

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
March 2020

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Cambridge Bay Arctic Char

Les Harris – Science

Tyler Jivan and Dylan Turchyn – Resource Management

Fisheries Management Update:

- Commercial harvesting occurred at 5 sites [Ekalluktok, Paliriyuak (Surrey), Halokvik (Thirty-Mile), Jayko, and Lauchlan (Byron Bay) rivers]. As per the management measures outlined in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (approved in 2014), daily reporting and quota management is conducted by Kitikmeot Foods to ensure there is no over-harvest; a plant sampling program collects fishery-dependent biological data; and fishers are to capture catch-per-unit effort, bycatch and discard information using commercial logbooks.

2019 Commercial Harvest Statistics

Fishery Site (Common Name)	Commercial Quota Kg, round weight	2019 Commercial Harvest Kg, round weight	2019 % Landed vs Quota
Ekalluk R. (Wellington)	20,000	16,699	83
Halovik (30 Mile)	5,000	5,061	101
Jayko	17,000	12,481	73
Paliriyuak (Surrey R.)	9,100	8,884	98
Lauchlan R. (Byron Bay)	9,100 (*5,000)	5,061	101
Grand Total	56,100	48,186	86

**Targeted Quota*

- Lauchlan River is currently harvested at a reduced, targeted, commercial rate of 5,000kgs. This is consistent with the conservation-based management approach proposed by the Cambridge Bay Arctic Char IFMP Working Group, and supported by the NWMB at its June 6 2017 decision following its written public hearing concerning the commercial quota for Lauchlan River char. Harvest monitoring and reporting is in place,

supported by the Working Group's commitment to shared stewardship and best management practices.

- Kitikmeot Foods Ltd. has intentionally reduced the targeted harvest at Ekalluk and Jayko given the increased harvest at Lauchlan River. This ensures the fish plant does not exceed its processing capacity.
- The Cambridge Bay IFMP (Integrated Fisheries Management Plan) was first implemented in 2014 for commercially harvested Arctic Char, making it the first for this species in Canada. An IFMP is intended to be reviewed and updated every 5 to reflect and address current developments and new information from a biological and fishery standpoint. Work is currently being done by the Cambridge Bay Arctic Char IFMP Working Group to renew and update the previous IFMP, and will be presented to the NWMB for review and approval prior to being implemented in advance of the 2020 commercial fishing season.

Science:

- The Cambridge Bay commercial plant sampling program (fishery-dependent sampling) was once again successful providing DFO with biological data and samples from 200 Arctic char for each commercially fished waterbody.
- DFO successfully conducted fishery-independent sampling of 200 Arctic char at the Lauchlan River in early July to coincide with the commercial harvest of char from this system. Biological data were recorded and samples were collected for genetics, diet, contaminants and marine microplastics assessments from all fish.
- The above data will be vital for an assessment of the health of this fishery planned for 2023 (requires minimum of 5 years of data collection).
- The long-term acoustic tagging/monitoring work is in its seventh year. Our acoustic array has now included nearly 150 stations and we have tagged close to 500 char in the region. This year all marine acoustic equipment was recovered as was all equipment in our two freshwater lakes where we are looking and fine-scale movements/habitat use.
- 30 Arctic char were tagged at the Lauchlan River in 2019.

Community engagement (Science/Resource Management):

- Numerous visits/meetings with the EHTO over the summer field season (June-Aug 2019).
- A complete summary and review of Science research programs was presented at the KRWB annual general meeting (Sept. 2019).

- A complete summary and review of Science research programs and fisheries management initiatives was presented at the EHTO AGM (Jan. 2020).
- A pre-season engagement meeting with the EHTO, Kitikmeot Foods, and commercial fishers and DFO took place in July 2019. Discussion focused on the importance of accurate and complete commercial logbook information, including bycatch and discard data.
- The annual post-season Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) Working Group meeting that included the EHTO, DFO, Kitikmeot Foods, commercial fishers, elders and other resource users took place in Feb. 2010.

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