



The Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board decisions and recommendations concerning *Pandalus borealis* and *Pandalus montagui* shrimp quotas in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) recently held a joint written public hearing to consider sustainable quotas for Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*Pandalus montagui*) shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones. Recognizing the need for the recommendations and decisions made by both Boards to result in an overall sustainable harvest, the NWMB and NMRWB made a concerted effort to coordinate their respective decision-making processes.

¹ All of the relevant documents and written submissions received and considered by the Boards are publicly available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com).

made complementary decisions and recommendations, the NWMB and NMRWB are providing this joint letter. The Boards' decisions and recommendations are set out immediately below.

1.1 Quota and TAT decisions

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.4 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the NWMB approve the following shrimp quota levels in the Nunavut West and Nunavut East Management Units:

1. For *Pandalus montagui* shrimp:
 - (a) A quota of 2,930 tonnes (t) in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA); and
 - (b) A quota of 301t in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the NSA; and
2. For *Pandalus borealis* shrimp:
 - (a) A quota of 1,040t in the Nunavut West Management Unit within the NSA; and
 - (b) A by-catch quota of 183t in the Nunavut East Management Unit within the NSA.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.10 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, the NMRWB approve the following shrimp levels of total allowable take (TAT) in the Nunavik West and Nunavik East Management Units:

1. For *Pandalus montagui* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAT of 2,930 tonnes (t) in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR); and
 - (b) A TAT of 129t in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the NMR; and
2. For *Pandalus borealis* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAT of 1,040t in the Nunavik West Management Unit within the NMR; and
 - (b) A by-catch TAT of 46t in the Nunavik East Management Unit within the NMR.

1.2 TAC recommendations

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 15.3.4 and 15.3.7 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and Section 5.4.4 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, The NWMB and the NMRWB recommend the following Total Allowable Catch (TAC) levels in the Western Assessment Zone and Eastern Assessment Zone:

1. For *Pandalus montagui* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAC of 5,860 tonnes (t), based on an exploitation rate of 10% and the 2011 and 2013 survey data, in the Western Assessment Zone; and
 - (b) A TAC of 840t, based on an exploitation rate of 15% and the 2011 and 2013 survey data, in the Eastern Assessment Zone; and
2. For *Pandalus borealis* shrimp:
 - (a) A TAC of 2,080t, based on an exploitation rate of 10% and the 2011 and 2013 survey data, in the Western Assessment Zone; and
 - (b) A TAC of 8,250t, based on an exploitation rate of 15% and the 2012 and 2013 survey data, in the Eastern Assessment Zone.

3. HEARING SUBMISSIONS

The Boards did not receive any submissions to the joint written public hearing; however, prior to the decision to hold a hearing, the NWMB received two letters from Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment providing input. These letters were included in the relevant documents to the written hearing. Both Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment suggested modifying the TAC for *Pandalus montagui* and *Pandalus borealis* as follows:

Montagui:

Western Assessment Zone: 5,860t

Eastern Assessment Zone: 840t

Borealis:

Western Assessment Zone: 2,080t

Eastern Assessment Zone: 9,000t

4. NWMB AND NMRWB CONSIDERATIONS

In reaching the above decisions and recommendations, the Boards carefully considered the submissions from Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, as well as the recommendations and most recent science information provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff.

The Boards agree that, for conservation reasons, a reduction in the harvest of *Pandalus montagui* in the Eastern Assessment Zone is necessary. The Boards also feel that their decisions and recommendations should be consistent with previously agreed upon exploitation rates while minimizing the impact on individual allocation holders.

The decisions and recommendations made by the Boards address the conservation issue regarding *Pandalus montagui* in the Eastern Assessment Zone raised by DFO through a reduction in the harvest levels for that species. Additionally, the Boards' decisions and recommendations are consistent with the suggestions made by Baffin Fisheries Coalition and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment through their individual submissions, with the exception of *Pandalus borealis* in the Eastern Assessment Zone, where the two Boards felt that exploitation rates should be consistent with past agreements and within assessment zones. Furthermore, the decisions and recommendations set out above make use of the most current scientific information available and offset any reduction in quota with increases in other management units.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE BOARDS' DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Boards' decisions and recommendations:

1. Are justified pursuant to NLCA S.5.3.3(a) and NILCA S.5.2.10 – the restrictions limit Inuit harvesting of shrimp in the NSA and the NMR only to the extent necessary to effect the valid conservation purposes of:
 - (a) Maintaining vital healthy shrimp populations capable of sustaining harvesting needs as defined in NLCA Article 5 and NILCA Article 5 (NLCA S.5.1.5(c), NILCA S.5.1.5(b)); and
 - (b) Maintaining the natural balance of ecological systems within the NSA and the NMR (NLCA and NILCA S. 5.1.5(a));
2. Satisfy the requirements of NLCA S.5.3.4 and NILCA S.5.5.4.1 for (i) the NWMB and the Minister to take account of shrimp harvested outside the NSA, and (ii) the NMRWB and the Minister to take account of shrimp harvested outside the NMR, by persons resident elsewhere;

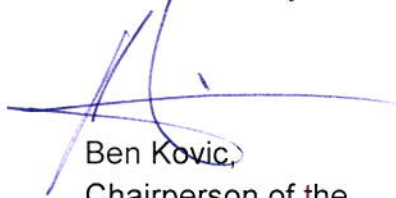
3. Ensure that shrimp harvesting inside both the NSA and the NMR remains within sustainable catch levels, does not raise conservation concerns, and is consistent with the precautionary fisheries management approach for these fisheries;

6. CONCLUSION

Madame Minister, the Boards hereby forward their decisions and recommendations to you, for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the NLCA and NILCA. Please be assured that the NWMB and the NMRWB will continue to work collaboratively with the Department and other co-management partners in ensuring that the management of shrimp in the NSA and NMR fully aligns with the terms of NLCA Article 5 and NILCA Article 5.

If you or your officials have any questions with respect to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB and the NMRWB at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Kovic,
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



Josepi Padlayat
Chairperson of the
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

c.c. Sandra Courchesne, Senior Fisheries Resource Management Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada