

**JOINT SUBMISSION TO
THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND
THE NUNAVIK MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD**

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Nunavut and Nunavik fisheries added to the List of Foreign Fisheries for review by the United States of America (USA) under import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

Background:

The US is preparing to implement import provisions described in the MMPA. These import provisions are intended to ensure that the US will only accept imports of fish and fish product originating from foreign fisheries that have levels of marine mammal bycatch that are comparable to US standards. The rule to implement the import provisions was finalized in 2016, with a 5-year exemption period ending on January 1, 2022. During this time, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has consulted with industry, the NWMB and the NMRWB to facilitate meeting the requirements of the import provisions.

The MMPA process is being administered by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”). Harvesting nations that export fish or fish products to the US are required to provide NOAA with a List of Foreign Fisheries (“LOFF”) that lists all of its export fishing operations. After reviewing each country’s LOFF, NOAA will determine which export fisheries qualify for a comparability finding. Those that do not receive a NOAA comparability finding will not be able to export fish and fish products to the US after January 1, 2022. (TAB 1)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is updating Canada’s portion of the LOFF for a progress report due to NOAA, and will include all fisheries that export to the US, or may wish to do so in future. DFO will be submitting a Progress Report on July 31, 2019 which will provide Canadian fisheries with feedback on which fisheries require more work before submitting a final comparability finding on March 1, 2021. Feedback on the information included in the submission has been requested from relevant parties (TAB 2). Comparability finding decisions will be made by November 30, 2021 and must be renewed every 4 years.

Current Situation:

DFO (Central & Arctic Region) has identified northern fisheries that currently export (or may wish to export) fish or fish products to US markets (Table 1). It is recommended that these fisheries be registered on Canada’s section of the LOFF.

Each fishery added to the LOFF will default to an “export” category pending NOAA review, after which NOAA will use the information provided to classify each fishery as “exempt” or “export”. The requirements for Canadian fisheries to obtain a NOAA comparability finding will depend on how they are classified (i.e. “export” or “exempt”).

NOAA has advised that there will be an opportunity to add additional fisheries prior to the publication of the LOFF in 2020. Prior to this additional deadline, DFO will continue to work with the NWMB, the NMRWB, and co-management organizations to recommend additional fisheries for inclusion in Table 1.

Table 1. DFO (Central & Arctic Region) fisheries that currently export (or may wish to export) fish or fish products to U.S. markets.

| Fishery | Species | Gear Type | Listing |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Cambridge Bay | Arctic Char | Fixed gear; Gillnet | Export |
| Cumberland Sound | Arctic Char | Fixed gear; Gillnet | Export |
| NU Fisheries | Arctic Char | Fixed gear; Gillnet | Export |
| Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA) | Greenland Halibut | Fixed gear; Longline | Export |
| NAFO Subarea 0, 100 ton ** | Greenland Halibut | Fixed gear; Pots | Export** |
| NAFO Subarea 0 [¥] | Greenland Halibut | Fixed gear | Export |
| NAFO Subarea 0 [¥] | Greenland Halibut | Mobile gear | Export |
| Shrimp Management Units (SMU) 0, 1, EAZ, WAZ [¥] | Shrimp | Mobile gear | Export |

** Exploratory fishery, may be classed as ‘Exempt’ after NOAA review

[¥] See maps in Figure 1 (a) and (b) below.



Figure 1 (a). Groundfish and shrimp administrative areas in Atlantic Canada



Figure 1 (b). Northern Shrimp Fishery Zones:
 • Eastern Assessment Zone “EAZ” (blue)
 • Western Assessment Zone “WAZ” (green)

Consultation:

DFO Central & Arctic Region has informed stakeholders of the Shrimp, offshore Greenland Halibut and Cambridge Bay arctic char fisheries through in person meetings. Also, DFO has created 2-page summaries for each of the fisheries listed in Table 1. These summaries were distributed on May 8, 2019 to regional stakeholders for review and feedback prior to final submission. Final comments were required by May 21, 2019 for inclusion in the Progress Report that Canada will submit to NOAA on July 31, 2019. A complete list of consultation activities is appended for reference in (TAB 2).

Recommendation:

That NWMB and NMRWB notify DFO Central & Arctic Region of any concerns about which fisheries are considered for inclusion on Canada's section of the LOFF.

