

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Brief update on DFO Science Program in Nunavut, Sept 2017.

Background:

In the past, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Science provided an update on the Emerging Fisheries Program and other Science programs currently operating in Nunavut e.g. Narwhal Aerial Survey, Offshore Trawling Survey.

Current Situation:

Currently, DFO Science is in the process of planning and executing field work for the 2017 season. This is a very busy time with many people travelling to remote locations in Nunavut. At this time DFO Science personnel are on the ground working closely with local communities and Hunters and Trappers Organization to collaboratively collect the best data possible.

The current NWMB funded projects are:

Cumberland Sound bowhead and beluga photo-id, genetic mark-recapture, and assessment of the use of UAS for aerial surveys.

- This project is currently underway.

Eclipse Sound Narwhal Telemetry Study, Floe Edge 2017

- This project occurred in the spring/early summer and was a good learning experience, no whales were tagged.

Eclipse Sound Narwhal Tagging Study 2017

- This project is currently underway and three (3) whales have been tagged as of August 4.

Aerial Survey of Cumberland Sound beluga whales.

- This project is currently underway.

Seasonal patterns of growth in anadromous and resident Arctic Char

- This project is scheduled to begin in early August

Pond Inlet Arctic Char Fishery Enhancement Research Program

- This project is scheduled to begin in early August

Community-based fisheries monitoring in Qikiqtarjuaq Fishing Areas

- This project is scheduled to begin in the fall 2017 for three (3) waterbodies.

Sylvia Grinnell Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*): Stock, Creel Survey and Didson Sonar Assessments

- This project is currently underway and going well with half our samples collected and many Creel Surveys completed. The Didson is scheduled to be deployed in mid-August until the end of August.

Intra-System Assessment of Genetic Population Structure, Migration and Habitat Use Among Spawning Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) from the Cambridge Bay Region, NU: Year 2.

- This project is currently underway.

In the coming months we will have full updates for the NWMB regarding our field work.

Consultations:

DFO Central & Arctic Region and Eastern Arctic Area

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