



ᐸᓕᐃ 13, 2026

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ᑭᓄᓐ ᑭᓄᓐ 2026-ᑭ, ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ
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ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ:

1. ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ:

[illegible]

Δ₁ L C D P C D σ^a ρ^c Δ₂ L L Δ₃ C c d L^a ρ^c Λ₁ q^a L^a Δ₂ Δ^b ρ^c Δ₃ Δ^b ρ^c ρ^c L σ^a ρ^a σ

a. A CLΔ^aσ^b bΠ^c▷Γ^c Λ_qρ^bCD▷^aq^cσ^aΓ^aσ^b ▷^ddLΔ^aσ^cσ^b 15,743 C^aσ^b CD^aσ^bΛ^c Λ^bσ^aq^bσ^cΛ^cρ^bΔ▷^bσ^b▷^c Δ▷^bσ^bρ^bΛ^cσ^bΛ^cσ^b.

1. $\triangleright \rho \triangleright^{\mathfrak{b}} \mathbb{C}^{\mathfrak{b}} \supset \rho^{\mathfrak{a}} \mathbb{J}^{\mathfrak{b}} <^{\mathfrak{a}} \sigma^{\mathfrak{b}}$.

3



- Δ₇L_C▷▷C▷σ^aΓ^c Δ₁L₃ Δ▷C^ad₇^aΓ^c CΔdΔ Δ▷C^aC▷σ^aσ^aΓ^aσ^a Λ^aΔ₁Γ^bσ^b▷σ^b

[illegible][illegible]

1. $\triangleright \rho \triangleright^{\mathfrak{b}} \mathbb{C}^{\mathfrak{b}} \supset \Gamma \quad \rho^{\mathfrak{a}} \cup^{\mathfrak{b}} <^{\mathfrak{a}} \sigma^{\mathfrak{b}}:$



- a. CLሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 574 ርምቅ ርዕሲክ ሙዎር-ከዲዲሲምቅ ልረረብልሲምቅ ርዕሲክ ሙዎር ሙርልሰሰረምቅ; ልረረ
2. ርክሳር ሶህቅራምቅ
 - a. CLሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 375 ርምቅ ርዕሲክ ሙዎር-ከዲዲሲምቅ ልረረብልሲምቅ ርዕሲክ ሙዎር ሙዎር ሙርልሰሰረምቅ.

ለናዕዎሲ ልረኮ፣ ረረኃቡ በበናህረምቡ 5.2.3 ሙልቅ ልዎረ ሙርሰባኖሙ ልኖሰባ፣ ስረረሲሰረረረረ ልኖሰባኮናረረረረ ስዕምቅ ልርረረምቅ ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ሶህቅራምቅ ርዕሲክ ሙልቅ-ከዲዲሲምቅ ልረረብልሲምቅ ርረ 2026/2027-፣ ሶህሙረልሰሰረምቅ:

1. ስሰረክረረ ሶህቅራምቅ:
 - a. ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 139 ርምቅ ርዕሲክ ሙልቅ-ከዲዲሲምቅ ልረረብልሲምቅ ሙልሰ ልረረባኖሙ; and
2. ርክሳር ሶህቅራምቅ
 - a. ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 161 ርምቅ ርዕሲክ ሙልቅ-ከዲዲሲምቅ ልረረብልሲምቅ ሙልሰ ልረረባኖሙ.

ለናዕዎሲ ልረኮ፣ ረረኃቡ በበናህረምቡ 15.3.4 15.3.7 ሙዎረ ሙርሰባኖሙ ልረረ በበናህረምቡ 5.4.4 ሙልቅ ልዎረ ሙርሰባኖሙ ልኖሰባ፣ ስረረሲሰረረረ ልረረ ሙልኖ ልረረረረረረ ከበረኃቡ ልረረሰዎ ስዕምቅ ልርረረምቅ ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ርዕሲክ ኖሶክረኃ ሰረሳሲረ-ለሲሙረክረረ ልረረ ኖሶክረኃ ሰረሳሲረ-ከዲዲሲምቅ ልረረብልሰምቅ ርረ 2026/2027-፣ ሶህሙረልሰሰረምቅ:

