



12 May 2017

Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Josepi Padlayat
Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Re: Torngat Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries Secretariat Submission: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board Written public hearing to consider the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Total Allowable Catch levels for Northern and Stripped shrimp

Dear Mr. Shewchuk and Mr. Padlayat,

Thank you for contacting the Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) regarding input into the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board’s (NMRWB) joint written public hearing on the 2017/18 and 2018/19 total allowable catch (TAC) level and sharing arrangement decisions for Northern Shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones (EAZ and WAZ). The Secretariat is the implementation agent of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB, “the Board”).

In absence a TJFB formal recommendation regarding this decision, the Secretariat would like to provide input regarding the TAC and sharing arrangements for Northern Shrimp – specific to the Eastern Assessment Zone. In a separate letter dated May 12th, 2017 from the TJFB, the Board advised the Minister of Fishers and Oceans (DFO), recommending that the TJFB be a partner in public hearings relating to fisheries management in the EAZ, as the Marine Zone of the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area and the EAZ overlap.

For the 2017/18 and 2018/19 TAC, the Secretariat has taken a scientific based approach for its input, and considers DFO’s assessment of Northern Shrimp in the EAZ, which includes survey and fishery data. We understand the female spawning stock biomass has varied without trend around the long-term mean. And although there has been a 17% decline in the fishable biomass index from the previous year, the Northern Shrimp resource in the EAZ remains in the Healthy Zone of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan’s Precautionary Approach framework. The exploitation rate index for 2016/17 was 8.5%, but only 59% of the TAC was taken. If the TAC was completely taken, the potential exploitation rate index would have been 14.5%. Considering this, the Secretariat recommends that the TAC be maintained at 9,488 MT.

With regards to sharing agreements, we have considered the *Labrador Inuit Lands Claim Agreement* and the principles of adjacency and aboriginal participation when providing input. The Secretariat would like the NWMB and the NMRWB to include the Nunatsiavut Government and the Labrador Inuit when allocating the resource going forward. The Labrador Inuit Settlement Area’s Marine Zone is within, and adjacent to, the EAZ (Appendix A). As such, there



is a rationale for the Labrador Inuit to have a share and have access to the TAC in the Davis Strait-West Shrimp Fishing Area.

As mentioned above, the TJFB, with input from the Secretariat, has made a separate submission regarding recommendations we have made to the Minister regarding inclusion of the Board in the joint hearing process. The Secretariat and the Board are hopeful this input is considered, and looks forward to participating in this venture in the future. We are available, as always, at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Jamie Snook
Executive Director
Torngat Wildlife, Plants & Fisheries Secretariat



APPENDIX A

Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement: Adjacency and Overlap with the Eastern Assessment Zone



