

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND NUNAVIK MARINE
REGION WILDLIFE BOARD
FOR

Information:

Decision: X

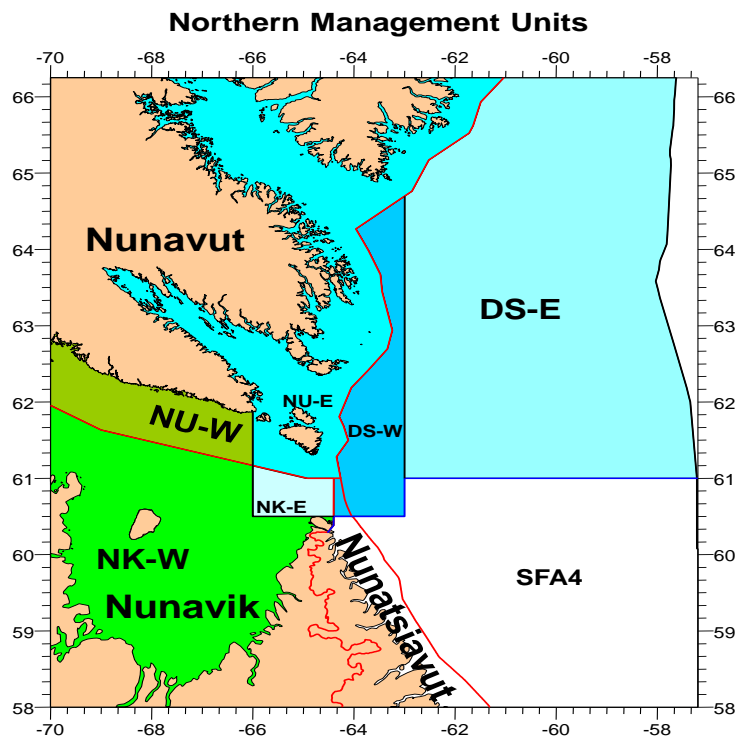
Recommendation:

Issue: Removing Bycatch Designation for *Pandalus borealis* in Nunavut and Nunavik East

Map:

Blue areas – Eastern Assessment Zone

Green areas – Western Assessment Zone



Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)

Background

Two shrimp species (*Pandalus montagui* and *Pandalus borealis*) occur in the Northern shrimp fishery that takes place in the Davis Strait and eastern Hudson Strait, which includes parts of the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) and the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR). Total Allowable Catch for each species is set for two distinct science assessment zones, Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) and Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) (see Map).

The boundary line separating the Nunavut / Nunavik East (NU/NK E), and Davis Strait West (DSW) management units in the EAZ functions to delineate the NSA and the NMR waters from the offshore area of Davis Strait (see Map). Nunavut and Nunavik have Borealis allocations on both sides of the boundary line. Given that catches for Nunavut and Nunavik allocations are recorded in the management unit in which the tow began, having both a directed and bycatch designation for the same species is problematic.

The Department has been approached by industry in the past to request that the Borealis bycatch designation be removed. This bycatch designation was originally decided by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (the Boards) in 2012 to align with the management regime prior to the 2013 boundary change (when Borealis was considered to be a bycatch fishery in the former SFA 3, now the WAZ). The purpose of this change for Borealis in NU/NK E would be to allow for cleaner accounting of catches and consistency in reporting across management units in the EAZ.

Science Information

The stock assessment for Borealis and Montagu is done at the spatial scale of the EAZ, not the management unit, and does not differentiate between directed and bycatch fisheries. From a fisheries science perspective, whether resource removal occurs through directed fishing or bycatch is irrelevant; both are simply viewed as a removal of the resource from the system. Therefore, a change of bycatch designation for either Borealis or Montagu would be purely administrative, and have no impact on the resource in the EAZ.

Consultation Summary

The Department recently approached Nunavut and Nunavik industry to confirm their support for pursuing a change of designation for Borealis in NU/NK E from bycatch to directed species.

Summary of Request

The Department is seeking from the Boards:

- 1) A decision to change the designation for Borealis from bycatch to directed species in NU/NK E.

Prepared by: Fisheries Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: February 7, 2020

Appendices

Appendix 1- Consultation Summary (January 2020)

Consultation Summary (January 2020)

The Department solicited via email industry's support to pursue the change of designation for Borealis from bycatch to directed species in NU/NK E.

There was unanimous support for pursuing this change, with responses received from the following stakeholders:

- Peter Rose – Makivik Corporation
- Brian Burke, Northern Fisheries Alliance (on behalf of Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and Baffin Fisheries Coalition)