1. ስሰረክረረ ሶህቅራምቅ:
 - a. ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 2,268 ርምቅ ርዕሲክ ኖሶክረኃ ሰረሳሲረ-ከዲዲሲምቅ ልረረብልሲምቅ ርዕሲክ ረር ርሰዲ ልልኃክረረረረረ ልረረረረረ:
 - i. ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 870 ርምቅ ርረኖ ልረረባኖሙ; ልረረ
 - ii. ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 1,398 ርምቅ ሙዎረረ.
2. For ስሰረክረረ ሶህቅራምቅ:
 - a. ርሰምቅ ከቡኃቡ ለዲሞርታላዊናውያኖቶም ስልጠላውሮ 6,277 ርምቅ ርዕሲክ ኖሶክረኃ ሰረሳሲረ-ለሲሙረክረረ ልረረብልሲምቅ ርዕሲክ ረር ርሰዲ ልልኃክረረረረረ ልረረረረረ:



3. $C^{\infty} \hookrightarrow C^0$ $\rho^a \hookrightarrow \sigma^b$

- a. CLΔ^ασ^β bΠ^γ⊃Γ^δ Λα^εβ^ζCD^η⊃^θα^ισ^κβ^λ ▷^μdLΔ^νσ^ξτ^ο 318 Γ^πσ^ρβ^σ
CD^φψ^χ Γ^ψρρ^ςβ^ζ⊃^η ΔP^θΓ^ιψ^κLC^λ-bα^μα^νβ^ξ⊃^οΓ^πψ^ρLC^σ ⊃^τLL^υ⊃^φρρ^ςβ^ζ⊃^η
ΔP^θΓ^ιψ^κLC^λ-Λ^μψ^να^ξβ^ζ⊃^οΓ^πψ^ρLC^σ ⊃^τΔ^υ⊃^φΓ^πδ^ρΔ^σσ^ξτ^οβ^λ.

[illegible][illegible]

ለኒርድሙክር ክብረትና ልዩነት ለሆነ ልዩነት ለሆነ ልዩነት

[illegible][illegible]

CLσ 2024-Γ, ከበሊኦፕ ልዩነቶችና አስተያየት (ጥያቄ ቁጥር IC002-2024, NMRWB #63) ይገልጻል፡







$\Delta^{\varepsilon} \lambda^{ab} \gamma^c \nabla_a \sigma^f \gamma^c$ $\varepsilon_b \partial \Delta c \rightarrow \rho \eta^b \gamma^c$ $\gamma^a \delta^b \gamma^c$

$$\Delta D_C \cap \sigma^c J^c \cap b_{\Delta C} \Delta C \cap \Delta C \cap \sigma^a \sigma^a \sigma^a \sigma^b \cap b_{\Delta C} \Delta C \cap b_{\Delta C} \sigma^b \sigma^b \sigma^b \sigma^b$$
[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

10





$\Delta r^{\dagger} L C \triangleright P C \triangleright \sigma^{*} i^c$ $\triangleleft L_L$ $\triangleleft D C^{\dagger} d^{\dagger} i^c$ $\triangleleft D C^{\dagger} n^{\dagger} b C \triangleright \sigma^{*} j^c$ $b L n^{\dagger} \triangleright \sigma^{*} i^c$

$\triangleleft \rho^b b^a \sigma^a \rho^c C \triangleright^{\epsilon_b} \Delta \rho L^b h^{\epsilon_b} \rho \triangleright \rho \cap^b h \Delta^c$

$$\Delta \rho \Delta \sigma \triangleright^{\epsilon} \triangleright^{\delta} \Delta^{\epsilon}$$

13

[illegible]

David Shulman

Dee M. King

$\Delta \triangleright_C \Gamma \supset^b$
 $\Delta \vdash^b \varphi \triangleright_C \psi^c$
 $\text{ወደልኝ ርቢኖ ለሆነ ርቢኖ ርቢኖ ርቢኖ}$
 በባለሕግ

14



ՈՌԻԵԴ ԴՆԵՑՄՈՐ 1

ՁԱԶ ԳԵՇԵՆՈՒ ԵՈՒԼՅԵ ԴՐԼԵՇՊՈՒՐԻ ՎԷԼԱ ՎՃԵԺԿՆԻՐԻ ՔՅՆԵՍՏՎՊՁԳՄՈՐՄԵ ԳԵՄԴԵՍՄՈՐԻ ՎԷԼԱ ՇԼԴՄԵ ԵՈՒՇՐԻ ԱԶԵՇՎՊՁԳՄՈՐՄԵ ՔՅՆԵՍՏՎ ՇՎԵՍԼԻ ԱՆՍՁԳԵՇՄԵՆՍ ԴԷԼԱ ԵԶՁՆՍԵՇՄԵՆՍ ԱԶԵՇՎՊՁԳՄՈՐՄԵ ՎՃԵՅԻՆԵՐԼՄՆՍՏՏՏ:

ՔՅՄՏՎԵԼՄ	ԳԵՄԴՈՒՄ	ԳԵՄԵ	ՇԼԴՄԵ ԵՈՒՇՐԻ ԱԶԵՇՎՊՁԳՄՈՐՄԵ (ԸՄՄ) ՇՎԼԴՄՈՐԻ	ԱՁՇՎՊ ՅՁԳՄՈՐԻ	% ՇԼԴՄԵ ԵՈՒՇՐԻ ԱՅՇՎՊՁԳՄՈՐՄԵ
WAZ	ՇՐՇԳԵՇՈՐ	2-ԵՐԵՇՈՐԻ (ԱՐՎՈՎԵԿԳՄԵ)	8,445	12.7%	+136%
	ՇԳԿԳՇՈՐ	2-ԵՐԵՇՈՐԻ (ԱՐՎՈՎԵԿԳՄԵ))	15,743	19.05%	+5.26%
EAZ	ՇՐՇԳԵՇՈՐ	2-ԵՐԵՇՈՐԻ (ԱՐՎՈՎԵԿԳՄԵ)	9,258	20.8%	-4.00%
	ՇԳԿԳՇՈՐ	ԱԶԵՇՎՊՁԳՄՈՐԻ (ՇԵՇԼՄ ՎԳՅՍՄԵ)	854	25.89%	-65.41%

[illegible]

የኃይማኖት/ፍልጋ	የክልል/ዞን	የሀገራዊ ስም	የጾታ	% ርዕሰ ስም በጥቅም ለሀገራዊ ስም	
የኢትዮጵያ ሕዝብ የሕይወት ልማት የፍትሕ ሚኒስቴር	የወንጌል	Nu-W	ወንጌል	50%	
		Nk-W	ወንጌል	50%	
	የፍትሕ	Nu-W	ወንጌል	50%	
		Nk-W	ወንጌል	50%	
የኢትዮጵያ ሕዝብ የሕይወት ልማት የፍትሕ ሚኒስቴር	የወንጌል	DS-W	ወንጌል የሕይወት	45.50%	
			ወንጌል	20.10%	
			ወንጌል	2.20%	
		DS-E	ወንጌል የሕይወት	9.40%	
			ወንጌል	15.10%	
			Nu-E	ወንጌል	6.20%
	የፍትሕ	Nk-E	ወንጌል	1.50%	
		የፍትሕ	DS-W/E	ወንጌል የሕይወት	37.26%
			Nu-E	ወንጌል	43.92%
Nk-E	ወንጌል		18.82%		



July 8, 2026

The Honourable Joanne Thompson
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard
15th Floor, Centennial Towers
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Thompson:

Re: NWMB-NMRWB Joint Written Public Hearing to Consider the 2026/2027 Total Allowable Catch Levels and Sharing Arrangements for Northern and Striped Shrimp in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones

PROPOSAL FOR DECISION

In April 2026, Fisheries and Oceans Canada requested the following decisions and recommendations from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB; collectively, the Boards) on the harvest management of northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) and striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) for the 2026/2027 fishing season:

1. In the Western Assessment Zone:
 - a. **Decision** on harvest levels for both species in the Nunavut-West (within the Nunavut Settlement Area) and Nunavik-West (within the Nunavik Marine Region) management units; and
 - b. **Recommendation** on the overall total allowable catch¹ for both species.

¹ Total allowable harvest is the term used to define harvest limits in the *Nunavut Agreement*. In the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, harvest limits are defined as total allowable takes. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has consistently used total allowable catch to describe fishery harvesting. For simplicity and efficiency, this letter adopts total allowable catch to encompass both total allowable harvest and total allowable takes.



2. In the Eastern Assessment Zone:

- a. **Decision** on harvest levels for both species in the Nunavut-East (within the Nunavut Settlement Area) and Nunavik-East (within the Nunavik Marine Region) management units;
- b. **Recommendations** on the overall total allowable catch for both species; and
- c. **Recommendations** on the distributions of the total allowable catch for both species between the Davis Strait management units—Davis Strait-West and Davis Strait-East.

