



22 May 2024

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Dear Messrs. Shewchuk and Metuq:

Re: NWMB-NMRWB Joint Written Public Hearing to Consider the 2024–25 Total Allowable Catch (TACs) for Northern and Striped shrimp.

We are pleased to submit the following as the joint submission from the quota holders for Northern and Striped shrimp from Nunavut and Nunavik.

This submission provides the recommendations from industry for the Boards' consideration for quotas in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones (WAZ and EAZ respectively) for overall total allowable catch (TACs) for both Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*Pandalus montagui*) shrimp. This includes harvest levels for both species in Nunavut and Nunavik-West (NU-W and NK-W) and Nunavut and Nunavik-East (NU-E and NK-E), as well as the distribution of TAC within the Davis Strait management units of Davis Strait West and East (DSW and DWE respectively), including the allocation of the TAC among fleet interests.

Our submission also addresses recommended Management Measures. We recommend the continuation of the practice whereby both northern and striped shrimp allocations in NU-W and NK-W may be harvested in either management unit, regardless of land claim boundaries. We also recommend the continuation of the practice whereby both northern and striped shrimp allocations in NU-E and NK-E may be harvested in either management unit, regardless of land claim boundaries.

The above measures represent a past practice acceptable to the industry and both boards, as well as DFO, and serve as a laudable example of industry and Board cooperation, together with DFO. This recommendation accords with a standing decision of both boards of July 13, 2022 and previous years in support of harvesting of these species in either management unit.

Industry remains extremely concerned that the largest aggregation of montagui in Ungava Bay lies in the dividing line between NKE and NKW. This aggregation is assigned quota in

both East and West, but a slight shift in the shrimp aggregation in the wrong direction during fishing season could shut down the fishery. We appreciate that this is a complex issue and ask the Boards if they might request that DFO form a small DFO Science - industry working group to review this issue in more detail with a view to identifying a less risky approach.

Finally, we would also underscore the NU/NK industry's desire to achieve better bridging protocols in Ungava Bay that compare more favourably to other shrimp fishing areas, in light of the ongoing healthy status of shrimp in this area for all stocks, as well as the fact that this is no longer an exploratory industry. We seek your general support for this expression of interest.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, and thank you in advance for your consideration of it. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek Butler, Executive Director
Nunavut Fisheries Association



Andy Moorhouse, Vice-President, Economic Development
Soci t  Makivik Corporation

c.c.

Diane Lebouthiller, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Amy Amos, Regional Director General, Arctic, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David Akeegok, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation
Aluki Kotierk, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Olayuk Akesuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Julai Alikatuktuk, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, NFA Director
Jerry Ward, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, NFA Director
Kelly Kilabuk, Baffin Fisheries, NFA Director
Joeli Qamanirq, Arctic Fishery Alliance, NFA Director
Andy Moorhouse, Makivik Corporation

2024/25 Submission of the Nunavut Fisheries Association and Makivik Corporation

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board Written Public Hearing to Consider the 2024–25 Total Allowable Catch Levels for Northern and Striped Shrimp

Introduction

The following is the submission of the Nunavut Fisheries Association (NFA) and Makivik Corporation (MC), representing the respective allocation holders for Northern and Striped shrimp under consideration by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB). The submission is in response to the invitation dated April 29, 2024 for submissions for the joint public hearing of the Boards in respect of this matter.

We also underscore our support of the new proposed 2-Step HDR (harvester decision rules) in the context of this joint submission.

Background

For the 2024/25 Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*P. montagui*) Shrimp fisheries¹ in the WAZ and EAZ, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has provided the Boards with the requisite materials including the Proposal, science summaries and a Summary of Stakeholder Views from the 2024 North Shrimp Advisory Committee Meeting of April 3rd and 4th, 2024.

The details on stock status for the four stocks under consideration in this written response are provided in the above noted materials submitted by DFO and available to the parties. In short, changes in the fishable biomass of the stocks' status under consideration year over year are as follows:

- **EAZ borealis** - Fishable biomass index increased by 30.6% and is at 48,216 t. The index is in the healthy zone;
- **EAZ montagui** - Fishable biomass index decreased slightly by 1.3% and is at 14,137 t (versus 14,325 mt previously) . It remains in the healthy zone;

¹ We will use the standard nomenclature in DFO documents of *borealis* and *montagui* in the balance of our submission.

- **WAZ borealis** - Fishable biomass index decreased to 17,919 mt from 23,939 mt, a decrease of 25.1%. It remains in the healthy zone, at 192% of the recommended USR; and
- **WAZ montagui** - After an increase of 61.1% in the previous assessment, the Fishable biomass index decreased 35.6% last year, and is at 67,425 mt. It is also still in the healthy zone at 162% of recommended USR.

The TACs and corresponding Exploitation Rates (ERs) contained in this submission therefore take into account the recommended ERs provided for these species.

Before turning to specific industry recommendations and rationale for EAZ and WAZ for both borealis and montagui shrimp respectively, we wish to underscore our strong support for the proposed 2-Step HDR (harvester decision rule) to set the overall TACs. Details of this HDR and calculation methods are presented to the Boards under separate cover by DFO, and explain the rationale behind this new approach: we support that. As noted there, this HDR was endorsed by NSAC, by an NSAC Technical Working Group and the Northern Precautionary Approach Working Group (NPAWG). Applying this HDR would yield ERs that are considered conservative for Healthy Zone stocks, below the permitted maximum 30% ER for the healthy zone, in accordance with the 2-Step HDR.

