SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: **Decision:** **Recommendation: X**

Issue: Total allowable catch levels and 100 tonne inshore quota for Greenland Halibut in Subarea 0 for 2023 and 2024 fishing seasons.

Greenland Halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*)

Background

A fishery for Greenland Halibut (GHL) exists in Northwest Atlantic Fishery Organization (NAFO) Subarea (SA) 0 which is divided into a northern region, Division 0A (Baffin Bay) and a southern region, Division 0B (Davis Strait), outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA). The commercial fishing season for GHL starts on January 1st and ends December 31st. A map illustrating NAFO Subareas and Divisions relevant to the Greenland Halibut fishery can be found in Appendix 1.

The GHL stock in SA0 is a part of transboundary stock shared between Canada (Division 0A and 0B) and Greenland (Division 1A to F offshore). At the request of both countries, the NAFO Scientific Council (SC) provides advice on sustainable harvest levels. NAFO does not regulate this stock; Canada and Greenland are responsible for regulation in their own domestic waters. Canada and Greenland have a longstanding informal agreement that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) levels established on NAFO SC advice be divided 50/50 between the two countries.

The current SA0 GHL TAC is 18,185 tonnes (t), previously set by the Minister on December 22, 2020 for 2021 and 2022; this is the highest TAC in the history of the SA0 fishery. A current breakdown of the current TAC between Divisions is as follows:

Fishing Area	Fleet/Interest	2021-22 Allocation (t)
NAFO Division 0A	Nunavut	9,592.5
	Total 0A TAC	9,592.5

Fishing Area	Fleet/Interest	2021-22 Allocation (t)
NAFO Division 0B	Nunavut	4,283.25
	Nunavik	449.25
	Enterprise Allocation Holders	2,960
	Fixed Gear Competitive	900
	Total 0B TAC	8,592.5

In 2021, the TAC was fully prosecuted in both Divisions 0A and 0B.

Since 2006, 100 t from the Division 0A TAC has been allocated for inshore fisheries development to be utilized within the Nunavut Settlement Area within NAFO division 0A.

Consultation

Consistent with past practices, consultations with Eastern Arctic Groundfish Stakeholder Advisory Committee (EAGSAC) members will occur following the official publication of the NAFO SC TAC advice for GHL in Subarea 0+1 (offshore) for 2023 and 2024.

Science Information

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (the Department) is anticipating the SC advice to be published in the very near future, and will provide the information to the Board in an addendum to this briefing note as soon as it is available and, prior to the September meeting. The addendum will ensure the Board has all available information to make an informed recommendation to safeguard a timely decision as not to affect fishing operations beginning January 1, 2023.

If the Board is unable to accept an addendum for the September meeting, the Department will request a stand-alone meeting with the Board in early September. This approach would be consistent with section 3.1 of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB's) manual for the Governance of Co-managers.

Recommendation

TAC decisions, including distribution and allocation determination, will be taken through standard departmental processes and procedures. TAC decisions take into account many factors including: conservation; science advice; socio-economic impacts; industry and stakeholder views; the Board's recommendation; land claims and international obligations.

Summary of Request

The Department is requesting from the Board:

1) Recommendation on setting the SA0 GHL TAC for 2023 and 2024.
2) Recommendation on the allocation of 100 tonnes of GHL in 0A for inshore fisheries development inside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

