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INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)  
and  
Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*)

SHRIMP FISHING AREAS (SFAs) 0, 1, 4-7, the Eastern and Western Assessment  
Zones and North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division 3M

Effective 2017

*Pandalus borealis* (Krøyer, 1838)



1  
2 FOREWORD

3  
4 The purpose of this Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) is to identify the main  
5 objectives and requirements for the Northern shrimp fishery for Shrimp Fishing Areas  
6 (SFAs) 0, 1, 4 -7, the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones and the Flemish Cap  
7 (NAFO Division 3M) Often referred to as the Northern shrimp fishery, there are two  
8 species of shrimp prosecuted *Pandalus borealis* (Northern shrimp) and *Pandalus*  
9 *montagui* (Striped shrimp). Unless otherwise specified, the ‘Northern shrimp fishery’ and  
10 this IFMP pertain to both species.

11  
12 This plan outlines the objectives of this fishery and the management measures that will be  
13 used to achieve these objectives. This document also serves to communicate the basic  
14 information on the fishery and its management to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)  
15 staff, co-management boards and other stakeholders. This IFMP provides a common  
16 understanding of the basic “rules” for the sustainable management of the fisheries  
17 resource.

18  
19 This IFMP is not a legally binding instrument which can form the basis of a legal  
20 challenge. The IFMP can be modified at any time and does not fetter the Minister's  
21 discretionary powers set out in the *Fisheries Act*. The Minister can, for reasons of  
22 conservation or for any other valid reasons, modify any provision of the IFMP in  
23 accordance with the powers granted pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*.

24  
25 Where DFO is responsible for implementing obligations under land claims agreements,  
26 the IFMP will be implemented in a manner consistent with these obligations. In the event  
27 that an IFMP is inconsistent with obligations under land claims agreements, the  
28 provisions of the land claims agreements will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

29 This is a ‘rolling’ or ‘evergreen’ plan subject to amendment at the discretion of the  
30 Minister of Fisheries and Oceans while respecting the applicable legislation, policies and  
31 regulations.

32  
33 Signature

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1 Section 1 – Overview of the Fishery

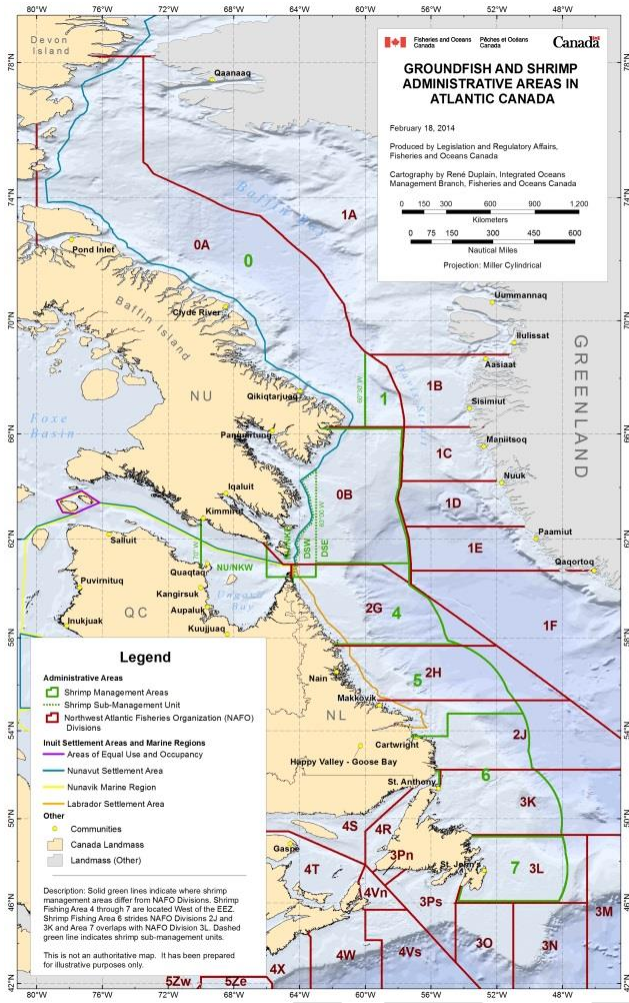
2  
3 **1.1 History**

4  
5 The Northern shrimp fishery commenced in the early 1970s when an exploratory fishing  
6 program confirmed the presence of commercial abundances of shrimp stocks (*Pandalus*  
7 *Borealis* and *Pandalus Montagu*) in waters stretching southward from Baffin Island to  
8 the northeast coast of Newfoundland. It later expanded to include fishing off the east  
9 coast of Newfoundland in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 7 and onto the Flemish Cap  
10 (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization [NAFO] Division 3M). Map at Figure 1. A  
11 more detailed history of the fishery is available at ANNEX A.

12  
13 Between 1978 and 1991, seventeen > 100' sector (offshore) licences were introduced.  
14 Quota sharing principles were developed in 1997 and permits were introduced to inshore  
15 fish harvesters, thereby giving access to the < 65' fleet (i.e. the inshore fleet). In 2007,  
16 these permits were converted to licences. Since 1997, “special” allocations were provided  
17 to Indigenous organizations and community groups, including to Nunavut in adjacent  
18 northern SFAs.

19  
20 Generally, stocks continued to increase until the mid to late 2000s, , after which time the  
21 fishable biomass began to decline in southern SFAs, which has been associated with  
22 changing oceanic conditions and related ecosystem dynamics. In 2011, NAFO  
23 suspended directed fishing for shrimp in Division 3M, and in Division 3L (SFA 7)  
24 beginning in 2015. ANNEX B shows Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and allocations by  
25 SFA since 1997.

26  
27 In 2013, the boundaries in the North (SFAs 2 and 3 at the time) were modified to align  
28 with scientific surveys and land claim areas. New allocations for both species were  
29 granted to Nunavut and Nunavik inside the respective settlement areas (Figure 2).



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Figure 1. Northern Shrimp Fishing Areas as of 2013. Between 1997 and 2015, the Last In, First Out (LIFO) policy was the main access and allocation tool the Department used to apply reductions (and occasionally increases in certain circumstances) in TAC. In 2016, stemming from recommendations provided by a Ministerial Advisory Panel, LIFO was abolished and replaced with a proportional sharing arrangement in southern SFAs 4, 5, 6 and 7, should it reopen to commercial fishing. In the areas north of SFA 4, access and allocation decisions will continue to be made through the appropriate consultative processes, in a manner consistent with the Land Claims Agreements. More information on LIFO, including the Ministerial Advisory Panel can be found in ANNEX C.

**1.2 Type(s) of Fishery**

The shrimp fishery in SFAs 0, 1, 4-7, and Davis Strait West is commercial. The fisheries in the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) and Davis Strait East, and Nunavut and Nunavik East management units are considered to be ‘exploratory stage 2’ of the New Emerging Fisheries Policy, and are licensed under Section 7 of the *Fisheries Act*. There is no shrimp fishery for food, social, ceremonial or recreational purposes.

1  
2 **1.3 Participants**  
3

4 ***The >100' shrimp sector***  
5

6 Commonly referred to as the 'offshore' fleet, there are seventeen >100' sector licences  
7 currently held by fourteen corporate entities. There has been no increase in the number of  
8 >100' shrimp sector Northern shrimp licences issued since 1991. The current > 100'  
9 sector licence holdings by company and representative organization are listed in ANNEX  
10 D. The Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP) and the Northern Coalition  
11 (NC) represent 16 of the 17 offshore licences. In total, 4.5 of the > 100' sector licences  
12 are held by Indigenous interests.  
13

14 The >100' shrimp sector, comprising vessels with length overall (LOA) greater than  
15 30.48m (100ft) and weight greater than 500t, is comprised of approximately ten factory  
16 freezer trawlers. The > 100' sector vessels operate out of ports in Newfoundland and  
17 Nova Scotia, with occasional landings in Greenland when fishing in far northern waters  
18 as ice and other environmental conditions permit. The shrimp harvested by the >100'  
19 shrimp sector is size sorted, with most of the sizes being cooked, and then frozen at sea,  
20 and packaged for export to various global markets.  
21

22 Fishing trips last from 20 to 75 days. Vessels generally make about 9 - 12 trips per year,  
23 averaging 300-320 sea days annually.

24 ***The Inshore Fleet***

25 The inshore fleet or sector is composed of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) based  
26 inshore vessels with maximum vessel eligibility of LOA < 89' 11";, the NL-based  
27 "midshore" fleet with LOA between 65' and 99', and the Quebec (QC) fleet comprised of  
28 Lower North Shore Quebec based vessels <89' 11".

29 Between 1997 and 2000 new access for an inshore shrimp fishery was granted to fish  
30 harvesters in Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec in the southern SFAs 4 and 6.

31 Initially the inshore fleet (NL and QC) comprised of approximately 390 licence holders.  
32 Since 2007 through rationalization the number decreased to approximately 260 licence  
33 holders. A few of these inshore licences are issued to Indigenous organizations as  
34 commercial communal licences. In SFA 6, Quebec harvesters have access to 2.45% of  
35 the inshore fleet allocation.

36 The inshore fleet in NL is represented by the Fish Food and Allied Workers Union  
37 (FFAW) through five fleet committees (2J, 3K north, 3K south, 3L, and 4R) elected by  
38 the licence holders. The inshore Quebec licence holders are represented by L'Association  
39 des Capitaines Propriétaires de la Gaspésie (ACPG).  
40

41 Shrimp caught by the inshore fleet is generally landed fresh (and sometimes frozen  
42 specifically from SFA 4) to be cooked, peeled and further processed as necessary by  
43 onshore licensed processing plants. The inshore fleet's operations are based in NAFO

1 Divisions 2J, 3KL, 4R and 4S and are administered based on the enterprise's homeport,  
2 by NAFO Division in the following manner: 2J, 3K north (north of 50°30'North), 3K  
3 south (south of 50°30'North), 3L, 4R and 4S. Currently the fishery is only conducted in  
4 SFA 6 with limited effort in SFA 4 and 5, however from 2000 – 2014 the inshore fleet  
5 also fished in SFA 7.

### 6 7 ***Special Allocation Holders*** 8

9 During some periods of quota increase in nearly all SFAs, the Minister provided  
10 “special” allocations to organizations, communities or entities including Indigenous  
11 organizations for their economic benefit. Most of these are not commercial licence  
12 holders and, depending on the SFA, their allocations are primarily harvested by the >100'  
13 shrimp sector through royalty arrangements. All special allocations in SFAs 4, 5 and 6  
14 can be harvested by either the offshore or inshore fleet. However, in SFA 6, if the inshore  
15 fleet harvests the allocation, an arrangement with an inshore fleet must be approved.  
16 Additionally, some of these special allocation holders are issued a temporary licence and  
17 harvest their allocations with their own vessels. Initially, and until the abolishment of  
18 LIFO in 2016, special allocations generally remained at a fixed amount and since many  
19 special allocations were the last to gain entry into the fishery, they were the first to be  
20 removed or reduced if the TAC fell to certain thresholds under LIFO. However, with the  
21 move to proportional percent shares in the southern SFAs in 2016, those special  
22 allocation holders in SFAs 4 – 7 now hold a percent share of the TAC in that particular  
23 SFA.  
24

### 25 ***Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut Land Claimants*** 26

27 There are three land claims agreements with provisions relating to the management of the  
28 Northern shrimp fishery: The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) (1993), the  
29 Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA) (2005) and the Labrador Inuit Land  
30 Claims Agreement (LILCA) (2007). Each of the agreements provides for consideration of  
31 Inuit harvesting opportunities related to shrimp.  
32

33 Nunavut's shrimp resources are fished by individual Nunavut fishing companies. The  
34 NWMB provides its decisions and recommendations to the DFO Minister on the sub-  
35 allocation of Nunavut shrimp resources to individual Nunavut based fishing companies  
36 for a specified number of years. Nunavut sub-allocation recipients may be issued a  
37 temporary licence to participate in the fishery. Also, 1.5 of the offshore shrimp licences  
38 are held by a Nunavut fishing company, which provides quotas in SFA 0, 1, the EAZ and  
39 4-7.

40 Pursuant to NILCA, Nunavik Inuit's shrimp allocations are provided to Makivik  
41 Corporation (or a Makivik Designated Organization) to fish on their behalf. Makivik also  
42 holds a > 100' sector licence which provides shrimp quotas in SFA 0, 1, the EAZ and 4-  
43 7, and therefore the issuance of a temporary licence is not necessary.

1  
2 Allocations in Management Units (MUs) Nunavut East, Nunavik East in the EAZ, and  
3 Nunavut West and Nunavik West, located in Hudson Strait in the WAZ, are reserved for  
4 Nunavut and Nunavik shrimp harvesters, as the MUs are located inside the Nunavut  
5 Settlement Area (NSA) and the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR).

6  
7 Labrador Inuit allocations are fished via communal commercial licences issued to the  
8 Nunatsiavut Government (NG) which can be harvested by either the offshore or inshore  
9 fleet. Portions of the EAZ, SFAs 4 and 5 fall both within the Labrador Inuit Settlement  
10 Area (LISA) and adjacent waters as described in the LILCA. A portion of SFA 6 also  
11 falls within Waters Adjacent to the Zone. Labrador Inuit interests also have 1.5 offshore  
12 shrimp licences which provide quotas in SFA 0, 1, the EAZ and 4-7.

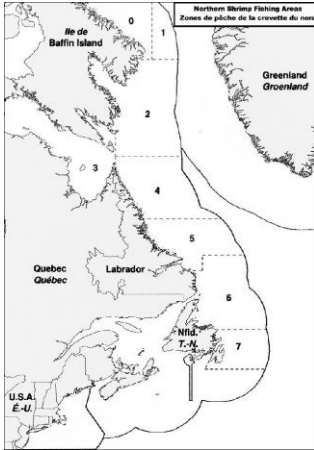
### 13 **1.4 Location of the Fishery**

14  
15 Subject to any closures in effect, the fishery occurs off the coast of eastern Canada from  
16 47°15' N (Flemish Cap and the northern edge of the Grand Banks (Division 3M) to 69°  
17 N (Baffin Bay). Most fishing occurs between depths of 200m and 600m. SFAs were  
18 created to distribute fishing effort and improve the effectiveness of management regimes.

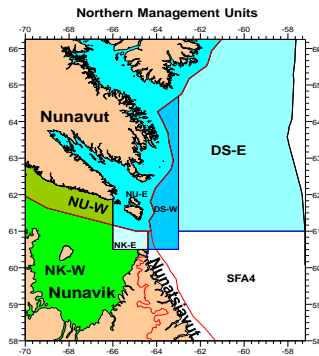
19  
20 Prior to 2013, shrimp fishery management in northern waters consisted of many  
21 overlapping quotas for both species (*P. borealis* and *P. montagui*). Further, management  
22 units were not aligned with the science assessment zones or the Nunavut or Nunavik land  
23 claim Settlement Area boundaries. As of 2013 (Figure 1), boundaries were modified and  
24 SFAs were aligned with the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA), the Nunavik Marine  
25 Region (NMR) and the EAZ and WAZ survey boundaries. New MUs within these SFAs  
26 alleviate concentration of fishing effort for *P. montagui* in the Resolution Island area and  
27 also eliminate overlapping management units and quotas. As a result of these boundary  
28 changes, new or increasing quotas for *P. montagui* and *P. borealis* in Hudson Strait and  
29 Davis Strait were established.

30  
31 The realignment of boundaries with the survey assessment zones and the creation of  
32 management units (MUs) within the NSA and NMR took several years to complete and  
33 involved consultation and engagement with relevant management boards and land claims  
34 beneficiaries, as well as with other stakeholders (e.g., the offshore fleet and the  
35 provinces) in the fishery. The new MUs are enforced by condition of licence. An  
36 amendment to the Atlantic Fisheries Regulations will be required to reflect the shrimp  
37 MU boundary changes in the WAZ and EAZ. A map of the management boundaries prior  
38 to 2013 is at Figure 2.





1  
2  
3 Figure 2 – Map prior to the 2013 Boundary Changes



4  
5 Figure 3- Map showing Eastern Assessment Management Units (Blue) and Western  
6 Assessment Management Units (Green)

7  
8 *P. borealis* (Northern shrimp) is the main species harvested in SFA 0, 1, Davis Strait and  
9 SFAs 4-6. *P. borealis* is also harvested as part of the directed shrimp fishery MUs  
10 Nunavut and Nunavik West and as bycatch in MUs Nunavut and Nunavik East. A second  
11 species, *P. montagui* (Striped shrimp), is directed for in MUs Nunavut and Nunavik East  
12 and West, and as bycatch in MU Davis Strait East and SFA 4. Coordinates of the fishery  
13 can be found at ANNEX E.

14  
15 In the shrimp fishery, there are both SFAs and management units. SFA boundaries are the  
16 same delineations for both science assessments and management purposes. Management  
17 units are smaller management areas within a SFA. Collectively, SFAs and management  
18 units are referred to as management areas in this IFMP.

19  
20 **1.5 Fishery Characteristics**

21 ***Gear***

22 Most of the >100' sector and inshore sector vessels use otter trawls, with a very limited  
23 number using beam trawls. The minimum mesh size for otter and beam trawls is 40mm.

24

1 To effectively minimize the bycatch of other species, the use of a Nordmore Grate is a  
2 mandatory measure, and is described in detail in Section 7.6.

### 3 4 ***Management***

5  
6 Northern shrimp fishery management is based on a two-year cycle. In year one, DFO  
7 Science provides stock status results in a full stock assessment process. TAC  
8 recommendations to the Minister are based on science recommendations, the  
9 Precautionary Approach framework that includes Harvest Decision Rules, and  
10 consultations with stakeholders through NSAC and relevant wildlife management boards.  
11 In year two, DFO Science provides a stock status update that is used to determine TAC,  
12 also in consultation processes with stakeholders and wildlife management boards.

13  
14 The >100' sector fishery is managed under the Enterprise Allocation (EA) (ANNEX F)  
15 system whereby quota is divided equally among the 17 licences, except in SFA 0 which  
16 is fished under a competitive regime. When Division 3M was open to commercial  
17 fishing, it was managed using an effort based system, with the > 100' fleet equally  
18 sharing Canada's allocation. The >100' sector and Nunavut quotas in the Davis Strait  
19 East MU are exploratory (licenced under Section 7 of the *Fisheries Act*) but both  
20 exploratory and commercial fisheries are managed consistently. The Nunavut and  
21 Nunavik MUs are completely within the NSA and NMR respectively. The >100' sector  
22 holds no quota in the Nunavut and Nunavik MUs, and access to these areas is limited to  
23 those enterprises that receive allocations in these areas, as amended from time to time.

24  
25 The inshore fishery in both NL and QC is managed under a competitive regime but in NL  
26 the fishery is conducted with trip limits and harvesting caps determined and managed by  
27 industry since 1997. The season for this fleet generally occurs from April through to  
28 December, with most harvesting between May and October.

### 29 30 **1.6 Governance**

#### 31 32 ***Fisheries Act, Regulations and Policies***

33  
34 The Northern shrimp commercial fisheries are regulated by Canada's *Fisheries Act*, and  
35 the regulations pursuant to it, including (but not limited to) the *Fishery (General)*  
36 *Regulations*, the *Atlantic Fishery Regulations, 1985*, the *Oceans Act* and the *Species at*  
37 *Risk Act*. The *Fisheries Act* gives the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans ultimate  
38 responsibility for the management of marine fisheries. The management of the  
39 commercial fisheries is also governed by a suite of policies related to the granting of  
40 access, economic prosperity, resource conservation and Indigenous use, including the  
41 Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada 1996. Information on these  
42 and other policies can be found on the Internet at:

43 <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/policies-politiques/index-eng.htm>

44  
45 [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/acts-loi-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/acts-loi-eng.htm)

46 <http://www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca/departement/legislation.html>

1  
2 ***Sustainable Fisheries Framework***  
3

4 DFO has had a Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF) in place since 2009, which  
5 provides the basis for Canadian fisheries (including Northern shrimp) to be conducted in  
6 a manner that support conservation and sustainable use. It incorporates existing fisheries  
7 management policies with new and evolving policies. The SFF also includes tools to  
8 monitor and assess initiatives geared towards ensuring an environmentally sustainable  
9 fishery, and identifies areas that may need improvement. Overall, the SFF provides the  
10 foundation of an ecosystem-based and precautionary approach to fisheries management  
11 in Canada. The policies that facilitate an ecosystem based approach to fisheries  
12 management include *A Fishery Decision-Making Framework Incorporating the*  
13 *Precautionary Approach, Policy for Managing the Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive*  
14 *Benthic Areas* and the *Policy on Managing Bycatch*.

15  
16 These documents are available on the Internet at: [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/policies-politiques-eng.htm)  
17 [rapports/regs/policies-politiques-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/policies-politiques-eng.htm)  
18

19 ***Land Claims***  
20

21 To date, there are three land claims agreements in place that must be taken into  
22 consideration in the management of the Northern Shrimp fishery: *The Nunavut*  
23 *Agreement, Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims*  
24 *Agreement*. These Agreements are treaties within the meaning of section 35 of the  
25 *Constitution Act, 1982*. Land claims agreements establish a system for the co-  
26 management of fisheries resources within and adjacent to these land claims settlement  
27 areas. The Agreements (among other things) set out the harvesting rights of the  
28 beneficiaries to the respective Agreements, provide for the establishment of wildlife  
29 management structures, set out the role of those structures and cooperative management  
30 processes, and set out procedural and substantive requirements on the Minister. The  
31 Government of Canada retains ultimate responsibility for wildlife management within  
32 and outside respective settlement areas.  
33

34 The Nunavut Agreement is available at:  
35 <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.7/>  
36

37 The Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement is available at:  
38 <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/L-4.3/>  
39

40 The Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement is available at:  
41 <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.5/>  
42

43 ***Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)***  
44

45 SFA 1 (NAFO Division 0A) is part of a trans-boundary Canada-Greenland stock  
46 managed individually by each jurisdiction. The shrimp stock is distributed in NAFO

1 Subarea 1 (in Greenlandic waters) and NAFO Division 0A east of 60°30'W, which in  
2 Canada is fished in SFA 1. At the request of Canada and Denmark (on behalf of  
3 Greenland) NAFO's Scientific Council (SC) completes annual assessments of this shrimp  
4 stock and provides science advice and a TAC recommendation.

5  
6 SFA 7 (NAFO Division 3L) is part of a straddling stock managed by NAFO. Canadian  
7 harvesters fished in SFA 7 from 2000 – 2014. Consistent with NAFO's precautionary  
8 approach framework, SFA 7 has been closed to directed fishing since 2015 due to  
9 declines in biomass indices and concern for this resource.

10  
11 NAFO Division 3M is a high seas stock managed by NAFO but through effort control  
12 (limits on number of vessels and days on ground for each member country) instead of  
13 quotas. Canadian > 100' sector vessels had fished in this area from 1994 – 2011. 3M has  
14 been closed to directed fishing since 2011.

## 15 16 **Decision Making Process**

17 Management of the Northern shrimp fishery is done in consultation with stakeholders  
18 primarily through the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC). NSAC strives to  
19 reach consensus among stakeholders when making recommendations to the Minister for  
20 decision. Stakeholder perspectives, science results and other considerations are presented  
21 to the Minister for decision. The Minister retains ultimate authority and responsibility for  
22 management and conservation of fish resources. NSAC membership and terms of  
23 reference are located in ANNEX G.

24 As the Department employs multi-year management for commercial fisheries, NSAC  
25 meetings are scheduled every two years, barring any circumstance that may require  
26 convening the Committee in interim years. The meetings coincide with the years in which  
27 science assessments are conducted and are scheduled to occur in the odd numbered years  
28 (2019, 2021, etc). However, in recent years, due to declines observed in the south and the  
29 overall economic importance of the fishery, NSAC has generally convened annually.

30 Minutes of NSAC meetings can be found under "Fisheries" at: [http://www.dfo-  
31 mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports-eng.htm#3](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports-eng.htm#3)

32  
33 In order to address new or ongoing issues, working groups comprised of representation  
34 from NSAC membership are formed. Some working groups are struck to resolve single  
35 issues, while others function to address longer term issues. Examples of the latter include  
36 a working group to oversee Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. Activities  
37 of any working group during the year are presented to the Committee at the advisory  
38 meeting.

39  
40 In addition, consultation with the NL inshore shrimp fleet also occurs as needed,  
41 generally prior to the start of each season to discuss sharing of the inshore quota among  
42 the five inshore fleets (2J, 3Kn, 3Ks, 3L and 4R) and other operational matters as  
43 required.

1  
2 **1.7 Approval Process**  
3

4 Recommendations of NSAC are brought to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans for  
5 decision. The Minister's decisions are communicated to NSAC and incorporated into the  
6 IFMP and / or other departmental documentation (i.e. management decision website) as  
7 appropriate.  
8

9 Overall authority and responsibility for resource conservation and management rests with  
10 the Minister. However, in the case of SFAs / MUs that fall within and/or adjacent to  
11 defined settlement area boundaries of the Nunavut, Nunavik and/or Labrador Inuit Land  
12 Claims Agreements, these Agreements provide for the establishment of resource or  
13 wildlife co- management structures whose roles and responsibilities vary from advisory  
14 to decision making.  
15

16 Where co-management structures have both a decision making (within settlement area  
17 boundaries) and advisory role (outside settlement areas) under their respective  
18 Agreements, the interaction between these structures and the Minister follows a  
19 prescribed process whereby the Minister may accept, reject or vary a decision of the co-  
20 management structure. Land Claims agreements also set out circumstances and processes  
21 for which government must seek the advice of co-management structures as well as the  
22 processes for seeking this advice.  
23

24 In accordance with the terms of the respective agreements, requests for decisions or  
25 recommendations are submitted by DFO to relevant Land Claims co-management  
26 structures. With respect to shrimp in the NSA and NMR, the NWMB and NMRWB  
27 jointly provide TAC recommendations and harvest levels for the respective settlement  
28 areas. The TJFB is the primary body to make recommendations to the Minister in relation  
29 to conservation and management issues in the LISA, and to advise the Minister on  
30 conservation and management of fish in waters adjacent to the Zone.  
31

32 Other senior departmental officials, such as the Regional Director General, or Director  
33 General of Fisheries Resource Management in Ottawa may make management decisions  
34 pertaining to the day to day operations of the fishery that are relatively straight forward  
35 and that do not relate to TAC.  
36

37 Fisheries Management decisions can be found at:  
38 <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/decisions/index-eng.htm>  
39

40 

Section 2 - Science
---------------------

41 **2.1 Biological Synopsis**

42 **Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)**



1

2 Figure 4: *Pandalus borealis*, or northern shrimp

3 Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) are found in the Northwest Atlantic from Baffin  
4 Bay south to the Gulf of Maine, usually between 150 and 600 metres deep, often in areas  
5 where the ocean floor is soft and muddy and where temperatures near the bottom range  
6 from about 0 to 6 °C (DFO 2017a and DFO 2017b).

7

8 Northern Shrimp are protandrous hermaphrodites. They first mature as males, mate as  
9 males for one to three years and then change sex; spending the rest of their lives as  
10 mature females. Most shrimp reach male sexual maturity during the second or third year  
11 of life and generally the transition to the female form takes place in winter when the  
12 shrimp are a few years old. Mating takes place in late summer and fall. Fertilized eggs  
13 are attached to the female's abdominal appendages for seven to eight months until they  
14 hatch in the spring. Larvae are pelagic, spending three to four months in the water  
15 column. At the end of this period, they move to the bottom and take up the lifestyle of the  
16 adults (DFO 2017a and DFO 2017b).

17

18 In more northern areas, shrimp are thought to live longer than eight years, while those in  
19 the south likely live for six or seven years. Shrimp can grow to about 15 to 16 centimetres  
20 in total length, although the average size is about half of this. They are considered  
21 harvestable once their carapace length exceeds 17 millimetres, which occurs at  
22 approximately three years of age. Most of the fishable biomass is female (DFO 2017a  
23 and DFO 2017b) however, the portion that is female varies by area and year.

24

25 **Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*)**

26



27

28 Figure 5 *Pandalus montagui*, or striped shrimp

29 Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) are found from Davis Strait south to the Bay of  
30 Fundy. Striped Shrimp prefer a hard bottom and are typically found in waters with a  
31 temperature of -1 to 2 °C at depths of 100 to 500 metres (DFO 2017a and DFO 2017b).

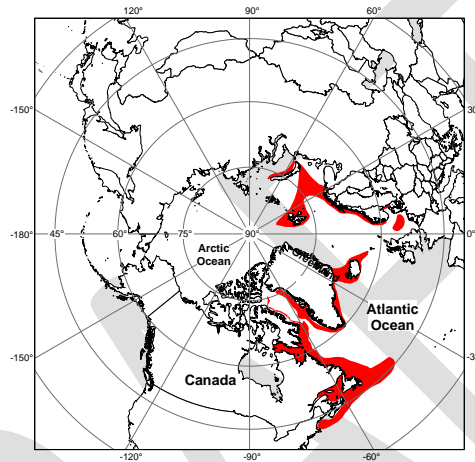
32

1 Striped Shrimp are protandrous hermaphrodites, functioning as males early in their lives  
2 then changing sex and reproducing as females for the remainder of their lives. Females  
3 usually produce eggs once a year in late summer to fall and carry them, attached to their  
4 abdomen, through the winter until spring, when they hatch. Newly hatched shrimp spend  
5 three to four months as pelagic larvae. At the end of this period, they move to the bottom  
6 and take up the lifestyle of the adults. They migrate into the water column during the  
7 night. The migration consists of mainly males and smaller females (DFO 2017b).

8

9

10

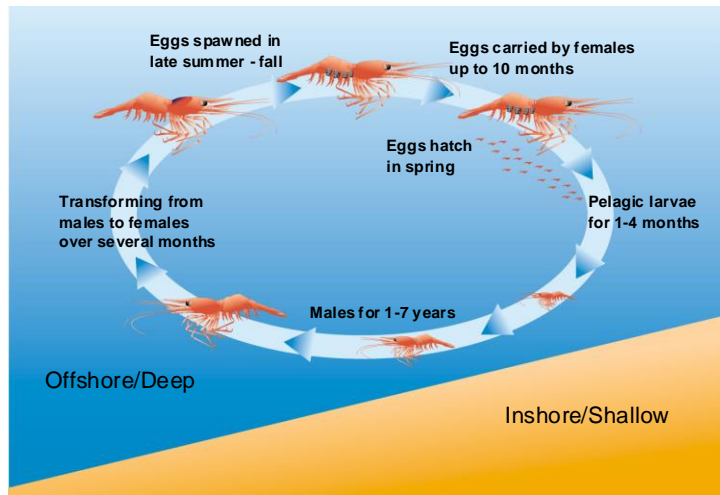


11

12

13 Figure 6. Distribution of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in the northern  
14 hemisphere (redrawn and modified from Bergström Bergström, 2000)

## Life cycle of *Pandalus borealis*



1

2 Figure 7. The general life cycle of *Pandalus borealis* and *P. montagui* (Aschan, pers  
3 comm.)

4

### 5 2.2 Ecosystem Interactions

6

7 The recent long-term warming trend in waters of the northwest Atlantic is associated with  
8 both climate change and the warm phase of the Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation. A  
9 suite of associated changes (e.g. slowing down of the Labrador Current, reduction in ice  
10 coverage, more frequent extreme weather events) can have important effects on the  
11 marine ecosystem impacting all trophic levels. A warming ecosystem may affect many  
12 commercial species (DFO 2014).

13

14 Sea ice dynamics are an important driver of the spring phytoplankton bloom. The timing  
15 of the bloom has an influence on Northern Shrimp recruitment and has been correlated  
16 with shrimp production rates. Overall, ecosystem production seems to be, at least in  
17 recent decades, mainly regulated by bottom-up processes. This implies that current trends  
18 in the climate system and lower trophic levels would be expected to impact overall  
19 ecosystem productivity (DFO 2014).

20

21 As a forage species, shrimp is an important prey item for several species, including  
22 Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*), Greenland Halibut (*Reinhardius hippoglossides*), redfish  
23 (*Sebastes spp.*), skates (*Raja radiate*, *R. spinicauda*), wolffish (*Anarhichas spp.*), and  
24 Harp Seals (*Phoca groenlandica*). This is particularly important when the availability of  
25 alternate high-energy prey is low.

26

27



1 Shrimp are primarily harvested by bottom trawls, which can disrupt benthic communities  
2 and habitats such as corals and sponges. Concentrations of coral and sponge constitute  
3 “Significant Benthic Areas” that are sensitive to bottom trawling due to the sessile nature  
4 and low growth rate of these organisms. Benthic communities may also constitute fragile  
5 ecosystems in that bottom trawling can reduce their diversity and modify their structure.  
6 In 2010, DFO held a national science advisory process to review available information  
7 and provide science advice regarding the occurrence, sensitivity and ecological function  
8 of corals, sponges and hydrothermal vents in Canada. Information on this process can be  
9 found at: [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2010/2010\\_041-  
11 eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2010/2010_041-<br/>10 eng.html). Further refinement of the delineation of aggregations of cold-water coral and  
12 sponge as Significant Benthic Areas, and presentation of information on the fishing  
13 activity in relation to these significant areas, was reviewed at a national science advisory  
14 process in 2016. [The Science Advisory Report resulting from this process can be found  
15 at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2017/2017\\_007-eng.html.](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2017/2017_007-eng.html)

### 16 **2.3 Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and Fisher Traditional Ecological** 17 **Knowledge**

18  
19 Indigenous and fisher Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is an important  
20 component of fisheries management and is used together with scientific knowledge for  
21 effective fisheries decision-making. DFO routinely consults resource users on a wide  
22 range of topics (e.g. management issues, stock assessment studies, quotas and  
23 management measures), and incorporates their views and traditional knowledge in the  
24 development of scientific research and fishery management plans. While Indigenous  
25 peoples did not traditionally fish Northern shrimp, Indigenous and commercial fishers  
26 have knowledge of the marine ecosystem (e.g. climate change, sea ice patterns) and their  
27 observations can contribute to an understanding of long-term changes in environment that  
28 ultimately affect the management of the Northern shrimp fishery.

### 29 30 **2.4 Stock Assessment**

31  
32 Stock assessment results can be found on the DFO Canadian Science Advisory  
33 Secretariat website:  
34 <http://www.isdm-gdsi.gc.ca/csas-sccs/applications/Publications/index-eng.asp> (See  
35 ANNEX H: Stock Assessment and Precautionary Approach.)

36  
37 Resource status is assessed based on indices from fishery-independent surveys conducted  
38 by DFO and industry, trends in fishery catch per unit effort (CPUE) derived from  
39 logbooks and observer datasets, and biological sampling from multiple sources. Resource  
40 status in SFAs 5 and 6 (Northern Shrimp) is updated annually based on DFO fall multi-  
41 species trawl survey data. Resource status in the EAZ, WAZ and SFA 4 (Northern and  
42 Striped Shrimp) is updated annually based on Northern Shrimp Research Foundation-  
43 DFO summer trawl survey data.

44  
45 The surveys provide information on shrimp distribution and length frequencies which are  
46 used to calculate indices of total abundance, fishable biomass and spawning stock  
47 biomass. Additionally, the fall multi-species surveys provide data on bottom temperature,

1 predation and consumption. Fishable biomass is the weight of all shrimp (both males and  
2 females) which have a carapace length greater than 17 millimetres. Female spawning  
3 stock biomass is defined as the weight of all female shrimp regardless of size, though  
4 most are of fishable size. To determine the exploitation rate index, the commercial catch  
5 is divided by the survey fishable biomass index from the previous year (for fall surveys)  
6 or from the same year (for summer surveys) (DFO 2017a and DFO 2017b).