NWMB AND NMRWB JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

On May 1, 2026, the Boards issued a public notice and invited relevant parties to a joint written public hearing for shrimp total allowable catch levels in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones for the 2026/2027 fishing season. Parties were asked to provide feedback on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada April 2026 request.

Two submissions were received: a joint submission from Makivvik Corporation and Nunavut Fisheries Association² (collectively referred to as Industry stakeholders), and a submission from Anguvigaq, a nonprofit Inuit association mandated to protect the harvesting rights of Inuit in Nunavik.

NWMB AND NMRWB DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the NWMB in-camera meeting on June 25, 2026 (NWMB IC002-2026) and the NMRWB in-camera special meeting on June 18, 2026, the Boards reviewed all relevant written arguments and evidence provided through the written public hearing³. The Boards independently made decisions and recommendations. Having passed complementary resolutions, the NWMB and NMRWB are providing this joint letter. The Board's decisions and recommendations are set out immediately below, and more details are presented in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Decisions and Recommendations at the Assessment Zone Level

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5.2.3 and 5.4 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* and Section 15.3.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NMRWB and NWMB recommend that the total allowable catch in the Western Assessment Zone for the 2026/2027 fishing season be as follows:

1. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):

² Nunavut Fisheries Association includes, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Arctic Fishery Alliance, Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd/Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd.

³ All the relevant documents and written submissions received on time and considered by the Boards are publicly available for download from the NWMB's website, www.nwmb.com.



- a. A total allowable catch of 8,445 tonnes in the Western Assessment Zone; and
2. For striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 15,743 tonnes in the Western Assessment Zone.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 15.3.4 and 15.3.7 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and Sections 5.2.3 and 5.4.4 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, the NWMB and the NMRWB recommend the following total allowable catch levels in the Eastern Assessment Zone for the 2026/2027 fishing season:

1. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 9,258 tonnes in the Eastern Assessment Zone; and
2. For striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 854 tonnes in the Eastern Assessment Zone.

Decisions and Recommendations at the Management Unit Level

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.16 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB approve the following total allowable catch for shrimp in the Nunavut-West Management Unit for the 2026/2027 fishing season:

1. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 4,222.5 tonnes in the Nunavut-West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area; and
2. For striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 7,871.5 tonnes in the Nunavut-West Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.3 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, the NMRWB approve the following total allowable catch for shrimp in the Nunavik-West Management Unit for the 2026/2027 fishing season:

1. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 4,222.5 tonnes in the Nunavik-West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region; and
2. For striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 7,871.5 tonnes in the Nunavik-West Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.6.16 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB approve the following total allowable catch for shrimp in the Nunavut-East Management Unit for the 2026/2027 fishing season:

1. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 574 tonnes in the Nunavut-East Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area; and
2. For striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 375 tonnes in the Nunavut-East Management Unit within the Nunavut Settlement Area.



RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.3 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, the NMRWB approve the following total allowable catch for shrimp in the Nunavik-East Management Unit for the 2026/2027 fishing season:

1. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 139 tonnes in the Nunavik-East Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region; and
2. For striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 161 tonnes in the Nunavik-East Management Unit within the Nunavik Marine Region.

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 15.3.4 and 15.3.7 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and Section 5.4.4 of the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, the NWMB and the NMRWB recommend the following distribution of the total allowable catch in the Davis Strait-West and Davis Strait-East Management Units for the 2026/2027 fishing season:

1. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 2,268 tonnes in the Davis Strait-East Management Unit that is further subdivided as follows:
 - i. A total allowable catch of 870 tonnes for the offshore; and
 - ii. A total allowable catch of 1,398 tonnes for Nunavut.
2. For northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 6,277 tonnes in the Davis Strait-West Management Unit that is further subdivided as follows:
 - i. A total allowable catch of 4,212 tonnes for the offshore; and
 - ii. A total allowable catch of 1,861 tonnes for Nunavut; and
 - iii. A total allowable catch of 204 tonnes for Nunavik.
3. For striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*):
 - a. A total allowable catch of 318 tonnes in the Davis Strait-East and Davis-Strait West Management Units.

Recommendations about the precautionary approach framework

FURTHERMORE, given that a new model is now used to assess the northern shrimp stock at the larger North Stock Assessment Region, the NWMB and NMRWB encourage Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff to submit to the Boards a separate proposal for the approval of a new Precautionary Approach Framework, including the upper stock reference, limit reference point, and harvest decision rules, as was the case in 2024.

REASONS FOR THE BOARDS' DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The decisions and recommendations made by the Boards are meant to ensure a sustainable harvest of northern and striped shrimp in the Eastern and Western



Assessment Zones. The Boards have also considered the most recent scientific information on the stocks, including that provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and input from Industry stakeholders and from Anguvigaq.

Decisions and Recommendations at the Assessment Zone Level

In 2024, the Boards approved (NWMB IC002-2024, NMRWB #63) a Precautionary Approach Framework that included an upper stock reference, a limit reference point, and harvest decision rules for shrimp in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones. These decisions were adopted by the Minister.

In spring 2025, Fisheries and Oceans Canada introduced to the Boards a new stock assessment method for northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*). This method now forms the basis for science advice on managing northern shrimp stocks. Along with the new method, a new stock structure was also defined and combines the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones, Shrimp Fishing Area 4, and a portion of Shrimp Fishing Area 5 into a new North Stock Assessment Region (NSAR, or assessment region). Considering these changes, a new Precautionary Approach Framework was proposed and presented to the Boards in 2025 for information (NWMB RM001-2025; NMRWB #66). However, although Fisheries and Oceans Canada has asked the Boards to decide on and recommend a new upper stock reference, it has not requested amendments to any other part of the Precautionary Approach Framework.

The Boards therefore followed the 2024 harvest decision rules approved by the Boards and the Minister as the basis for setting the total allowable catches for both shrimp species in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones for the 2026/2027 fishing season

Northern shrimp

At the assessment region's level, the spawning stock biomass increased by 5% and the fishable biomass increased by 24%, both biomass indices being near their respective time-series average. This places the stock in the proposed healthy zone for the assessment region. When looking at the fishable biomass at the assessment zone level; however, a significant increase was observed in the Western Assessment Zone proportion (from 13% to 29%) while a decrease was reported for the Eastern Assessment Zone (from 29% to 19%).

Under the Board-approved Precautionary Approach Framework and harvest decision rules, when the fishable biomass of a stock declines, the harvest decision rule option that results in the lower total allowable catch—whether the “finish” or “restart” option—should be selected. Conversely, when the fishable biomass of a stock increases, the harvest decision rule option that results in the higher total allowable catch should be selected.

Considering the above, the Boards recommend applying the harvest decision rule by



restarting the two-step process to determine the total allowable catch for northern shrimp in the Western Assessment Zone. This results in a total allowable catch of 8,445 tonnes, representing an exploitation rate of 12.7%. This total allowable catch is close to the recommendation made by Industry stakeholders.

In the Eastern Assessment Zone, the northern shrimp fishable biomass declined for three years (2020 to 2022) and entered the cautious zone three years ago. Considering the recent decrease in the fishable biomass, the Boards recommend using the restart option of the harvest decision rule in the Eastern Assessment Zone. This results in a total allowable catch of 9,258 tonnes with an exploitation rate of 20.8%. Although this recommendation yields a more conservative and lower total allowable catch than the Industry stakeholders' suggestion, it better addresses potential concerns from stock biomass fluctuations. Additionally, the northern shrimp quota in this zone is rarely fully caught.

Supplemental related requests were made regarding the total allowable catch setting for northern shrimp, specifically regarding the precautionary approach framework, management strategy evaluation and the use of a catch utilization adjustment. The Boards' rationale for each of these requests is set out below.

Precautionary Approach Framework

A new model is now used to assess the northern shrimp stock at the larger North Stock Assessment Region. Fisheries and Oceans Canada asked the Boards to decide and recommend a new upper stock reference, but has not requested amendments to any other part of the Precautionary Approach Framework. In the past, the Boards have expressed a preference to approve the whole Framework, rather than piecemeal sections of it. Furthermore, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has not presented science advice or a consultation report related to this request. Therefore, the Boards encourage Fisheries and Oceans Canada to submit a separate proposal for the Boards' approval of a new Precautionary Approach Framework, including the upper stock reference, limit reference point, and harvest decision rules, as done in 2024.

