

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
June 2017

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Updates

Updates:

Marine Mammals:

1) Narwhal:

- The majority of the 2016/17 narwhal tags have been returned to the Iqaluit office and the harvest statistics are being summarized.
- The 2017/18 narwhal tags (including carryover tags) and information packages are currently being distributed in coordination with the Regional Wildlife Organization's (RWO's) Liaison Officers.

2) Walrus:

- The Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area was approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) on July 15, 2016, and accepted by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on September 9, 2016.
- From November 2016 to April 2017, DFO completed HTO meetings on the Walrus IFMP with all 13 communities that were identified for consultation by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and DFO in March of 2016. A report is being finalized and will be provided to co-management organizations.
- Overall, support for the IFMP was identified with no significant concerns raised,
- Once the additional changes requested by the NWMB are made to the IFMP, it will be provided to the NWMB for signature
- DFO staff will be working with Walrus Sport Hunt Outfitters in Hall Beach; Naujaat, Iqaluit and Coral Harbour regarding booked hunts to ensure licences and hunt packages can be issued in a timely and organized manner.

3) Cumberland Sound Beluga:

- On January 17th & 18th DFO met with the Pangnirtung HTO and held a Public Meeting in Pangnirtung to discuss the results of the 2014 aerial survey of Cumberland Sound Beluga, the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Report (#2016/037) on the Status of beluga in Cumberland Sound, and the proposed Species at Risk Act listing.
- DFO conducted a follow up meeting with the Pangnirtung HTO in April 2017 on the next steps for collecting biological samples, aerial survey design and obtaining more traditional knowledge. Representatives from NWMB, Government of Nunavut and QWB also participated in this meeting.
- The HTO requested more survey lines added to the West Strata to extend further towards the mouth of Cumberland Sound, but still focused on the west side. A general agreement to the proposed approach was agreed upon and the HTO would assist with the survey study design and provide observers in the plane.
- All groups agreed that the collection of biological samples would be important information in providing genetic evidence of the second group of whales and a new payment plan was decided upon. The HTO agreed to advocate to hunters the importance of sample collection and that a greater effort would be made to collect hunt samples from whales using the new payment plan.
- The HTO requested an additional meeting be held before the start of the hunt season and planned aerial survey for this August.

Arctic Char:

1) 2016-17 Reported Harvest Arctic Char

- Cambridge Bay Fishery had a total reported harvest of 46,974kg.
- Pangnirtung Fishery had a total reported harvest of 19,183kg.
- The total reported landings for Arctic Char for 2016-17 was 70,215.08kg.

2) Qikiqtarjuaq Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:

- DFO issued an exploratory fishing licence to Nattivak HTO this winter for the third year for the exploratory fishery in the Confederation Fiord Area.
- A total of 200 fish were biologically sampled and catch and effort data was also collected.

Greenland Halibut (Turbot):

1) Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishery

- DFO met with ice Turbot fishers in Pangnirtung on January 31, to provide in person support for effective management of the fishery.
- Fishing began on February 3, and as of May 5, 439t had been harvested by 60 fishers. This is more fish than was harvested in the 2015 or 2016 ice Turbot fisheries.

2) Pond Inlet Emerging Turbot Fishery:

- DFO issued an exploratory Turbot fishing licence to Pond Inlet fishers for through ice fishing in Eclipse Sound. The Government of Nunavut Fisheries & Sealing Division assisted fishers in the collection of biological samples and catch and effort data.
- This fishery uses the Division 0A 100t inshore Turbot quota that is set aside for fisheries development purposes inside the Nunavut Settlement Area. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board allocated 50t to Baffin Fisheries Coalition, and Baffin Fisheries Coalition allocated a portion of that 50t to facilitate this fishery.

3) Offshore Fishery:

- Baffin Fisheries Coalition fished some of their Division 0B Greenland Halibut quota in January 2017; apart from this, as of May 5 fishing had not begun in Division 0B.
- During consultations DFO heard general support by most for moving the management regime for the Division 0B 900t Fixed Gear Competitive Quota to individual transferrable quotas; however, divergent views continue on weighting of criteria for sharing (adjacency versus catch history).
- The DFO Minister has decided that the Competitive regime for the Division 0B 900t Fixed Gear Quota will be maintained. The fishery will open in the first week of June.

Northern Shrimp:

- As of May 5, fishing had not begun in shrimp fishing areas adjacent to Nunavut: Shrimp Fishing Area 1 and Management Units Nunavut East and West and Davis Strait East and West.

Prepared by: Central and Arctic Region – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: May 5, 2017