7  
8 The various indices also provide information on fishery performance, including  
9 exploitation rate and distribution of fishing effort, composition of shrimp catches, and  
10 inferences on the state of fishable biomass and female spawning stock biomass.  
11 Information on female spawning stock biomass has been used to develop proxy reference  
12 points under the Precautionary Approach Framework for some stocks.

## 13 **2.5 Stock Scenarios**

### 14 Northern Shrimp – SFA 7

15  
16 The Northern shrimp stock in SFA 7 has declined since 2007 and is below the limit  
17 reference point for biomass ( $B_{lim}$ ). Due to declines in biomass indices and concern for  
18 this resource, SFA 7 has been closed to directed fishing since 2015.  
19  
20  
21  
22

### 23 Northern Shrimp – SFA 6

24  
25 The Northern shrimp resource in SFA 6 has been declining since 2006 and is in the  
26 critical zone of the precautionary approach framework. As of the 2016 survey, fishable  
27 and female spawning stock biomass indices were at the lowest levels since this DFO  
28 multi-species survey time series began in 1996. Environment and ecosystem indicators in  
29 the area indicate that indices will likely remain low in the short term (DFO 2017b).  
30

### 31 Northern Shrimp – SFA 5

32  
33 The Northern shrimp resource in SFA 5 is in the healthy zone of the precautionary  
34 approach framework. Biomass index declines are more difficult to interpret in this area  
35 due to the narrow range of biomass indices (DFO 2017b).  
36

### 37 Northern Shrimp – SFA 4

38  
39 The Northern shrimp resource in SFA 4 is in the healthy zone of the precautionary  
40 approach framework. The Biomass has not shown a significant trend in either direction  
41 since the survey began in 2005 (DFO 2017b).  
42

### 43 Striped Shrimp – SFA 4

44  
45 The fishable biomass for the Striped shrimp resource in SFA 4 has varied without trend.  
46 The fluctuations in the fishable biomass index are likely due to the strong currents near

1 the northern border. There is no TAC for this resource but a bycatch limit is in place  
2 (DFO 2017b).

#### 3 4 Northern Shrimp – Eastern Assessment Zone

5  
6 The Northern shrimp resource in the Eastern Assessment Zone is in the healthy zone of  
7 the precautionary approach framework. The fishable biomass index has varied without  
8 trend around the long-term mean. The fluctuations in biomass are likely due to strong  
9 currents in Hudson Strait (DFO 2017a).

#### 10 11 Striped Shrimp – Eastern Assessment Zone

12  
13 The fishable biomass index within the PA Framework for the Striped shrimp resource in  
14 the Eastern Assessment Zone has varied without trend around the long-term mean. The  
15 fluctuations in the fishable biomass index are likely due to the strong currents near the  
16 southern border (DFO 2017a).

#### 17 18 Northern Shrimp – Western Assessment Zone

19  
20 The Northern shrimp resource in the Western Assessment Zone decreased in 2016  
21 compared to 2015. The 2014 survey began a new time series, not directly comparable  
22 with previous surveys. Because the time series is so short, trends cannot yet be inferred  
23 (DFO 2017a).

#### 24 25 26 Striped Shrimp – Western Assessment Zone

27  
28 The Striped shrimp resource in the Western Assessment Zone decreased in 2016  
29 compared to 2015. The 2014 survey began a new time series, not directly comparable  
30 with previous surveys. Because the time series is so short, trends cannot be inferred.  
31 (DFO 2017a)

#### 32 33 Northern Shrimp – SFA 1

34  
35 The Northern shrimp resource in SFA 1 is a part of the Canada/Greenland shared  
36 population, with Canada having an access to a relatively small portion of the fishery. The  
37 assessment of the entire stock is performed by the NAFO SC, while each fishery is  
38 managed by individual countries. In 2016 the stock was assessed to be in relatively good  
39 condition (11% above  $B_{msy}$ ). The risk of the stock being below the  $B_{lim}$  was very low (less  
40 than 1%). The outlook for this stock is positive, with either a stable or positive growth  
41 trajectory, providing the mortality pressure remains the same.

### 42 43 **2.6 Precautionary Approach Framework for Northern Shrimp**

44 The Fishery Decision-Making Framework Incorporating the Precautionary Approach  
45 (PA) applies to fish stocks that are the targets of a commercial, recreational, or

1 subsistence fishery. It may be applied more broadly to other stocks, if necessary or as  
 2 circumstances warrant.

3 The Framework requires that a harvest strategy be incorporated into respective fishery  
 4 management plans to keep the removal rate moderate when the stock status is healthy,  
 5 promote rebuilding when stock status is low, and provide for a low risk of serious or  
 6 irreversible harm to the stock. It also requires a rebuilding plan is in place when a stock  
 7 reaches the Critical Zone. In general, the precautionary approach in fisheries  
 8 management is about being cautious when scientific knowledge is uncertain, and not  
 9 using the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or fail to take  
 10 action to avoid serious harm to fish stocks or their ecosystem. This approach is widely  
 11 accepted as an essential part of sustainable fisheries management (DFO 2006).

12 A precautionary approach to the management of the shrimp fishery, consistent with the  
 13 basic tenants set out in the Framework, is in place for most Northern Shrimp fishery  
 14 areas. Priority is given to monitoring the stock and establishing a data time series to  
 15 support management decisions. Biomass indices, commercial catch levels, and  
 16 exploitation rate indices are used to indicate stock status. Scientific uncertainty is  
 17 quantified by including standard errors for these indices. This approach is based on  
 18 biological criteria established by Science and peer-reviewed through the applicable  
 19 Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) or NAFO Scientific Council processes.  
 20 Scientific uncertainty and uncertainty related to the implementation of management  
 21 measures for Northern shrimp are explicitly considered when evaluating stock status and  
 22 making management decisions. The application of a precautionary approach to this  
 23 fishery is done in concert with industry, co-management organizations, and other  
 24 stakeholders through NSAC and other relevant processes.

25  
 26 Precautionary Approach Reference Points

27  
 28 Reference points for Northern shrimp were developed using proxies. The provisional  
 29 upper stock reference (USR) was defined as 80%, and the provisional lower reference  
 30 point (LRP) as 30%, of the geometric mean of female spawning stock biomass (SSB)  
 31 index over a productive period. Because of differences in survey history, the reference  
 32 periods were taken to be 1996-2003 for SFA 6, 1996-2001 for SFA 5, 2005-2009 for  
 33 SFA 4, and 2006-2008 for EAZ. Reference points for Striped Shrimp in SFA 4, EAZ, and  
 34 WAZ, and for Northern Shrimp in WAZ are in the process of being developed.

35  
 36 Reference Points for Northern (borelais) and Striped (montagui) Shrimp

SFA	Critical Zone	LRP	Cautious Zone	USR	Healthy Zone
SFA 4 borealis	SSB<20,400 t	20,400 t	20,400 t ≤ SSB < 54,400 t	54,400 t	SSB≥54,400 t
SFA 5	SSB<15,200 t	15,200 t	15,200 t ≤ SSB < 40,700 t	40,700 t	SSB≥40,700 t
SFA 6	SSB<82,000 t	82,000 t	82,000 t ≤ SSB < 219,000 t	219,000 t	SSB≥219,000 t
EAZ borealis	SSB<6,800 t	6,800 t	6,800 t ≤ SSB < 18,200 t	18,200 t	SSB≥18,200 t
EAZ montagui	SSB<2,300 t	2,300 t	2,300 t ≤ SSB < 6,100 t	6,100 t	SSB≥6,100 t

37

1 A harvest rate strategy is the approach taken to manage the harvest of a stock and is a  
2 necessary element of any fishery plan. In order to implement the PA, pre-agreed harvest  
3 decision rules and management actions for each zone are essential components of a  
4 harvest rate strategy. Harvest Decision Rules for shrimp stocks with a PA in place are at  
5 ANNEX I.

6 References for additional information on stock status and the Precautionary Approach for  
7 Northern and Striped Shrimp are in ANNEX H.

## 8 **2.7 Research**

9

10 Shrimp are an important forage species within the ecosystem, particularly in the absence  
11 of alternative high energy prey, and therefore management of the shrimp fishery should  
12 adopt a more conservative approach than would otherwise be adopted under a single  
13 species management approach. There is a need for a better understanding of ecosystem  
14 demands and impacts of commercial fishing on shrimp as a forage species and to  
15 incorporate this into future assessments. This research would be reflected in the use of  
16 additional ecosystem indicators in the assessments and in the future modelling work that  
17 will help develop, and refine, new precautionary approach reference points (DFO 2013).  
18 A better understanding of these factors could potentially lead to ecosystem based  
19 management rather than single species management.

20

21 Effects of climate change on shrimp resources should be considered when making  
22 management decisions. More research is required to determine whether environmental  
23 variables could be used in conjunction with recruitment signals to predict future stock  
24 size (DFO 2013).

25

26 The Department conducts research independent of other organizations but also in concert  
27 with other research groups, such as NAFO's Scientific Council and the Northern Shrimp  
28 Research Foundation (NSRF). For a list of research activities, see ANNEX J. This list of  
29 ongoing and potential future research activities should be considered as provisional, and  
30 as such is subject to change. For example, SFA 7 is managed by NAFO and ultimately  
31 the Department can make requests for research but any final decisions are outside of our  
32 purview. Additionally, considerations such as emerging issues, changing priorities as  
33 well as the availability of human and financial resources influence the research  
34 undertaken.

35

### 36 Literature Cited

37

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40

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43

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2 Labrador Region (Divisions 2J3KL). DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Resp. 2014/049.

3  
4 DFO, 2017a. Assessment of Northern Shrimp, *Pandalus borealis*, and Striped Shrimp,  
5 *Pandalus montagui*, in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones, February 2017. DFO  
6 Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Advis. Rep. 2017/010.

7  
8 DFO, 2017b. An assessment of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Shrimp Fishing  
9 Areas 4-6 and of Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) in Shrimp Fishing Areas 4 in  
10 2016. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Advis. Rep. 2017/012

## 11 12 Section 3 Economic, Social and Cultural Considerations

13  
14 The Northern shrimp fishery in Canada makes an important contribution to regional  
15 economic development and growth in Eastern Canada and the Arctic through the use of  
16 required operational goods and services and the employment and training of local  
17 residents engaged in the various steps of the shrimp supply chain from harvesting to  
18 processing to distribution/export. The Arctic Northern shrimp fishery vessels employ a  
19 substantial number of Inuit and Innu residing in northern Labrador, Nunavik and Nunavut  
20 (See Annex K for further employment information). The formation of Northern  
21 harvesting partnerships has been an important source of revenue for Northern  
22 development. The Northern shrimp fisheries supports harvesting as well as processing  
23 plants and logistics services, providing important local employment most notably in  
24 Newfoundland and Labrador, but also in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec.  
25 Additionally, goods and services needed to support vessel operations and land-based  
26 processing production and distribution are important contributors to the local economy  
27 creating jobs and generating income in various industries. Among the contributing  
28 activities are vessel and gear repair, maintenance, stevedoring, provisioning (food and  
29 fuel), observer coverage, and travel/transportation.

### 30 **3.1 Domestic Landings<sup>1</sup> and Exports**

31 Canada, as one of the world's leading producers of cold-water shrimp, saw a strong  
32 increase of 44% in landed value for the Canadian Northern Shrimp fishery from 2013 to  
33 2015 (See Annex K, for details on landings, including by fleet). This increase was  
34 exclusively due to notable price increases, as landed quantities decreased 17% over the  
35 same period.

