchlan River (Byron Bay) to 5,000kgs for an interim period, during which time the fishery will be closely monitored and supported by fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data collection.

The current quota was set at 2,400kgs by DFO in 1994, based on recommendations from the Arctic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee at the time. Updated science information and an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan are now available for the Cambridge Bay Arctic Char commercial fishery. The original quota, set out in Schedule V of the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations, for Lauchlan River is 9,100kgs. Adjusting the quota, which the EHTO considers to be a moderate and conservative increase, can be managed by Variation Order and does not require any regulatory change.

In 2014 an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Cambridge Bay Commercial Arctic Char was approved by the NWMB and DFO, and has been in place since then. Current management measures include daily reporting and quota monitoring at all commercial fishing sites, which support the sustainable management of the fishery. If a quota of 5,000kg is approved by the Board, the harvest will be supported by Kitikmeot Foods Ltd. who will conduct daily reporting and quota monitoring to ensure there is no over-harvest; commercial fishers will lead a monitoring program that captures catch-per-unit effort, bycatch and discard information; and Kitikmeot Foods Ltd. will expand its plant sampling program that collects fishery-dependent biological data.

Additionally, DFO Science will implement a multi-year fishery-independent research plan to collect biological and catch and effort information if the commercial fishery can occur at Lauchlan River, ideally for 5 consecutive years. DFO has advised that the overall commercial fishery in Cambridge Bay is sustainably harvested and there are no conservation concerns at this time. Increasing the quota to 5,000kg at Lauchlan River for an interim period will provide economic opportunity to resource users, and the commercial fishery can support increased biological and catch and effort data collection that will be used to assess the stock in the future. The harvest will be closely monitored, and can be reduced or

closed if any conservation concerns are identified. Cambridge Bay resource users and stakeholders have a long history of demonstrated stewardship, including managing commercial fisheries to support subsistence and recreational needs and ensuring sustainable harvesting practices.

On behalf of the community of Cambridge Bay, and with the support resource users and DFO, the EHTO Board is requesting the NWMB approve a quota of 5,000kgs at Lauchlan River, for an interim period of at least 5 years, after which time the fishery will be formally assessed.

Sincerely,



Bobby Greenley
Chairperson
Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut