

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Recommendation: X

Issue: Total Allowable Catch levels for Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) for the 2020 season in Shrimp Fishing Area 0



Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)

Background

A fishery for Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) exists in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 0, located in Baffin Bay. SFA 0 is immediately adjacent to and partially within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) (see map at Appendix 1).

Given the location of the fishery, decisions and recommendations on Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and harvest levels for Borealis in SFA 0 are requested from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB). The NWMB sets harvest levels within the NSA and provides advice on the overall TAC.

The TAC in SFA 0 has been 500 t since 1996, available to the offshore fleet. No catches have been recorded since the onset of this fishery. The Nunavut Inuit have access to the SFA 0 fishery via the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation's offshore licence, and through 50% ownership of the offshore Unaaq licence. Nunavut has not expressed interest in being granted any direct access in this area given the small biomass and the absence of catch since this fishery began.

NWMB staff have requested that DFO engage with the Board on TAC decisions for SFA 0 for 2020 through the March Board meeting.

Science Information

Regular stock assessment surveys for Northern Shrimp are not conducted in SFA 0 as there has never been an active fishery in the area. SFA 0 was last assessed in 2010 based on surveys in 2006 and 2008 (Canadian Advisory Report 2010/024) (Summary in Appendix 2).

These surveys indicated that biomass indices were low. The fishable biomass index was 750 t (2006) and 1,100 t (2008) with female spawning stock biomass index of 580 t (2006) and 800 t (2008). A competitive TAC of 500 t, if fully taken, would result in an exploitation rate index of 40% (2008) to 70% (2006) based on the observed biomass at that time.

With only two surveys, no biomass trends can be determined and current biomass levels and recruitment status remain uncertain. The area is not currently fished and based on the observed biomass, future prospects for a fishery are limited. Should industry express interest in fishing in this area, requests for science advice can be considered. There are no plans for future surveys at this time.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the TAC for SFA 0 be rolled over at 500 t for 2020 with no change in access.

Summary of Request

The Department is requesting from the Boards:

- 1) Decisions on harvest levels within the NSA and a recommendation on overall TAC for SFA 0.

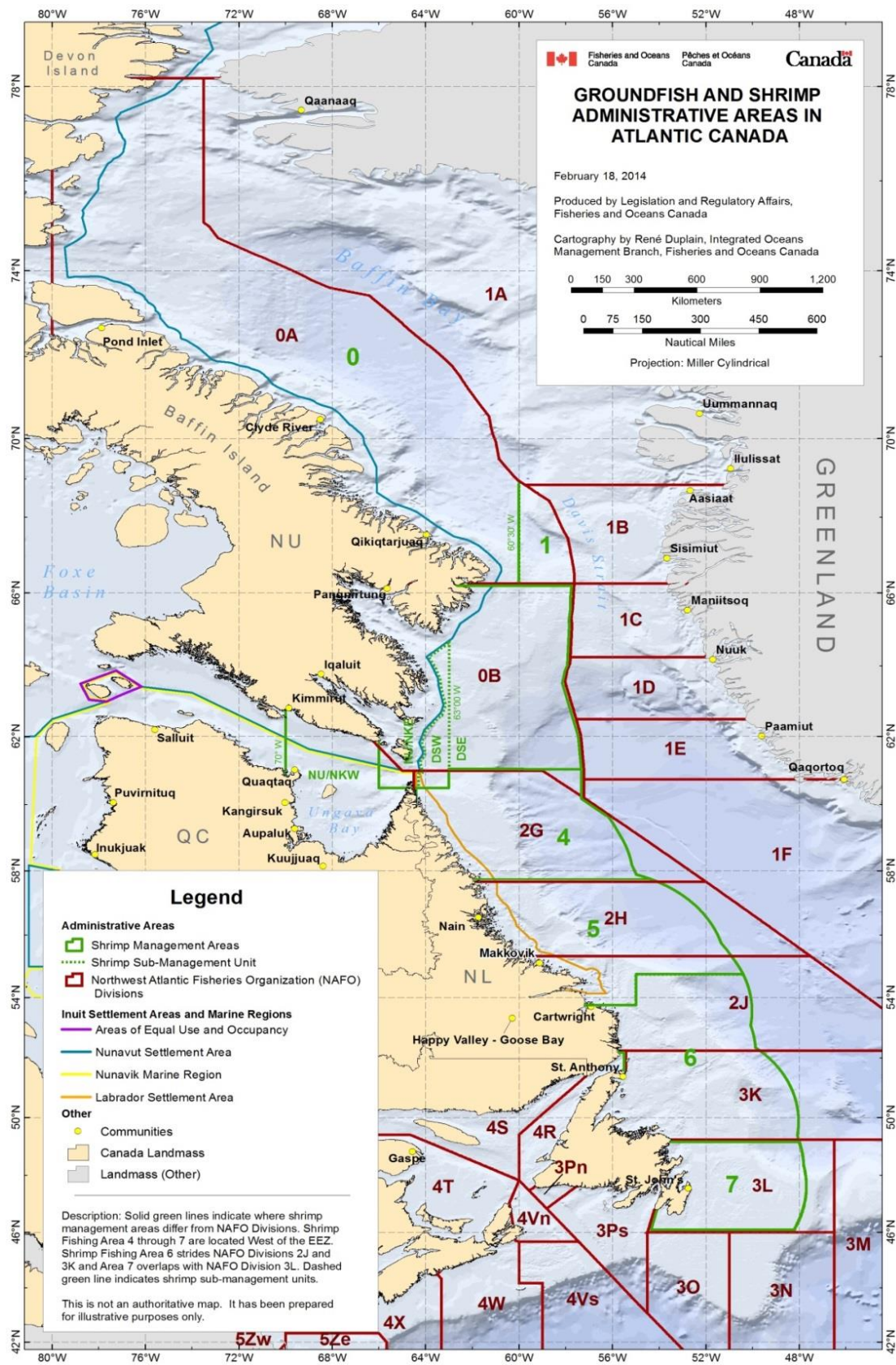
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Date: February 7, 2020

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Map of groundfish and shrimp administrative areas in Atlantic Canada (including Shrimp Fishing Area 0)

Appendix 2 – Summary: Assessment of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in SFA 0, 2, 3 and Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) in SFA 2, 3 and 4 west of 63°W (Science Advisory Report 2010/024)



Science Advisory Report 2010/024

SUMMARY: Assessment of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in SFA 0, 2, 3 and Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) in SFA 2, 3 and 4 west of 63°W

SFA 0 – *Pandalus borealis*

Fishery

- No fishery in recent years.

Biomass

- Resource status is based on two surveys conducted in 2006 and 2008.
- Fishable biomass index was 750 t (2006) and 1,100 t (2008).
- Female spawning stock biomass index was 580 t (2006) and 800 t (2008).

Recruitment

- Recruitment is uncertain.

Mortality

- Competitive TAC of 500 t could result in a potential exploitation rate index of 40%-70% based on the observed biomass. A lower TAC is recommended.

Current Outlook and Future Prospects

- Future prospects for a fishery are limited.
- There are no plans for future surveys in this area.