36  
37 The Canadian Northern Shrimp fishery is harvested by two fleets; the <89'11" inshore  
38 fleet and the >100' offshore fleet. Inshore vessels deliver mainly wet shrimp to onshore  
39 plants for processing (cooking and peeled). The >100' fleet processes and packages  
40 shrimp on board factory trawlers, primarily cooked shell on; raw small size (industrial)  
41 shrimp that is too small for cooked shell-on markets is cooked and peeled in shore-based  
42 processing plants in Canada and other countries.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: Canadian Atlantic Quota Reports

1 Export volumes of Canadian Northern shrimp decreased 14% from 77,000 mt in 2013 to  
2 67,000 mt in 2015<sup>2</sup>. The value of Northern shrimp exports increased annually from  
3 \$327M in 2013 to \$439M in 2015 (See Annex K for more detail). Northern shrimp  
4 accounted for approximately 7% of Canada's total fish and seafood export value in 2015.  
5 Of this, 80% was generated by Canada's top four export destinations in Asia and Europe,  
6 in particular China (\$126M), Denmark (\$88M), the United Kingdom (\$85M), and Iceland  
7 (\$52M). There was strong price growth over the period, with average prices for all  
8 Northern Shrimp products rising 56%. Prices received by Canadian producers are  
9 influenced by the interaction of global supply and demand of shrimp (cold-water and  
10 warm-water shrimp) and shrimp substitutes, as well as other factors (resource  
11 availability, exchange rates).  
12  
13

## 14 Section 4 Management Issues

### 16 **4.1 Management Challenges during Periods of Ecosystem Change**

17  
18 The decline in shrimp production in SFA 6 has been associated with various environment  
19 and ecosystem changes including a recent warming trend, early timing of the  
20 phytoplankton bloom and increasing biomass of predatory fishes.. Given declining per-  
21 capita net production of shrimp, commercial fishing pressure will now be influencing  
22 stock declines more than it did in the past (i.e. prior to 2009).The current PA (Section  
23 2.6) was defined based on the mean of female spawning stock biomass index over a  
24 productive period, based on available data and consistent with the PA Framework. It has  
25 been suggested that the current reference points may not be appropriate for the current  
26 state of the shrimp resource as they were derived based on a period of more favourable  
27 ecosystem conditions. A Science Response Process was held in 2017 to review the  
28 reference points used in the PA for Northern Shrimp in SFA 6. The report from this  
29 process can be found at [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-  
30 RS/2017/2017\\_009-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-<br/>30 RS/2017/2017_009-eng.html). It was concluded that it is not currently clear whether  
31 shrimp are experiencing a new productivity regime, whether there were low or high  
32 productivity regimes in the past, or where the stock lies relative to its potential production  
33 in current conditions. Due to the uncertainties, the current reference points remain  
34 unchanged at this time. However, DFO Science is working on developing models for  
35 Northern Shrimp in SFA 4-6. If an appropriate model is developed, it will be used to  
36 inform the need to revise the current PA and to predict how the stock will respond to  
37 different exploitation rates.  
38

### 39 **4.2 Climate Change**

40  
41 It is not known to what extent climate change affects shrimp abundance, distribution or  
42 overall ecological conditions, including predator prey relationships.  
43

---

<sup>2</sup> Source: DFO EXIM Trade Database: Statistics Canada, International Trade Division.

1 The long-term warming trend in waters off of NL is associated with climate change, and  
2 with the warm phase of the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation, a key indicator of climate  
3 conditions over the North Atlantic. Associated with the warming trend is the slowing  
4 down of the Labrador Current, a reduction in ice coverage, and more frequent extreme  
5 weather events which can have important effects on the ecology of the marine ecosystem,  
6 impacting all trophic levels and long-term prospects for commercial species.

7 Given that the current warm phase is expected to continue in the near term in NAFO  
8 Divisions 2J3KL (Southern SFA 5, and the entirety of SFAs 6 and 7), and may possibly  
9 persist for more than a decade, the Department held a science response process in the  
10 summer of 2014 to provide an overview of the prospects for key Newfoundland and  
11 Labrador stocks, including Northern shrimp, over the next three to five years within the  
12 context of increasing temperatures. The warming trend in environmental conditions has a  
13 detectable negative impact on shrimp production. Reduced productivity is also  
14 associated with the increasing biomass of predatory fish and exploitation rates of shrimp.  
15

16 Unfavourable environmental conditions for shrimp are expected to continue in the short  
17 term. The Science response can be found at [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-  
18 sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2014/2014\\_049-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2014/2014_049-eng.html)  
19

#### 20 **4.3 Conflicts between shrimp and crab**

21  
22 Snow crab and shrimp fisheries occur on common grounds in Divisions 2J3K. The  
23 presence of conflict has resulted in research activities and closed areas. Results of a 2005  
24 study indicated that shrimp bottom trawling could be associated with an increased  
25 incidence of crab damage (i.e. leg loss). However, there is no evidence that shrimp  
26 trawling imposes substantial mortality on hard-shelled Snow crab.  
27

28 An area of the Hawke Channel was closed to all fisheries, except Snow crab, beginning  
29 in 2002. The primary rationale for the closed area was in response to the Fisheries  
30 Resources Conservation Council recommendations in 2000 and 2001 to protect juvenile  
31 turbot and spawning cod respectively. The crab harvesters in 2J supported the closure as  
32 it addressed their concerns of the possible negative effect of shrimp trawling on the snow  
33 crab resource. A 2012 study found the closure had no impact on improving Snow crab  
34 catch rates. An area of 3K, in the Funk Island Deep, was first closed to gillnetting in 2002  
35 and was later closed to bottom trawling through a combination of mandatory and  
36 voluntary closures in 2005 out of concern for Snow crab. No formal studies on the  
37 effectiveness of this closure have been conducted to date. (Additional information on  
38 Closed Areas can be found in Section 7.3.)  
39

#### 40 **4.4 Groundfish Bycatch / Presence of Groundfish**

41  
42 The use of the Nordmore grate markedly reduced groundfish bycatch, however increases  
43 in some groundfish stocks have resulted in the potential for increased bycatch . This  
44 increase in groundfish has and may continue to require the implementation of additional  
45 management measures that allow the Northern shrimp fishery to operate efficiently while  
46 not jeopardizing recovering groundfish stocks. As knowledge on bycatch and its impact



1 improves, management measures may be introduced or modified in licence conditions  
2 (e.g. move away provisions) or other mechanisms.

3  
4 As the presence of groundfish, most notably cod, has increased in the southern areas,  
5 inshore fishers are of the view that its presence and abundance may be altering shrimp  
6 behavior, presence and abundance, causing shrimp to move higher in the water column  
7 where it would not be detected by the DFO multi-species surveys. Additionally, shrimp  
8 are an important food source for cod and the increased predation overall, particularly  
9 while alternative high-energy prey (i.e. capelin) is low, may be having a negative impact  
10 on shrimp. This is one of the priorities identified by the Science / Resource Management  
11 Working Group mentioned in section 8.1.

## 12 13 **4.5 Depleted Species**

### 14 ***Species at Risk Act (SARA)***

15 The leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is listed as endangered under SARA  
16 and is occasionally encountered in the Northern shrimp fishery, however the use of the  
17 Nordmore grate prevents it from being inadvertently captured. Two species of wolffish,  
18 *Anarhichus denticulatus* (Northern) and *Anarhichus minor* (Spotted), are bycatch in the  
19 Northern shrimp fishery and listed as *threatened* under SARA. A third species, the  
20 Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupusis*) is also listed under SARA with Special Concern  
21 designation.

22  
23 Northern shrimp licence conditions prohibit the retention of the above mentioned SARA  
24 species listed as endangered or threatened and clearly state that it must be returned to the  
25 place from which it was taken, and if alive, in a manner that causes it the least harm.  
26 Further, the licence conditions require that any interactions with species at risk must be  
27 reported in the logbook, detailing location, time of catch and the quantity, weight and  
28 condition (alive or dead) of the animal.

29  
30 For further details, please visit the SARA Public Registry at  
31 <http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=24F7211B-1>

## 32 33 **4.6 Oceans and Habitat Considerations**

### 34 35 ***Benthic Issues***

36 As described in Section 7.3, there are several mandatory and voluntary closures within  
37 the geographic range of the Northern shrimp fishery to address concerns for various  
38 species and/or sensitive benthic habitats. NSAC established a Working Group on Closed  
39 Areas (later renamed the Ecosystems Working Group) to specifically address benthic  
40 issues should they arise and to provide related advice to NSAC.

## 41 42 **4.7 Gear Impacts**

43  
44 A review of trawl impacts was conducted in 2006 by the Department, which concluded  
45 that bottom-contact gear have an impact on benthic populations, communities and

1 habitats. Addressing impacts requires case by case assessments, with solutions  
2 customized to the particular set of circumstances leading to the impacts. The 2006 review  
3 of trawl impacts can be found at [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2006/2006_025-eng.htm)  
4 [AS/2006/2006\\_025-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2006/2006_025-eng.htm)  
5

6 Because the trawl is mechanically attached to the vessel, losing gear in this fishery is  
7 extremely rare. Due to the cost, most, if not all vessels will search and retrieve any lost  
8 trawl.  
9

#### 10 **4.8 International Issues**

11 NAFO Division 0A east of 60°30' W and Subarea 1, which in Canadian waters occurs in  
12 SFA 1, is a transboundary stock stock between Canada and Greenland. In response to  
13 requests from both jurisdictions, the NAFO Scientific Council provides scientific advice  
14 on catches. There is currently no agreement in place between the two countries regarding  
15 processes to set the global TAC, or to determine sharing arrangements. Canada and  
16 Greenland have entered into both formal and informal discussions that seek to advance  
17 progress on achieving a joint management approach to this stock. In the absence of such  
18 an agreement, and based on its own assumptions of risk, Greenland sets its own TAC and  
19 assigns Canada a percentage of this TAC (less than 3%). Canada, on the other hand,  
20 traditionally sets a global TAC consistent with Scientific Council advice, and claims  
21 roughly 14.2% of this to be fished domestically.

22 Until such time that an agreement is in place, Canada continues to unilaterally establish  
23 the TAC and claim its share of 14.2%. Harvest Decision Rules for SFA 1 are at ANNEX  
24 H.  
25

### 26 **5. Objectives**

#### 27 **5.1 FISHERY OBJECTIVES**

28 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, with its co-management partners and stakeholders, strives  
29 to manage this fishery to maximize economic benefits in an ecologically sustainable  
30 manner. The long-term objectives relate to conservation and sustainable harvest, benefits  
31 to stakeholders and the co-management of the shrimp resource. Corresponding short term  
32 objectives, strategies and management measures have been implemented, or are in the  
33 process of being developed.

#### **Conservation and Sustainable Harvest (Long term objective)**

- To promote the sustainable utilization of Northern shrimp stocks.
- To promote cost-effective harvesting strategies that ensures compliance with objective-oriented management and conservation measures and promotes a responsible image for all fleet sectors.
- To mitigate the negative impacts on other species, habitat, and the ecosystem

- where shrimp fishing occurs.
- Within specified resource management constraints, to promote a harvest level that stabilizes industry infrastructure and meets marketing requirements, in the pursuit of economic viability objectives for the shrimp sector.
- To promote fishing practices that avoid or mitigate negative impact on sensitive habitat and species.
- To explicitly recognize the ecosystem role of shrimp in TAC-setting decisions, particularly as a forage species.
- To keep stocks in, or return to the Healthy Zone as per the PA Framework.