Management Strategy Evaluation

The Boards note that an industry-led working group has been developing a Management Strategy Evaluation for northern shrimp, and that this modelling tool is used to simulate different management approaches, assess the associated risks and trade-offs, and helps identify management strategies that best achieve predefined objectives.

The Boards further understand that in January 2026, the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee endorsed one option based on the 2024 Board-approved rule, but that incorporates several modifications identified through the Management Strategy Evaluation, including the previous four years of biomass data to set a target total allowable catch, limits to year-over-year change at 25%, and phase-in adjustments over



four years rather than the current two-year approach.

The Boards recognize that the Minister applied this new rule when setting the 2026/2027 total allowable catch in Shrimp Fishing Areas 4 and 5 (outside the settlement areas and their adjacent waters). However, the Boards have not approved the use of these proposed, modified harvest decision rules in their respective land claim areas and adjacent waters and therefore, proceeded with the recent 2024 Board-approved harvest decision rules. The Boards remain open to considering new methods to optimize the setting of total allowable catches.

Catch Utilization Adjustment

The Boards understand that to take advantage of underutilized harvest in the North Stock Assessment Region, a catch utilization adjustment that adds 5% to each Management Unit's total allowable catch has been proposed by the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee. Nunavut and Nunavik enterprises further requested that the additional 5% catch utilization adjustment in the Western Assessment Zone be transferred to the Eastern Assessment Zone, considering the challenges of harvesting in the Western Assessment Zone.

In the North Stock Assessment Region, the Board is aware that while Shrimp Fishing Areas 4 and 5 being generally harvested to their full allocation, harvest levels in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones are considerably lower. Given that Industry has not consistently harvested its existing allocations, particularly in the Western Assessment Zone, it is unclear whether increasing the total allowable catch would result in greater harvest opportunities or simply increase the amount of uncaught quota.

Furthermore, Industry has invested in additional harvesting capacity through the acquisition of new vessels intended to operate in the Western Assessment Zone. Based on these developments, the Boards question the rationale for transferring a catch utilization adjustment from the Western Assessment Zone to the Eastern Assessment Zone. Increased harvesting capacity in the Western Assessment Zone may improve Industry's ability to utilize available allocations in that area, reducing the need to shift harvesting opportunities to the Eastern Assessment Zone, where biomass has recently declined.

Lastly, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Science has previously identified concerns regarding localized fishing pressure around Resolution Island. Considering the recent decline in fishable biomass observed in the Eastern Assessment Zone, further increasing fishing effort in this area by applying a catch utilization adjustment and transferring an adjustment from the Western Assessment Zone, as Industry requested, could exacerbate biomass decline and undermine conservation objectives.

Given this information, the Boards found no compelling basis to support the use of a catch utilization adjustment as proposed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Industry.



Striped shrimp

The most recent survey conducted in the Western Assessment Zone indicated a decrease of 16% in the spawning stock biomass of striped shrimp and an increase of 14% in the fishable biomass, with both biomass levels remaining above the long-term biomass averages. The spawning stock biomass is above the proposed upper stock reference, placing the stock in the healthy zone. Considering this, the Boards recommend using the two-step restart option of the harvest decision rule to determine the total allowable catch. This results in a total allowable catch of 15,743 tonnes with an exploitation rate of 19.05%. This total allowable catch matches the recommendation put forward by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The most recent survey conducted in the Eastern Assessment Zone indicated a decrease in the spawning stock biomass (-77%) of striped shrimp, the second lowest value in the time series. The fishable biomass also decreased dramatically (-79%) and is the lowest value recorded in the time series. Striped shrimp in the Eastern Assessment Zone are in the critical zone of the Precautionary Approach Framework. Under the 2024 Board-established harvest decision rules, stocks in the critical zone are subject to a maximum exploitation rate of 10%, which would result in a total allowable catch of 330 tonnes.

The Boards acknowledge that Industry has advised that a bycatch allowance of 920 tonnes is required to successfully prosecute the northern shrimp fishery. The Boards also understand that striped shrimp biomass in the Eastern Assessment Zone has historically exhibited large year-to-year variability, and that one possible explanation is that a large portion of the population occurs near the boundary with the Western Assessment Zone. Furthermore, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Science believes the observed decline likely reflects a shift in stock distribution rather than a true decrease in abundance. Given this information, an alternative scenario based on recent harvest levels was developed, setting a total allowable catch at the average annual harvest from the past five years. This alternative scenario results in a total allowable catch of 854 tonnes with an exploitation rate of 25.89%.