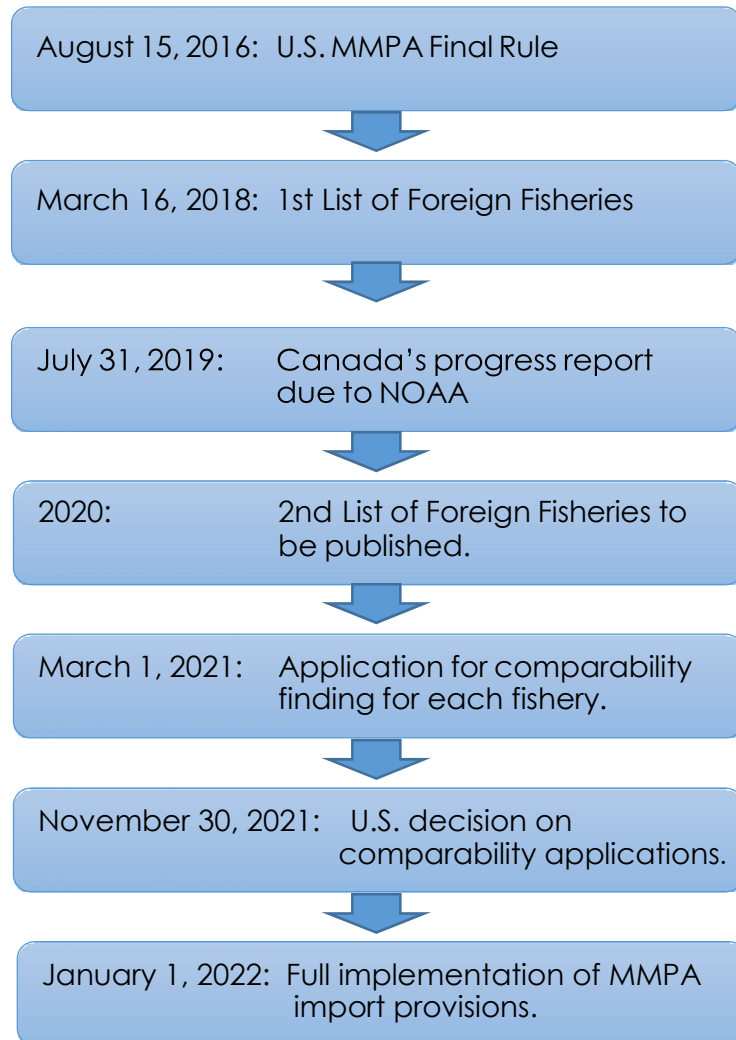
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Date:

May 8, 2019

TAB 1. Timeline to implement the import provisions of the U.S. MMPA.



TAB 2: List of regional stakeholders consulted for input on DFO Central & Arctic LOFF submissions

| LOFF Addition | Consulted Organization(s) | Method of Consultation |
|---|--|---|
| Cambridge Bay Arctic Char | Kitikmeot Foods Ltd. (KF) Ekaluktutiak HTO Cambridge Bay Community Elders Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Nunavik Tunngavik Inc. Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board Makivik Government of Nunavut | KF Post-Season Meeting (Jan 2019) Request for comment prior to submission (May 2019) |
| Cumberland Sound Arctic Char | Pangnirtung HTO: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat Nunavik Tunngavik Inc. Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board Makivik Government of Nunavut | Request for comment prior to submission (May 2019) |
| Nunavut Arctic Char Fisheries (remainder) | Community HTOs: Clyde River, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Arctic Bay, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Grise Fiord, Cape Dorset, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Sanikiluaq, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Bathurst Inlet Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Nunavik Tunngavik Inc. Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board Makivik Government of Nunavut | Request for comment prior to submission (May 2019) |
| Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA) Greenland Halibut | Pangnirtung HTO Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd./Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat Nunavik Tunngavik Inc. Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board Makivik Government of Nunavut | NFA – DFO Meeting (Dec 2018) Request for comment prior to submission (May 2019) |
| NAFO Subarea 0, 100 ton | Community HTOs: Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat Nunavik Tunngavik Inc. Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board Makivik | Request for comment prior to submission (May 2019) |

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|--|---|---|
| | Government of Nunavut | |
| NAFO Subarea 0 Greenland Halibut (Fixed and Mobile Gear) | Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Nunavut Fishery Association (NFA) Eastern Arctic Groundfish Stakeholders Advisory Committee (EAGSAC) Nunavik Tunngavik Inc. Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board Makivik Government of Nunavut | NFA – DFO Meeting (Dec 2018) EAGSAC Stakeholder Advisory Meeting (Feb 2019) Request for comment prior to submission (May 2019) |
| SMU 0, 1, EAZ, WAZ Shrimp | Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) Nunavik Tunngavik Inc. Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board Makivik Government of Nunavut | NSAC Meeting (Mar 2019) Request for comment prior to submission (May 2019) |