

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**March 2019**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Updates

**Updates:**

**Marine Mammals:**

**1) Narwhal:**

- The results of the narwhal summering stock connectivity between Admiralty Inlet and Eclipse Sound from the recent tagging research will be presented to the National Marine Mammal Peer Review Committee in February 2019.
- As discussed in early October 2018 at a Narwhal and Walrus Management meeting all co-management partners appeared to be in agreement to defer the narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) review until new science advice is published regarding Admiralty Inlet and Eclipse Sound connectivity and possible change in allocation model.

**2) Walrus:**

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) met with co-management partners on October 3, 2018 in Iqaluit to discuss ongoing walrus management and hosted a follow-up conference call on December 3, 2018. Based on feedback, there is support for community-based monitoring with harvest reporting for walrus in Nunavut.
- DFO is planning a meeting with Nunavut co-management partners in April 2019 in Iqaluit to start developing a harvest monitoring and reporting framework with phased implementation from 2019 onwards.
- DFO will not be submitting a Request for Decision to the NWMB in 2019 to establish Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) levels for management units in Nunavut.
- The community-based monitoring program for walrus in Hall Beach led by the Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), DFO, and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board is ongoing and is expected to continue through 2019.

**3) Cumberland Sound Beluga:**

- The results of the 2017 aerial survey of Cumberland Sound Beluga will be presented to the National Marine Mammal Peer Review Committee in February 2019.
- At the request of the Pangnirtung HTO; DFO attended their 2019 Annual General Meeting where Beluga was the main topic of discussion that included biological sample collection; quota; hunting bylaws; potential future research options and other beluga stocks within Cumberland Sound.

#### 4) Bowhead:

- A Bowhead Working Group meeting was held in Ottawa on December 14-15, 2018 and the main discussion points included: draft terms of reference; review of the bowhead licence conditions (i.e., primary killing method of penthrite grenade vs. harpoon; size restrictions); and carry over of unused strikes.
- Amendments to Marine Mammal Regulations were also discussed, along with the marine mammal response program. A workshop in Yellowknife is to be held this fiscal year.
- DFO is currently determining what is involved to amend licence conditions before a draft IFMP can be completed.

### **Arctic Char:**

#### 1) Cambridge Bay:

- Post-Season and IFMP Review/Update Meeting Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 2019:
  - Review of the 2018 commercial harvest in accordance with the Cambridge Bay Commercial Arctic Char IFMP that has been in place since 2014.
  - Discussion will include the 2018 harvest of Lauchlan River (first time since 2010) using a conservative quota previously supported by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and IFMP Working Group; also the proposal of a Conservation Harvest Plan (CHP) for Lauchlan River to assist with the sustainable management of the fishery. The CHP would include the same features of the IFMP and could easily be added to the IFMP in the future. Short-term objectives for the CHP will focus on collecting fishery-dependent and independent data.
    - Year 1 of DFO science plant-independent sampling at Lauchlan River, data will primarily be used in a stock assessment for this fishery (2023). DFO Science is also looking at char diet, food web and contaminants.
  - IFMP five year review (2019) will be discussed to update:
    - licence conditions,
    - include more information on Lauchlan River,
    - remove reference of NGMP since the project (and funding) was completed in 2017,
    - update new science for the region, and
    - update DFO policies on sustainable fisheries management.

#### 2) Kivalliq Region:

- DFO is hosting a Kivalliq Arctic Char Workshop in Rankin Inlet Feb 20 and 21.
- Purpose of this workshop is to collaborate with each of the communities and co-management partners to prioritize community interests for Arctic Char commercial and emerging fisheries, which will assist DFO Fisheries Management and Science in developing multi-year work plans.
- Future meetings and workshops with communities is anticipated in 2019 and future years, as collaborative science plans and fisheries management initiatives are initiated in the Kivalliq Region.

### **Greenland Halibut (Turbot):**

#### 1) Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishery:

- DFO met with Pangnirtung Turbot fishers on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 to officially open the winter Turbot Fishery.
- A science meeting is planned for May 2019 examining the stock status; movement patterns and habitat use and connectivity to the offshore.

#### 2) 2018 Offshore Fishery:

- A total of 8260 mt was harvested in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division 0A.
- A total of 3327 mt was harvested in NAFO Division 0B.
- A total of 835 mt was harvested in the NAFO Division 0B Competitive Fishery.
- On January 24<sup>th</sup>, DFO notified fishers that the Canadian Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the NAFO Subarea 0 Greenland Halibut (Turbot) fishery would increase by 2,035t for 2019 and 2020. The increase will be divided 50/50 between NAFO Divisions 0A and 0B.
- The TAC for Division 0A will increase from 8,575 tonnes to 9,592.5 tonnes (1,017.5 tonnes) and Nunavut will receive 100% (1,017.5 tonnes) of the increase.
- The TAC for Division 0B will increase from 7,575 tonnes to 8,592.5 tonnes (1,017.5 tonnes). Of this increase, Nunavut will receive 90% (915.75 tonnes) and Inuit fishers in Nunavik will receive 10% (101.75 tonnes).

### **Northern Shrimp:**

For Nunavut fishing industry in shrimp fishing areas adjacent to Nunavut (2018/19):

- A total of 413 mt was harvested in Davis Strait East.
- A total of 1291 mt was harvested in Davis Strait West.
- A total of 281 mt was harvested in Shrimp Fishing Area 1.
- A total of 78 mt was harvested in the Eastern Assessment Zone.
- A total of 2364 mt was harvested in the Western Assessment Zone.

### **Iqaluit Coastal Environmental Baseline Program:**

- DFO, Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Association, Government of Nunavut, universities, non-government organizations and community field assistants have been working together to setup a Coastal Environmental Baseline Program in Iqaluit.
- The data collected as part of this program will help us better detect changes in the environment and help improve our understanding of how human activities impact marine ecosystems over time.
- In 2018, data was collected by 9 different projects that supported this initiative.
- In summary, projects focused on biodiversity, contaminants, health, oceanographic characteristics, habitat use, and food web structure.

- We are expecting an additional 4 projects to start in 2019.
- A face-to-face meeting with project leaders and co-management partners is planned for April 30 and May 1, 2019 in Iqaluit.

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

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