Although higher than what the 2024 approved harvest decision rules would suggest for a stock in the critical zone, this total allowable catch is closer to the bycatch allowance that Industry stated is required to prosecute the northern shrimp fishery (i.e. close to the minimum 920 tonnes), recognizes that the stock is not in the healthy zone, does not set a precedent for a high exploitation rate (i.e. 48%), and it better considers the high volatility of the stock.

Decisions and Recommendations at the Management Unit Level

The Boards considered the joint feedback provided by the Nunavut Fisheries Association and Makivik Corporation, the primary harvesters of the stocks in question, regarding the distribution of the total allowable catch of shrimp in the management units for both the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones. The Boards have accepted and



applied Industry stakeholders' recommendations in their decisions and recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Further Considerations

On a final note, the Boards acknowledge the concerns and overarching message shared by the Anguvigaq in their submission, especially regarding the need for more research on the impacts of shrimp fisheries on other species within the ecosystem, including Arctic cod, Greenland halibut, beluga, and seals. The Boards therefore wish to draw this matter to the Minister's attention and encourage Fisheries and Oceans Canada to consider additional research on the impact of shrimp harvesting on the ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

The Boards hereby forward their decisions and recommendations to you for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. Please be assured that the NWMB and the NMRWB will continue to work collaboratively with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and other co-management partners in ensuring that the management of shrimp in the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region fully aligns with the terms of the *Nunavut Agreement* and *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*.

If you or your officials have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB and the NMRWB at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Shewchuk".

Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Iola Metuq".

Iola Metuq
Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

cc. Leigh Edgar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Dirk Algera, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Liliya Baranova, Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Christi Friesen, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Appendix 1

Summary of the Board's decisions and recommendations of harvest levels and overall total allowable catches for both species of shrimp in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones.

Assessment Zone	Species	Scenario	Total Allowable Catch (tonnes)	Exploitation Rate	% Change of Total Allowable Catch
WAZ	P. borealis	2-step (restart)	8,445	12.70%	+136%
	P. montagui	2-step (restart)	15,743	19.05%	+5.26%
EAZ	P. borealis	2-step (restart)	9,258	20.80%	-4.00%
	P. montagui	Harvest average (5 years)	854	25.89%	-65.41%



Appendix 2

The table below presents the recommended distribution of total allowable catch levels for the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones.

Shrimp Fishing Area	Shrimp Species	Management Unit	Fleet	% Allocation of total TAC
Western Assessment Zone	Northern	Nu-W	Nunavut	50%
		Nk-W	Nunavik	50%
	Striped	Nu-W	Nunavut	50%
		Nk-W	Nunavik	50%
Eastern Assessment Zone	Northern	DS-W	Offshore	45.50%
			Nunavut	20.10%
			Nunavik	2.20%
		DS-E	Offshore	9.40%
			Nunavut	15.10%
			Nunavik	1.50%
	Striped	DS-W/E	Offshore	37.26%
		Nu-E	Nunavut	43.92%
		Nk-E	Nunavik	18.82%



September 3, 2026

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
< tsataa@nwmb.com >

Mr. Iola Metuq
Chairperson
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
< tpalliser@nmrwb.ca >

Dear Mr. Shewchuk and Mr. Metuq,

I am writing in response to your correspondence of July 8, 2026, regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) and Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board's (NMRWB) (henceforth the Boards) decisions and recommendations on *Pandalus borealis* and *P. montagui* in the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) and Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ). I have addressed each of the decisions and recommendations separately by assessment zone and stock herein, for the 2026-27 fishing season.

I note the Boards' decisions to not use the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)-tested Harvest Decision Rules (HDRs) to establish the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) amounts in the WAZ and EAZ, and to not apply the five per cent catch utilization adjustment in each management area. I appreciate that the Boards remain open to considering new methods to generate TAC recommendations such as the MSE.

Western Assessment Zone

P. borealis and *P. montagui*:

I accept the Boards' respective decisions for the WAZ, which taken together would yield an aggregate TAC for *P. borealis* of 8,445 tonnes (t), resulting in a 136 per cent TAC increase relative to 2025-26, and an aggregate TAC for *P. montagui* of 15,743t, resulting in a five per cent TAC increase relative to 2025-26.