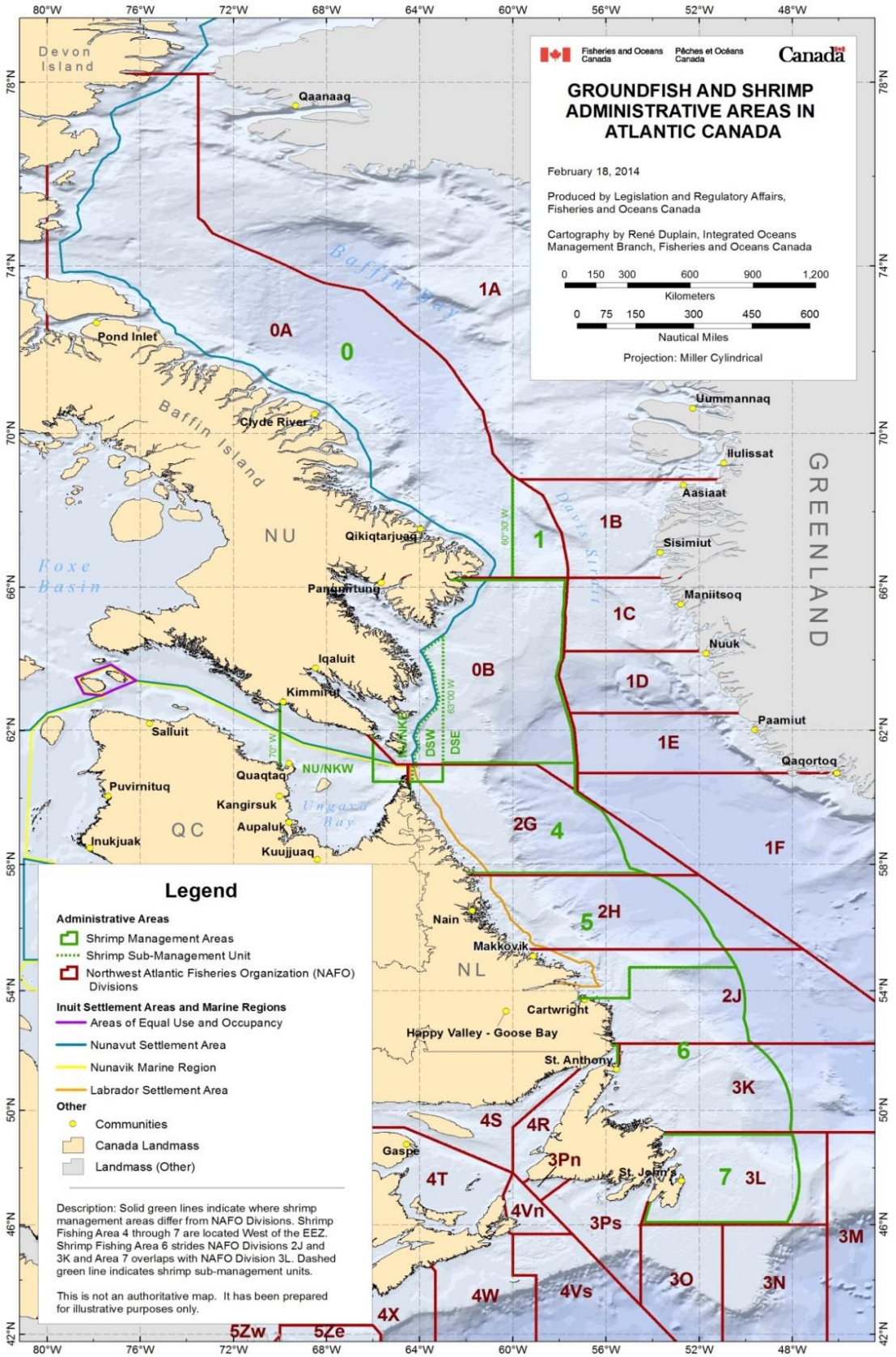
Prepared by: Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: August 04, 2022

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Map of groundfish and shrimp administrative areas in Atlantic Canada

APPENDIX 1


Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada
Canada
GROUNDFISH AND SHRIMP ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS IN ATLANTIC CANADA
February 18, 2014
Produced by Legislation and Regulatory Affairs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Cartography by René Duplain, Integrated Oceans Management Branch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
0 150 300 600 900 1,200
Kilometers
0 75 150 300 450 600
Nautical Miles
Projection: Miller Cylindrical
Legend
Administrative Areas
Shrimp Management Areas
Shrimp Sub-Management Unit
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions
Inuit Settlement Areas and Marine Regions
Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy
Nunavut Settlement Area
Nunavik Marine Region
Labrador Settlement Area
Other
Communities
Canada Landmass
Landmass (Other)
Description: Solid green lines indicate where shrimp management areas differ from NAFO Divisions. Shrimp Fishing Area 4 through 7 are located West of the EEZ. Shrimp Fishing Area 6 strides NAFO Divisions 2J and 3K and Area 7 overlaps with NAFO Division 3L. Dashed green line indicates shrimp sub-management units.
This is not an authoritative map. It has been prepared for illustrative purposes only.
Devon Island
Qaanaaq
Baffin Bay
Pond Inlet
Baffin Island
Clyde River
NU
Qikiqtarjuaq
Foxe Basin
Pangnirtung
Iqaluit
Kimmirut
Salluit
Quaqtaq
NU/NKW
Puvirnituq
Kangirsuk
Aupaluk
Inukjuak
QC
Kuujjuaq
Ungava Bay
Uummannaq
Ilulissat
Aasiaat
Sisimiut
Maniitsoq
Nuuk
Paamiut
Qaqortoq
GREENLAND
Davis Strait
Nain
Makkovik
NL
Cartwright
Happy Valley - Goose Bay
St. Anthony
Gaspe
St. John's
0A
0
1A
1
1B
1C
1D
1E
1F
0B
2G
4
2H
5
2J
6
3K
4S
4R
3Pn
4T
4Vn
3Ps
7
3L
3M
3O
3N
4W
4Vs
4X
5Zw
5Ze
60°30'W
63°00'W
NAFO
DSW
DSE
80°W
76°W
72°W
68°W
64°W
60°W
56°W
52°W
48°W
78°N
74°N
70°N
66°N
62°N
58°N
54°N
50°N
46°N
42°N