<b>Strategies (short term objective)</b>	<b>Management Measures (short term objective)</b>
<p><b>Precautionary Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize a precautionary approach framework when setting exploitation rates for the directed fishery</li> <li>• The significant role of shrimp as a forage species is taken into account in decision making</li> <li>• Manage activity in ecologically sensitive areas</li> <li>• Promote the development of sustainable fishing practices.</li> <li>• Manage by-catch or mortality for all non-targeted species</li> <li>• Employ effective monitoring and surveillance tools and mechanisms that ensure compliance with conservation measures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Precautionary Approach ( Section 2.6)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide biomass and abundance estimates through timely science surveys</li> <li>• Utilize indicators of stock and fishery change</li> <li>• Control fishing mortality by setting annual TAC, taking into account the role of shrimp in the ecosystem</li> <li>• Utilize appropriate exploitation rates and reference points, which take into account the role of shrimp in the ecosystem</li> <li>• Use fishery closures / closed areas to achieve conservation objectives as required</li> <li>• Prohibit bottom contact fishing in established Sensitive Benthic Areas</li> <li>• Enforce regulations against discarding and highgrading</li> <li>• Require a maximum of 22 (SFA 6,7) or 28 mm (SFA 1,4, 5 and in the management units in the Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) and Western Assessment Zone (WAZ)) separator grates as condition of licence</li> <li>• Require live release of species listed under SARA as endangered or threatened</li> <li>• Observer coverage is targeted at 100% for &gt; 100' vessels and 10% for inshore boats</li> <li>• Use of Vessel Monitoring Systems for all shrimp boats</li> <li>• Employ Dockside Monitoring Programs for 100% of inshore landings</li> <li>• Employ aerial and dockside surveillance in addition to period audits of landings and catch</li> </ul>

	information outside regular operations
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1

<p><b>Benefits to Stakeholders (long term objective)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the continued development of a commercially viable and self-sustaining fishery</li> <li>• To provide fair access to and equitable sharing of the Northern shrimp resource.</li> <li>• Helps industry maintain Marine Stewardship Council Certification</li> </ul>
--

<p><b>Strategy (short term)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new access to this fishery</li> <li>• When dealing with TAC changes in the SFAs 4, 5 and 6, use percent shares as the primary policy guiding allocations. When dealing with TAC changes in the northern SFAs in the WAZ and EAZ, make allocation decisions on a case by case basis, respecting Land Claim obligations</li> <li>• Balance fleet capacity with resource availability</li> <li>• Enterprise and licence combining for the inshore fleet</li> <li>• Fulfill obligations with respect to fishery resources as defined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Management Measures (short term)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue Enterprise Allocation structure for &gt;100' sector</li> <li>• Continue to limit entry to the fishery through licensing</li> <li>• Consult with management boards in Land Claim areas on TAC levels in or adjacent to their settlement area waters</li> </ul>
---	--

2

**Co-management of the Resource (long term objective)**

- Co-management of the resource in or adjacent Land Claim settlement areas involves working with the Inuit of Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut
- At NAFO, for the Flemish Cap (3M) and 3L shrimp fisheries, to promote a TAC and quotas management scheme, or otherwise controlling fishing effort to achieve a sustainable fishery.
- With Greenland, for NAFO Division 0A and Subarea 1 shrimp, to continue to promote an agreed TAC and quota and management scheme.
- To promote a co-management approach, providing licence holders with an effective sharing of responsibility, accountability and decision making, within the constraints of the *Fisheries Act*, the precautionary approach and Harvest Decision Rules.

**Strategy (short term objective)**

- Regular and open dialogue and communication to help foster relationships with Land Claimants; adherence to obligations as per various Land Claims
- Maintain an effective consultative process for resource users to participate in the decision-making process
- Establish Multi-stakeholder Working Groups designed to examine domestic and international issues, e.g. Conservation and Compliance, Closed Areas, Marine Stewardship Council Certification
- Contribute to and participate in NAFO meetings
- Providing experts to NAFO Scientific Council
- Conduct bi-lateral negotiations between Canada and Greenland, with input and participation from industry
- Manage Joint Project Agreement between DFO and the Northern Shrimp Research Foundation to pursue mutually beneficial scientific activities

**Management Measures (short term objective)**

- Organize annual Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) meetings
- Convene Working Groups as appropriate
- Convene Shrimp Working Group under NAFO consultative process as appropriate
- Convene domestic consultations and bi-lateral discussions with Greenland as appropriate
- Collaboratively define science priorities and design appropriate research activities

1

2 At advisory meetings, a review of the *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* fisheries takes place  
3 which includes a discussion of whether these objectives are being met and key  
4 management issues are being addressed. As part of this process, the information gathered  
5 through other evaluation processes like the Department's Sustainability Survey for  
6 Fisheries is used to help identify areas for improvement in the management of these

1 fisheries and through consultation with stakeholders, potential improvements are  
2 explored and priorities established.

### 3 **6 ACCESS AND ALLOCATION**

#### 4 **6.1 Access and Allocations**

5  
6 In addition to measures based on precautionary and ecosystem-based management, DFO  
7 applies principles of *access* and *allocation* to the administration of the Northern shrimp  
8 fishery.

9  
10 Access is described as “the opportunity to harvest or use fisheries resources, generally  
11 permitted by licences or leases issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada under the  
12 authority of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Department shall take Aboriginal  
13 and treaty rights to fish into account when providing these opportunities.”

14  
15 Access to the Northern shrimp fishery is considered stable for both the >100’ sector and  
16 the inshore fleet. There is no new access to the Northern shrimp fishery, and  
17 consideration must be given to relevant Land Claims when making access and allocation  
18 decisions.

19  
20 Allocation is “the amount or share of the fisheries resource and/or effort that is  
21 distributed or assigned by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to those permitted to  
22 harvest the resource.”

23  
24 The Minister can, for conservation purposes or for any other valid reasons, modify  
25 access, allocations and sharing arrangements as outlined in this IFMP in accordance with  
26 the powers granted pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*.

27  
28 Following the TAC decision, quotas are established for the fleets and special allocation  
29 holders that have access to that management area.

30  
31 Quotas and allocations from 1996 – present can be found in the Profile of Access at  
32 ANNEX B.

#### 33 34 **6.2 Harvesting of Northern Shrimp Allocations**

35  
36 When significant quota increases occurred in the Northern shrimp fishery between 1997  
37 and 2016, special allocations were often created to benefit various groups (inshore  
38 affected fishers, Indigenous groups, etc.). Over the years, specific harvesting  
39 requirements were introduced that determined which fleet is permitted to harvest these  
40 allocations and in some cases, specify landing requirements. In 2017, the decision was  
41 taken that holders of special allocations in SFA 6 could choose to have their allocation  
42 harvested by the inshore fleet and / or the offshore fleet, however arrangements with  
43 inshore harvesters would need to occur on a fleet level and not at the individual harvester  
44 level in order to address leveraging and other concerns.

1 **Harvesting Of Northern Shrimp Allocations**

2

Fleet / Interest	EAZ						WAZ		SFA			Fished Only By:
	SFA 0	SFA 1	DS W	DS E	NU E	NK E	NU W	NK W	SFA 4	SFA 5	SFA 6	
>100' sector	●	●	●	●					●	●	●	Any >100' sector Northern shrimp licence holder
Nunavut (NU)		●	●	●								Any NU temporary or > 100 sector Northern shrimp licence holder with sub-allocations in that area
					●		●					Those enterprises that receive allocations in these areas, as amended from time to time
Nunavik (NK)			●			●		●				Any > 100' sector Northern shrimp licence holder or vessel acquired by NK interests
		●										
Makivik		●										Any > 100' sector Northern shrimp licence holder
Northern Coalition										●		
IACF Cartwright to L'Anse au Clair										●		Any Canadian wetfish trawler >65' – 99' or > 100' sector Northern shrimp licence holder
IACF Northern Peninsula										●		
Inshore									●			< 90' inshore vessel or > 100' sector Northern shrimp licence holder
Nunatsiavut Government									●	●		
NunatuKavut Community Council										●		
Imakpik Fisheries										●		
Innu Nation									●	●		
St. Anthony Basin Resources											●	Any > 100' sector Northern shrimp licence holder, and / or through an arrangement with an approved inshore fleet sector
Fogo Island CoOp											●	
Inshore Fleet											●	Any < 90' inshore licence holder

4 In an attempt to encourage development in the early years of the fishery, the Department  
5 allowed licence holders to charter foreign vessels to harvest their allocations. This  
6 practice was phased out over time and today all vessels in the fishery are Canadian and  
7 carry mostly Canadian crews. The exception to this rule is the use of foreign vessels as  
8 short term charter replacements to cover exceptional cases such as vessel loss, or in  
9 extremely rare cases, when there is a shortage of Canadian vessel capacity.

10 **6.3 Percent shares**

11 The Northern shrimp TAC for each of the SFAs 0 to 6 is allocated to the >100' shrimp  
12 sector, special allocation holders and the inshore fleet depending on the MU/SFA. Prior  
13 to 2016, the LIFO policy was the main tool the Department used to determine access and  
14 allocations for each management area, subject to Land Claims considerations. LIFO is  
15 described in ANNEX C.

16 Beginning in 2016, the Department, by Ministerial decision, implemented stable percent  
17 shares to remaining allocation holders in each of the southern SFAs (4-6). The Minister

1 modified the percent shares in SFA 4 in 2017 to increase the share of the adjacent  
 2 Labrador Inuit. Such an approach is not feasible in northern areas where land claims  
 3 obligations require consideration of any changes in TAC on a case by case basis. Percent  
 4 shares determine the amount of allocations to participants in SFAs 4, 5 and 6.

<b>Fleet / Interest</b>	<b>SFA 4</b>	<b>SFA 5</b>	<b>SFA 6</b>	<b>SFA 7*</b>
Offshore (equally divided among >100' licence holders)	76.2%	38.04%	23.1%	20.2%
Inshore	5.3%	-	69.6%	65.7%
Innu Nation	8.5%	5.19%	1.7%	-
Nunatsiavut Government	10%	9.9%	-	-
Northern Coalition**	-	28.0%	-	-
NunatuKavut Community Council	-	6.22%	-	-
Inshore Affected Cod Harvesters (Cartwright to L'anse au Clair)	-	8.84%	-	-
Inshore Affected Cod Harvesters (Northern Peninsula)	-	1.04%	-	-
Imakpik Fisheries	-	2.77%	-	-
St Anthony Resource Basin Inc (SABRI)	-	-	4.5%	-
Fogo Island Co-Op	-	-	1.1%	-
PEI Consortium	-	-	-	9.4%
Miawpukek First Nation	-	-	-	4.7%

5  
 6 \*Should NAFO take the decision to resume commercial fishing in SFA 7, the quota  
 7 allocation key will be as described.

8 \*\* Northern Coalition's share is divided equally among Labrador Fishermen's Union  
 9 Shrimp Company (2 shares), Torngat Fish Producers Coop, Unaaq Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk  
 10 Corporation, Makivik Corporation and Nunatsiavut Group of Companies

11  
 12 **7 MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

13  
 14 **7.1 Total Allowable Catch**

15 Stocks are managed through TAC in each SFA. The TAC is the total amount of shrimp  
 16 that is permitted to be caught for that fishing season in each SFA, and is determined  
 17 annually. Generally, the TAC and fleet quotas fluctuate each year by management area.  
 18 With the implementation of percent shares in SFAs 4 - 6, as the overall TAC changes, the  
 19 fleet quotas / allocations are adjusted accordingly.

20  
 21 TACs in most management areas are guided according to the harvest decision rules  
 22 outlined in the Precautionary Approach Framework for Northern shrimp (section 2.6) and  
 23 include perspectives obtained during consultations with stakeholders as well as other  
 24 relevant information. For SFA 1, following consultation with relevant stakeholders,  
 25 Canada adopts an overall TAC (shared between Canada and Greenland), and claims its  
 26 domestic share based on the formula of 17% of 5/6 of the overall TAC (14.2%) accepted  
 27 by Canada, recognizing that 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the area would be inshore waters in Greenland with  
 28 the remaining 5/6 being offshore areas. There are also specific processes in place to  
 29 establish TACs and quotas in the WAZ and EAZ which require specific decisions and  
 30 recommendations from the NWMB and NMRWB. The TAC in SFA 7 is set by NAFO.



