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May 5, 1995

**To:** Chairmen,  
Issatik Hunters and Trappers Association, Whale Cove  
Aqiggiag Hunters and Trappers Association, Rankin Inlet  
Arviat Hunters and Trappers Association,  
Chesterfield Inlet Hunters and Trappers Association

**From:** Daniel Pike,  
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**Subject:** Commercial quotas for Arctic Char, 1995

Dale McGowan and Margaret Keast met with your HTA in March, 1995 to discuss the state of char fisheries in your area. At the meeting, they presented a poster which gave the results of the study we carried out last year. It appears that there have been declines in some char stocks, especially around the communities of Arviat, Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet, and at the Ferguson River.

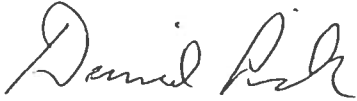
These areas are used for both commercial and domestic fisheries. We must now decide if commercial quotas should be decreased in those areas where stock declines have occurred, so that the stocks have a better chance of recovering. I have listed below my recommendations as a biologist for changes to commercial quotas in your area. I am recommending decreases in commercial quotas only in those areas where the 1994 study showed that there were not as many char as there used to be.

As you know, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board now has the responsibility for deciding about quotas in Nunavut. However, the Board does not yet have the staff or resources to take on this responsibility, and they have told our Department to let Hunters and Trappers Associations make decisions about fish quotas in their areas for the present time. Therefore, I will need to know whether or not you support these proposed quota changes. If you tell us that you support the quota changes, they will go ahead this summer. If you do not support the changes, they will not go ahead and the quotas will be left as they were last year.

1. Arviat Area: 1994 Quota- 4500 kg (10,000 lbs)  
Commercial Harvest in 1994- 2281 kg (5,018 lbs)  
Recommended Quota in 1995- 2270 kg (5,000 lbs)  
Most people think there are fewer char here than in the past. The fish are getting smaller, and commercial catch has decreased since 1989. The recommended quota of 2270 kg is about the same as the 1994 harvest.
2. Maguse River: 1994 Quota- Closed to commercial fishing.  
Recommended Quota in 1995- 0  
As per the recommendation of the Arviat HTA.
3. Ferguson River: 1994 Quota- 13,600 kg (30,000 lbs)  
Commercial Harvest in 1994- 3,639  
Recommended Quota for 1995- 3,000 kg (6,600 lbs)  
Fish from this area have been getting smaller since 1980, and harvest has decreased since 1989. This is probably one of the biggest char runs on the coast, and char from this area are caught at Arviat, Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet. Therefore, a stock decline here probably affects other fisheries as well. A spring tagging program will be carried out in June 1995. The recommended quota is slightly lower than last year's commercial harvest.
4. Wilson Bay: 1994 Quota- 8000 kg (17,600 lbs)  
Commercial Harvest in 1994- 1880 kg (4136 lbs)  
Recommended Quota for 1995- 2000 kg (4,400 lbs)  
This is the main fishing area for Whale Cove domestic fishermen. Most people think there are fewer char here than in the past. The fish are getting smaller, and commercial catch has decreased since 1989. The recommended quota of 2000 kg is about the same as the 1994 harvest.
5. Pistol Bay: 1994 Quota- 2300 kg (5,060 kg)  
Commercial Harvest in 1994- 854 kg (1,880 lbs)  
Recommended Quota for 1995- 1000 kg (2,200 lbs)  
Fish from this area have been getting smaller since 1988. The recommended quota of 1000 kg is about the same as the 1994 harvest.
6. Rankin Inlet Area: 1994 Quota- 0  
Recommended Quota for 1995- 0  
This area is used by many domestic fishermen. Most people think there are fewer char here than in the past. The commercial fishery was closed in 1994 by agreement between the HTA and DFO. It should remain closed until the fish population has recovered.
7. Chesterfield Inlet, Zone I (Fish Bay): 1994 Quota- 4500 kg (9,900 lbs)  
Commercial Harvest in 1994: 4197 kg (9,233 lbs)  
Recommended Quota for 1995- 4500 kg (9,900 lbs)  
At the meeting on March 5, 1995, the HTA requested that this quota be doubled to 9000 kg (19,800 lbs). The size of fish in this area has not decreased since 1987, and most fishermen think that char fishing is as good as it was in the past. However, tag returns from fish tagged at Saqvaqjuaq indicate that this char stock is harvested at Fish Bay. If the quota is doubled, it is likely that the Saqvaqjuaq stock will be harvested too much.

Please provide a written response to these recommendations by June 1, 1995. Please indicate whether or not you support the recommended quota changes, and any other changes you would like to make to commercial quotas in your area. I thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Pike.

NORTHERN PIKE  
Esox lucius L.



cc. Renewable Resource Officers, Rankin Inlet and Arviat  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Keewatin Wildlife Federation