.../2

Consistent with that approach, in the Nunavut West management unit, within the Nunavut Settlement Area, I accept the NWMB's decision to set harvest levels for *P. borealis* at 4,222.5t and *P. montagui* at 7,871.5t; and in the Nunavik West management unit, within the Nunavik Marine Region, I accept the NMRWB's decision to set the Total Allowable Take (TAT) levels for *P. borealis* at 4,222.5t and *P. montagui* at 7,871.5t.

Eastern Assessment Zone

P. borealis:

I carefully considered the Boards' recommendation to establish an aggregate TAC for *P. borealis* of 9,258t for the EAZ. While I accept the Boards' harvest level decisions within the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region, I am unable to support the recommendations for Davis Strait West (DSW) and Davis Strait East (DSE) management units.

I understand the Boards' concerns related to stock biomass fluctuations and the placement of this stock in the Cautious Zone in 2023. However, I note that the last stock assessment in 2025 placed the stock in the Healthy Zone of the proposed Precautionary Approach Framework, and further that the shrimp fishery is currently experiencing economic challenges, most notably from tariffs. For these reasons, I have decided that the TAC be established at 10,136t, which respects the decisions of the Boards, the views of the offshore, Nunavut, and Nunavik industry, as well as the Healthy status and economic importance of this stock.

To provide additional economic opportunities for Nunavut and Nunavik enterprises, the amount available to harvest in the DSW management unit was increased. Existing share arrangements within DSW and DSE were maintained. Consistent with this approach, I accept the NWMB's decision in the Nunavut East management unit, within the Nunavut Settlement Area, to set a harvest level at 574t; and in the Nunavik East management unit, within the Nunavik Marine Region, I accept the NMRWB's decision to set the TAT level at 139t. My decisions for the allocations in Davis Strait are outlined in Appendix 1.

P. montagui:

I carefully considered the Boards' recommendation to establish an aggregate TAC for *P. montagui* of 854t for the EAZ. While I accept the Boards' harvest level decisions within the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Nunavik Marine Region, I am unable to support the recommendations for DSE/DSW management unit.

I understand the Boards' concerns related to the dramatic decline in biomass indices and appreciate the acknowledged need for flexibility in deviating from the HDR given the historical pattern of large year-to-year variability and uncertainty in the estimated stock

status. Since this is the first year that the stock has entered the Critical Zone, with potential for this to be a short-term trend, I have decided that the TAC be established at 1,456t, which respects the decisions of the Boards and the views of the offshore, Nunavut, and Nunavik industry.

Consistent with that approach, in the Nunavut East management unit, within the Nunavut Settlement Area, I accept the NWMB's decision to set the harvest level for *P. montagui* at 375t; and in the Nunavik East management unit, within the Nunavik Marine Region, I accept the NMRWB's decision to set the TAT level for *P. montagui* at 161t. For DSE/W, I have maintained the offshore bycatch allocation at 920t.

Allocation of TACs for each management unit based on my decisions are outlined in Appendix 1.

I appreciate the Boards' collaboration and cooperation in the sustainable management of our shared shrimp resource in the North.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Thompson', with a stylized, flowing script.

The Honourable Joanne Thompson, P.C., M.P.

Attachment: 1

c.c.: Mark Basterfield, Director of Wildlife Management, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
Denis Ndeloh, Director of Wildlife Management, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Leigh Edgar, Manager, Resource Management Operations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Liliya Baranova, Senior Fisheries Management Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Appendix 1

Western Assessment Zone – Total Allowable Catch

Management Unit	<i>P. borealis</i> (tonnes)	<i>P. montagui</i> (tonnes)
Nunavut West	4,222.5	7,871.5
Nunavik West	4,222.5	7,871.5
TOTAL	8,445	15,743

Eastern Assessment Zone – Total Allowable Catch

Management Unit	<i>P. borealis</i> (tonnes)	<i>P. montagui</i> (tonnes)
Davis Strait West -Offshore	5,200	-
Davis Strait East – Offshore	642	-
Davis Strait West - Nunavik	252	-
Davis Strait West - Nunavut	2,298	-
Davis Strait East – Nunavut	1,031	-
Davis Strait East and West - Offshore Bycatch	-	920
Nunavut East	574	375
Nunavik East	139	161
TOTAL	10,136	1,456