We now address the specific industry recommendations and rationale for EAZ and WAZ for both borealis and montagui respectively. The submission closes with recommendations on distribution or sharing within the management units.

Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) - borealis and montagui

For **P. borealis**, as has been noted before, the fishable biomass index has been highly variable, and cycles between peak to trough every 2 or 3 years in the time series (years of available data on biomass index, 2009-2022). That is repeated again for the new 2023 data, with an increase of 30.6%. In light of this, our proposal for the 2024/25 TAC is in keeping with the consensus position at NSAC this year, i.e. a TAC of 8,513 mt, which is an increase of 1130 mt.

For **P. montagui**, the stock is deemed to be well into the healthy zone, at 112% of the recommended USR. Industry supports a TAC of 2,464 mt, an increase of 364 mt given the increase in the index.

Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) - borealis and montagui

For **P. borealis**, industry supports a TAC of 4,186 mt, a decrease of 602 mt given the decline in the fishable biomass index. The stock remains in the healthy zone, at 192% of the recommended USR. This could provide for an exploitation rate (ER) of 30% maximum, while this recommendation would produce an ER of 23.4% in accordance with the new proposed HDR.

For **P. montagui** in the WAZ, industry supports a TAC of 15,384 mt. This represents a reduction of 1,898 mt from last year's TAC given the decline the fishable biomass index. The spawning stock biomass (SSB) remains in the healthy zone at 162% of the recommended HDR. This could allow for a maximum ER of 30%, while our recommendation in this year's context is for an ER of 22.8%.

We next turn to joint recommendations of the NU/NK industry on how the above recommended TAC levels should be distributed.

Distribution/Sharing of Recommended NU/NK Industry TACs

Western Assessment Zone Sharing

We first turn our considerations to the Western Assessment Zone. The WAZ is located fully within the Nunavut (NU) and Nunavik (NK) settlement areas where access is limited to the industry players. Since the WAZ fishery started the agreement has been to share WAZ TACs between NU and NK on a 50/50 basis for both borealis and montagui. Industry supports a continuation of this practice. Based on the above recommended 4,186 mt borealis TAC and 15,384 mt montagui recommendations for 2024/25, this would result in the following sharing recommendations:

- WAZ Borealis - **2,093 mt each** for NU and NK
- WAZ Montagui - **7,692 mt each** for NU and NK.

Eastern Assessment Zone Sharing

In the Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) stocks are subdivided into three areas, being Davis Strait West and East (DSW and DSE respectively) and Nunavut and Nunavik East (NU-E and NK-E respectively).

EAZ Borealis

Our submission makes the following sharing recommendations for the recommended TAC of 8,513 mt. These recommendations are in the same proportions as those accepted and implemented in 2023/24.

- NU - 1,710 mt in DSW, 1,282 mt in DSE, and 526 mt in NU/NKE, for a total of 3,518 mt;
- NK - 190 mt in DSW, 132 mt in NU/NKE, for a total of 321 mt; and
- Offshore - 3,874 mt in DSW, 800 mt in DSE, for a total of 4,673 t.

EAZ Montagui

We propose the same 2023/24 quota amount of 920 mt to the offshore for this year, with the remainder to be distributed to NU/NK based on the existing 70/30 split. Our sharing recommendation based on the proposed 2,464 mt TAC recommendation in this submission is as follows:

- NU/NK E (Inuit land claim beneficiaries) – 1,073 mt NU, 471 mt NK, as per the long-standing sharing agreement in place between NU and NK; and
- DSW/DSE (offshore) – 920 mt.

Further to the above and the continued offshore bycatch of 920 mt, we would propose that this be established at this year's proposed TAC level, and for all TACS above 2,464 mt, in essence capping this amount at 920 mt. For TACs below 2,464, we would propose that this offshore bycatch be set at 38.3% (the percentage for this year, based on 920 mt divided by 2,464 mt).

It is important to note that this same amount was also set in 2023/24, but was in excess of the incidental landings of 269 mt (of the 920 mt allocation that year). This in effect creates a quantity of shrimp in principle unavailable for designated catch. Our proposal is to cap this amount at 920 mt at the current proposed TAC level and higher, and effectively set it at 38.3% of the overall montagui TAC for this area for TACs below 2,464 mt.

Summary

This submission has outlined the joint recommendations of the Nunavut and Nunavik shrimp industries with respect to the TACs, sharing in the EAZ and WAZ, and the continuation of current management measures previously endorsed and accepted by industry, the Boards and DFO. A table summary follows on the next page.

We remain available to respond to any questions of clarification or regarding content, and again thank the respective Boards for the opportunity to make this submission.

(See Summary Table next page)

SUMMARY TABLE OF 2024/25 Recommendations

Shrimp Stock	TAC Recommendation	Sharing Recommendation
WAZ montagui	15,384 mt	NU – 50% of TAC – 7,692 mt; NK – 50% of TAC – 7,692 mt.
WAZ borealis	4,186 mt	NU – 50% of TAC – 2,093 mt; NK – 50% of TAC – 2,093 mt.
EAZ montagui	2,464 mt	NU/NK – NU/NK E – 1,890 mt directed fishery: <input type="checkbox"/> NU – 1,072 mt <input type="checkbox"/> NK – 471 mt Offshore – DSW/DSE – 920 mt bycatch.
EAZ borealis	8,513 mt	NU – 1,710 mt in DSW, 1,282 mt in DSE, 526 mt in NU/NK E, 3,518 mt total; NK – 190 mt in DSW, 132 mt in NU/NK E, 321 mt total; Offshore – 3,874 mt in DSW, 800 mt in DSE, 4,673 mt total.