

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
June 2018

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Updates

Updates:

Marine Mammals:

1) Narwhal:

- DFO is in the process of coordinating with HTO's for the 2017/18 narwhal tags returns and completing the summary of the harvest statistics. This includes calculating the amount of carryover tags available
- The 2018/19 narwhal tags (including carryover tags) and information packages are currently being printed and distribution is being coordinated with the Regional Wildlife Organization's (RWO's) on community allocations for the shared narwhal stocks.
- In February 2018, DFO held a narwhal allocation workshop to discuss options for allocating the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) increases for the Somerset Island and East Baffin Island summering stocks utilizing the Narwhal Allocation Model.
- A preferred scenario from the Allocation Model was selected based on information obtained from the workshop and DFO is currently in the process of finalising this option with RWO's and HTO's.
- Once finalised a meeting summary will be distributed to all co-management organizations.

2) Walrus:

- The NWMB approved a total of 56 walrus sport hunts for 2018, which was accepted by DFO; Coral Harbour (29 hunts), Iqaluit (7 hunts) Hall Beach (15 hunts) and Naujaat (5 hunt).
- DFO will soon begin coordinating with the Outfitters on the booked hunts for 2018 and distribute Sport Hunt packages, which include the hunt report form, sampling kit and licences.

3) Cumberland Sound Beluga:

- DFO plans to meet with the Pangnirtung HTO this spring to discuss the collection of more Biological Samples; a summary of last year's discussion; and the 2017 Aerial Survey.

- 4) Bowhead:
 - DFO has been advised that Iqaluit and Pond Inlet were selected as the host communities to conduct a bowhead hunt in 2018 for the Qikiqtaaluk Region.
- 5) Harvest Reporting:
 - DFO office contacted HTOs, requesting harvest updates for beluga, walrus, and narwhal. Reports of total marine mammal hunting mortality (landed + lost) are essential to develop reliable advice on sustainable harvests.
 - DFO urges continued reporting of unusual marine mammal occurrences and events e.g. beached carcass, ice entrapments, etc.
 - Timely and accurate reporting is required under the Fisheries Act, Marine Mammal Regulations, and the Nunavut Agreement. It is strongly recommended that co-management organizations emphasize the importance of harvest reporting and monitoring

Arctic Char:

- 1) For the 2017-18 Arctic Char fishery a total of 83,205kg was reported harvested to DFO. The 5,500kg quota for Sam Ford Fiord was also reported harvested by the Clyde River HTO and a closure notice was issued by DFO.
- 2) Qikiqtarjuaq Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:
 - DFO issued an exploratory fishing licence to the Nattivak HTO this winter. This was the fourth year for the exploratory fishery in the Confederation Fiord Area a Total of 103 Arctic Char samples were submitted to DFO.
- 3) Gjoa Haven Emerging Arctic Char Fishery:
 - A Stage 1 Emerging Fishery was licenced for Tahiuaraaruk Lake and Pangniktogaaruq Lake in the Gjoa Haven Area for a total of 400 Arctic Char samples during the winter of 2018.

Greenland Halibut (Turbot):

- 1) Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishery
 - Pangnirtung Turbot fishers had a very successful year and DFO was advised by Pangnirtung Fisheries that a total of 499mt was harvested during the winter of 2018, this is the first time in the history of the fishery that virtually the full 500mt was harvested
- 2) Emerging Turbot Fishery
 - An exploratory Turbot fishery continued in Pond Inlet in 2018; BFC allocated 30mt of the 0A Inshore quota for this fishery
 - The Nattivak HTA in Qikiqtarjuaq has also allocated 5mt of their inshore quota to help develop their inshore turbot fishery

2) Offshore Fishery:

- A total of 8328.960mt has been harvested in NAFO Division 0A
- A total of 3024.270mt has been harvested in NAFO Division 0B
- A total of 859.639mt has been harvested in the NAFO Division 0B Competitive Fishery

Northern Shrimp:

- For Nunavut fishing industry in shrimp fishing areas adjacent to Nunavut:
- A total of 784.33mt has been harvested in Davis Strait East
- A total of 1133.921mt has been harvested in Davis Strait West
- A total of 418.295mt has been harvested in Shrimp Fishing Area 1
- A total of 159.129mt is the Eastern Assessment Zone
- A total of 2870.602mt in the Western Assessment Zone

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Date: April 24, 2018