1 The latest TAC announcements can be found at: [http://www.dfo-](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/decisions/index-eng.htm)  
2 [mpo.gc.ca/decisions/index-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/decisions/index-eng.htm) and the Profile of Access at ANNEX B.  
3

## 4 **7.2 Fishing Seasons**

5 The fishing season for the Northern shrimp >100' sector is from January 1 – December  
6 31 for transboundary and NAFO managed stocks (SFAs 0, 1, 3L (SFA 7) and 3M), and  
7 April 1 – March 31 for DFO managed stocks, (SFAs EAZ, WAZ, 4, 5, and 6). The  
8 inshore trawlers' season is generally from April 1 – December 31, or until the quota is  
9 taken, whichever comes first. The opening of the fishery depends on the TAC being  
10 announced and for the inshore trawlers, is also based on the sharing of the inshore quota  
11 between the 2J, 3K north, 3K south, 3L and 4R fleets. Fishing seasons are regulated  
12 under the authority of the Atlantic Fishery Regulations, 1985.  
13

## 14 **7.3 Closed Areas**

15 The following closed areas have been implemented for conservation purposes related to  
16 habitat and / or benthic issues, and are regulated through a variation order under the  
17 authority of the *Atlantic Fishery Regulations, 1985*.  
18

### 19 **7.3.1 Hatton Basin - Coral Protection Zone**

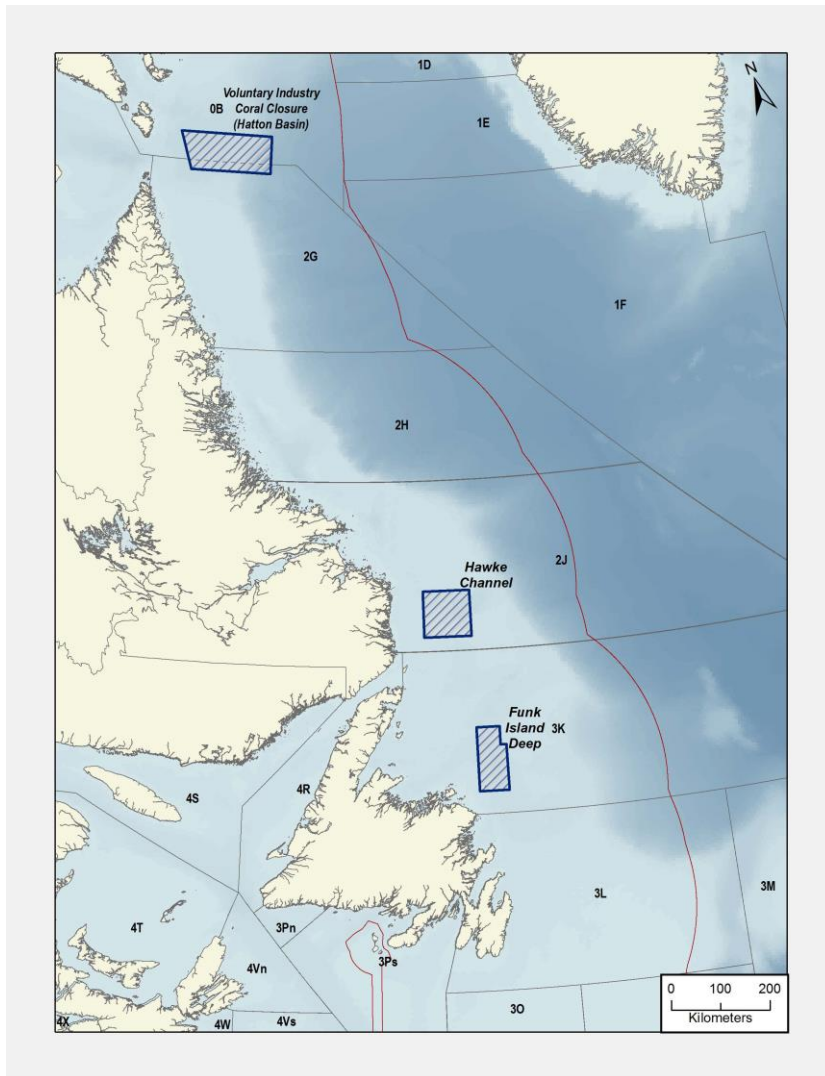
20 In 2007, the > 100' sector shrimp and groundfish sectors introduced a 12,500 square  
21 kilometre (3,644 square nautical miles) Coral Protection Zone in the northern Labrador  
22 Sea to protect coral concentrations in that area (see Figure 8). This was part of an  
23 industry-led initiative, sponsored by CAPP, the Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council  
24 (GEAC), and the NC, which also includes other conservation measures designed to  
25 promote marine stewardship and the preservation of sensitive marine ecological features.  
26

### 27 **7.3.2 Hawke Channel Closed Area**

28 The primary rationale for the closed area was in response to the Fisheries Resource  
29 Conservation Council recommendations in 2000 and 2001 to protect juvenile turbot and  
30 spawning cod respectively. In 2001, due to concerns about the impact of bottom trawling  
31 for shrimp on crab fishing grounds, a proposal for a pilot project involving a “no-trawl”  
32 zone was received from the 2J crab licence holders. After consultation with stakeholders  
33 and a review of available information, in September 2002, DFO implemented a 400  
34 square nautical mile ‘no-trawl/no-gillnetting’ study area to conduct work similar to that  
35 conducted in Division 3K. The 2J ‘no-trawl/no-gillnetting’ study area was expanded to  
36 cover 2,576 square nautical miles in July 2003 (Figure 8). Since the Hawke Box has  
37 been closed, there have been no studies undertaken to determine if the closure is having  
38 any effect on cod and turbot populations. Given this lack of substantiated evidence, the  
39 Hawke Box closure has been a long standing issue with some industry.  
40

### 41 **7.3.3 Funk Island Deep Closed Area**

42 The Funk Island Deep closed area in SFA 6, was originally closed in 2002 to gillnetting  
43 to protect snow crab, and in 2005 the closure was extended to include the inshore shrimp  
44 trawlers, with their concurrence. This closed area covers roughly 2,119 square nautical  
45 miles and is a voluntary closure for the > 100' sector shrimp trawlers (Figure 8).



2

3

4 Figure 8 – Fishery Closures

5

#### 6 **7.3.4 Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems Closed Areas (in the NAFO Regulatory Area)**

7

8 Since 2008, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization has undertaken extensive  
 9 scientific research on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME). This is part of its ongoing  
 10 commitment to an ecosystems approach to fisheries management and to fulfill its  
 11 commitment to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs as called for by the United  
 12 Nations General Assembly resolution 61/105.

13

14 Following the identification by NAFO of areas identified as VMEs in the NAFO  
 15 Regulatory Area, fourteen areas have been closed to bottom contact fishing, including  
 16 two closures that cover a portion of Division 3N to protect significant concentrations of  
 17 corals and sponges, to prevent the significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing activities  
 18 on VMEs known to occur or likely to occur. One closed area is in 3K, known as the

1 Orphan Knoll, where the Northern Shrimp fishery occurs. No vessel shall engage in  
2 bottom fishing activities in the following area in Division 3K enclosed by straight lines  
3 joining the following points in the order which they are listed:

4  
5 50 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds North 45 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds West  
6 51 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds North 45 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds West  
7 51 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds North 47 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds West  
8 50 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds North 47 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds West  
9

### 10 **7.3.5 Inshore Crab Areas Closures**

11  
12 As a result of concerns about the impact of bottom trawling on Snow crab, at the request  
13 of the inshore crab fleets in 3KL the inshore Snow crab fishing areas are closed to all  
14 bottom dragging fisheries in SFAs 6 and 7, which includes Northern shrimp fishing by  
15 the inshore shrimp trawlers.  
16

17• SFA 6 - Fishing is not authorized in that portion of SFA 6 inshore of a straight line  
18 connecting by the following coordinates:

19 52 degrees 15 minutes North latitude, 55 degrees 26 minutes West longitude to  
20 52 degrees 15 minutes North latitude, 54 degrees 20 minutes West longitude to  
21 51 degrees 20 minutes North latitude, 54 degrees 57 minutes West longitude to  
22 51 degrees 20 minutes North latitude, 54 degrees 20 minutes West longitude to  
23 51 degrees 00 minutes North latitude, 54 degrees 20 minutes West longitude to  
24 51 degrees 00 minutes North latitude, 55 degrees 09 minutes West longitude to  
25 50 degrees 30 minutes North latitude, 55 degrees 30 minutes West longitude to  
26 50 degrees 30 minutes North latitude, 54 degrees 20 minutes West longitude to  
27 50 degrees 10 minutes North latitude, 54 degrees 20 minutes West longitude to  
28 50 degrees 10 minutes North latitude, 53 degrees 20 minutes West longitude to  
29 49 degrees 35 minutes North latitude, 53 degrees 20 minutes West longitude to  
30 49 degrees 35 minutes North latitude, 52 degrees 50 minutes West longitude to  
31 49 degrees 15 minutes North latitude, 52 degrees 50 minutes West longitude.  
32

33• SFA 7 - Fishing is not authorized in that portion of SFA 7 inshore of a straight line  
34 connecting by the following coordinates:

35  
36 49 degrees 15 minutes North latitude, 52 degrees 51 minutes West longitude to  
37 47 degrees 26 minutes North latitude, 52 degrees 03 minutes West longitude to  
38 46 degrees 28 minutes North latitude, 52 degrees 31 minutes West longitude to  
39 46 degrees 12 minutes North latitude, 53 degrees 32 minutes West longitude to  
40 46 degrees 17 minutes North latitude, 53 degrees 32 minutes West longitude to  
41 46 degrees 30 minutes North latitude, 54 degrees 18 minutes West longitude.  
42

### 43 **7.3.6 Marine Protected Areas**

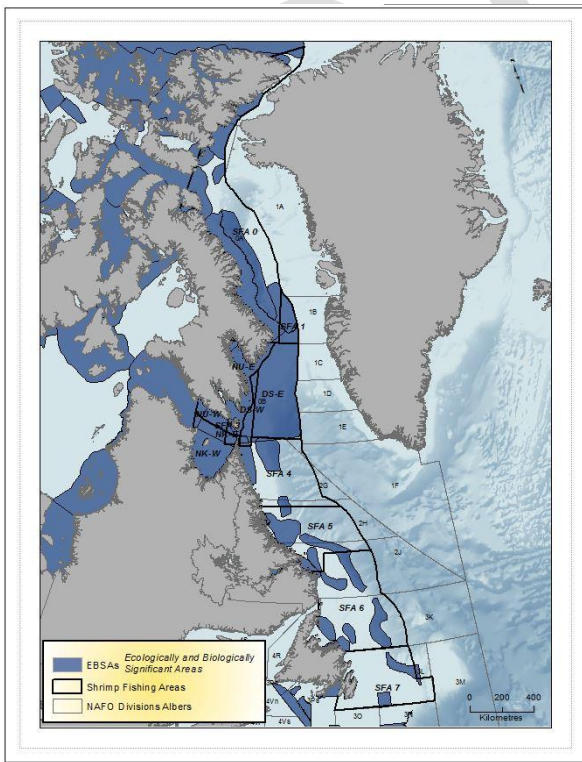
44 The Government of Canada has agreed to domestic and international marine conservation  
45 targets (MCTs) to conserve 10% of coastal and marine areas through effectively  
46 managed networks of protected areas and 'other effective area-based conservation

1 measures' by 2020 (Aichi Target 11). To further highlight these targets as a priority, the  
2 Government of Canada identified an interim target of 5% by 2017.

3  
4 In support of MCT, a Network of Marine Protected Area (MPAs) and other effective  
5 area-based conservation measures (i.e. *Fisheries Act* closures) is currently being  
6 developed in the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelves Bioregion to support the  
7 conservation and sustainable management of marine resources and their habitats. Within  
8 NAFO Divisions 2GHJ3KL there are two inshore MPAs established under the *Oceans*  
9 *Act*. The Gilbert Bay MPA is located on the southeast coast of Labrador in NAFO  
10 Subdivision 2J and covers approximately 60 km<sup>2</sup>. This MPA was designated in 2005 to  
11 conserve and protect Gilbert Bay golden cod and its habitat. The Eastport MPA is located  
12 in Bonavista Bay in NAFO Subdivision 3L. It was also designated as an MPA in 2005  
13 and covers 2.1 km<sup>2</sup>. The conservation objective of the MPA is to maintain a viable  
14 population of American lobster through the conservation, protection, and sustainable use  
15 of resources and habitats; and to ensure the conservation and protection of threatened or  
16 endangered species.

