

July 23, 2021

Jason Akearok
Executive Director
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
PO Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Re: Access Fees Charged to the Nunavut Fishing Industry by DFO for Shrimp in the WAZ and EAZ

Dear Mr. Akearok:

Thank you for your email of June 30th and the invitation to provide input in response to DFO's letter of May 5th and the NWMB's response of May 20th with reference to NFA's submission and request for decision and recommendations by the NWMB on the issue of access fees charged to the Nunavut fishing industry by DFO for shrimp allocations in the WAZ and EAZ. NFA is pleased that the NWMB is not accepting DFO's position on its authority on this issue at face value and that it is undertaking its own internal analysis.

NFA is extremely disappointed that DFO has taken this approach rather than trying to address the substantive issues we have identified in our submission to the NWMB. Unfortunately, we have faced this situation of DFO either ignoring our substantive issues or reverting to technicalities rather than addressing issues for way too long. Our Northern industry has been waiting since 2016 for DFO to undertake the policy discussion recommended in the Ministerial Advisory Panel (MAP) report on shrimp on increasing access to adjacent allocations and, most recently, we have seen DFO back away from the longstanding practice of 60-day Ministerial responses to NWMB decisions based on land claim technicalities.

The Nunavut industry continues to be treated differently from other jurisdictions, and in the case of WAZ access fees this is not only an issue of fairness and equity but also one of competitiveness in a difficult market environment. We continue to hear the talk of reconciliation and increased Indigenous access to the fishery from DFO and the federal government in general but have seen no substantive action or progress on either.

We look forward to NWMB's assessment of its authority on this important issue and the feedback provided by our land claims organizations. NFA also supports the NWMB's request for a substantive reply from DFO on the access fees issues and remains hopeful that DFO will address this longstanding issue in a fair and equitable manner.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,



Brian Burke
Executive Director, Nunavut Fisheries Association

- c.c. Minister Bernadette Jordan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tim Sargent, Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Adam Burns, Director General, Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Gabriel Nirlungnayuq, Regional Director General, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
President Aluki Kotierk, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
President PJ Akeeagok, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Premier Joe Savikataaq, Government of Nunavut
Minister David Akeeagok, Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut
Daniel Shewchuk, Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Sakiasie Sowdloopik, A/Chair, Nunavut Fisheries Association
Jaypetee Akeeagok, Director, Nunavut Fisheries Association
David Alexander, Director, Nunavut Fisheries Association
Jerry Ward, Director, Nunavut Fisheries Association