#### 17 Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas

18  
19  
20 Within the range of the Northern shrimp fishery, 17 Ecologically and Biologically  
21 Significant Areas (EBSAs) have been identified (Figure 9), however division 3L is part  
22 of a larger area currently being re-evaluated and could potentially change.  
23



24  
25  
26 Figure 9: Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) located within the  
27 range of the Northern shrimp fishery.

1  
2 EBASs are identified by science and other experts as areas that are particularly important  
3 to the structure and function of the marine environment or a particular ecosystem. They  
4 are not based on regulation, and are not managed in the way MPAs are managed. Rather,  
5 their identification is intended to raise awareness and draw attention to activities that may  
6 threaten an area. The identification of EBASs is a tool for calling attention to areas that  
7 have particularly high ecological or biological significance, to facilitate provision of a  
8 greater-than-usual degree of risk aversion in the management of activities in such areas.  
9

10 Further information on these EBASs can be found in the following documents:

11  
12 [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ResDocs-  
13 DocRech/2007/RES2007\\_052\\_e.pdf](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ResDocs-DocRech/2007/RES2007_052_e.pdf)

14  
15 [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2013/2013\\_048-eng.pdf](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2013/2013_048-eng.pdf)  
16 [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2011/2011\\_055-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2011/2011_055-eng.html)  
17 [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/publications/sar-as/2015/2015\\_049-eng.pdf](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/publications/sar-as/2015/2015_049-eng.pdf)  
18

#### 19 **7.4 Enterprise Allocations**

20  
21 Enterprise Allocations (EA) are the total quota that each > 100' sector licence holder is  
22 allocated in each management area. Quota transfers among allocation holders are  
23 permitted in all SFAs, however access to the Nunavut and Nunavik MUs is limited to  
24 those entities receiving allocations in these areas, as amended from time to time. EAs also  
25 apply to the four inshore licences with allocations in SFA 4. EA is similar to an  
26 individual quota. EAs are managed as a condition of licence. The EA Program is  
27 described in ANNEX F.

#### 28 **7.5 Quota Reconciliation**

29 Quota reconciliation is the process of deducting inadvertent quota overruns from one year  
30 to the next, with the enterprise(s) paying for the full allocation, and fishing only that  
31 portion remaining after the previous year's overruns have been deducted. This procedure  
32 is applied to all sectors participating in this fishery.  
33

34 Quota reconciliation is not a penalty or sanction; it is an accounting of overruns to ensure  
35 that quotas are respected. However, for the inshore fleet, DFO will close fisheries when  
36 established quotas are reached or projected to be reached, and those who continue to fish  
37 after the closure may be subject to prosecution.

#### 38 **7.5.1 >100' Sector Season Bridging**

39 Season bridging was first introduced in 2007. Season bridging refers to a licence holder  
40 1) borrowing from the following year's quota to be fished in the current year; or 2)  
41 transferring some of the current year's unused quota to be caught in the following year  
42 (carry forward). The ability to season bridge provides the >100' sector harvesters with  
43 increased flexibility to better prosecute the fishery and adjust to mechanical problem,  
44 weather and ice conditions and resource availability. This policy applies to >100' sector

1 licence holders in Davis Strait East and West and SFAs 4 – 6 without limitation when the  
2 stock is in the Healthy Zone. “Without limitation” means that all 17 licences could carry  
3 forward or borrow their permitted amount of quota in the same SFA. Should there be a  
4 conservation concern in a particular SFA as evidenced by its positioning in the Cautious  
5 zone of the PA framework, season bridging amounts may be capped or suspended in that  
6 particular SFA, as has been the case in SFA 6 since 2012.

7  
8 The >100’ sector licence holders may each carry forward a total of 750t from the  
9 previous year’s uncaught commercial quota, with no limitation in any Healthy SFA, that  
10 must be fished during the first 90 days (April 1 – June 30) of the new fishing seasons for  
11 SFAs 5 and 6, and the first 120 days (April 1 – July 31) for Davis Strait and SFA 4.

12  
13 Licence holders may borrow up to 500t from the next year’s quota in SFAs 4 – 6 and  
14 Davis Strait, with no limitation in any Healthy SFA, to be fished during the last 30 days  
15 (March 1 – 31) of the fishing season.

### 16 **7.5.2 Inshore Fleet Season Bridging**

17 Beginning in 2012, Season bridging for the inshore shrimp fleet allowed limited bridging  
18 of unharvested quota in SFA 6 from one year to the next, contingent on the stock being in  
19 the Healthy Zone. Should there be a conservation concern in a particular SFA as  
20 evidenced by its positioning in the Cautious zone of the PA framework, season bridging  
21 amounts may be capped or suspended. Fleets have the opportunity to request carry  
22 forward prior to the end of the fishing season. Carry forward will be limited to 5% of the  
23 inshore fleet’s quota up to a maximum of 1,500t.

### 24 25 **7.6 Fishing Gear Restrictions**

26 The minimum mesh size authorized while fishing for shrimp is 40mm throughout the  
27 otter trawl. The minimum mesh size requirement is regulated through the *Atlantic*  
28 *Fishery Regulations, 1985*.

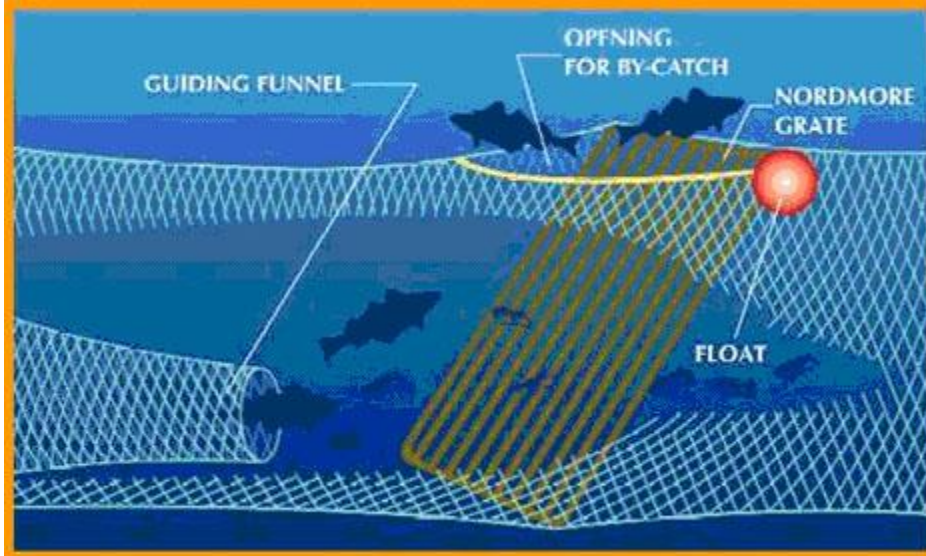
29  
30 The otter trawl must be configured with toggle and chain lengths set to a minimum of  
31 71.12cm (28 inches), length measured from the centre of the toggle hole to the fishing  
32 line (bolch line) for both > 100’ sector and inshore vessels.

#### 33 34 *Nordmore Grate*

35 As a result of concerns about the level of by-catch of marine mammals, turtle and  
36 groundfish species by the small-meshed shrimp trawls and the effect on their populations,  
37 an exclusion device known as the Nordmore grate was introduced in the Canadian shrimp  
38 fishery in 1993. This device sorts out the larger species, allowing them to escape through  
39 an opening in the top of the net, while allowing smaller shrimp to pass through and be  
40 retained in the cod-end of the net (Figure 10).

41  
42 Although grates were not mandatory in the most northern areas prior to 1997, the >100’  
43 shrimp sector had been using them voluntarily in all areas for some time. In 1997, the  
44 grate was made mandatory in all areas and is now required in all shrimp trawls, in all  
45 SFAs, at all times. The maximum grate spacing for the inshore shrimp trawlers is 22mm.

1 The >100' shrimp sector uses a 22mm in SFAs 0, 1, 6, 7, and outside the Canadian  
2 Fisheries Waters in 3L, and 28mm grate in the EAZ, WAZ, and SFAs 4 and 5.



3  
4  
5 Figure 10 – Nordmore Grate

### 6 **7.7 Incidental Catch**

7  
8  
9 Information on bycatch is obtained by the Department from logbooks completed and  
10 submitted by industry, and from observer data. DFO Science compiles data and produces  
11 reports and updates.

12  
13 Minimizing the bycatch of groundfish in all Atlantic fisheries is extremely important  
14 given the conservation concerns for the groundfish stocks and the management measures  
15 in place for their protection. All shrimp vessels fishing in Canadian waters use sorting  
16 grates to separate and release marine mammals, turtles and groundfish (and other finfish)  
17 species. Further efforts to minimize by-catch may be required with the listing of  
18 additional protected species under the SARA. Closed areas are an additional measure to  
19 minimize bycatches and negative interaction with groundfish and other species. In  
20 absolute and relative terms, and especially compared to shrimp fisheries in many other  
21 parts of the world, bycatches in the Northern shrimp fishery are very low – averaging less  
22 than [2%] of the directed shrimp catch by weight.

23  
24 A number of provisions are employed with respect to incidental catch in the Northern  
25 shrimp fishery. These include:

- 26  
27
- 28 • All incidentally caught species shall be returned to the water from where they were  
29 taken and where alive in a manner that causes the least harm.
  - 30 • In the event that the total incidental catch of all groundfish species in any set exceeds  
31 the greater of 2.5% or 100 kg total weight, the licence holder/operator must  
32 immediately change the vessel's fishing area by a minimum of 10 nautical miles from  
any coordinate during the last tow.

- 1 • If total bycatches of capelin in any haul exceed the greater of 5 metric tonnes or 10  
2 percent by weight of the catch of shrimp, the licence holder/operator shall employ  
3 active avoidance measures to reduce capelin bycatch. If a subsequent tow is made in  
4 the same area within 72 hours of the first tow and the subsequent haul contains  
5 bycatches of capelin exceeding 5 metric tonnes or 10 percent by weight of the catch  
6 of shrimp, the licence holder/operator must change fishing area by a minimum of 10  
7 nautical miles from any position of that tow. The operator must record in the logbook  
8 the active avoidance measures taken in response to the first haul which contains  
9 excessive capelin bycatch. The operator must also record in the logbook the position  
10 (latitude and longitude) at time of capelin bycatch, as well as the quantity caught by  
11 weight in kilograms.

### 12 13 **7.8 Control and Monitoring of Removals**

14  
15 Access to Northern shrimp stocks is regulated through fishing licences, and measures that  
16 include, but are not limited to shrimp fishing area, season, quotas and enterprise  
17 allocations, and gear specifications.

18  
19 At-sea observers monitor for compliance of the management measures including by-  
20 catch, discarding and highgrading, gear restrictions, area and closed time provisions.  
21 Observers also collect valuable scientific information including size composition, catch,  
22 effort, by-catch composition etc. Dockside monitoring by a certified Dockside  
23 Monitoring company is conducted on all landings from the inshore fleet. Dockside  
24 monitoring of shrimp landed from the >100' shrimp sector is not required because of the  
25 100% observer coverage. Completion and submission of accurate fishing log books and  
26 fish purchase slips are required.

### 27 28 **7.9 Quota Monitoring and Bycatch**

29  
30 Catch estimates including bycatch levels are supplied by the licence holder on a daily  
31 basis. This is supplied through the completion and submission of a fishing logbook. For  
32 vessels >100', a daily hail on catch is required.

33  
34 Observers estimate catch and by-catch based on observations of catches within the  
35 codend and by estimating the total packout product weight. All shrimp caught must be  
36 counted against the quota.

37  
38 Additional information on compliance protocol for Northern shrimp is at Section 9.

### 39 40 **7.10 Decision Rules**

41  
42 As described, for each SFA there are rules related to TAC level, gear type, season and  
43 closed areas, as well as other limits as outlined in the Northern shrimp condition of  
44 licence. Additionally, the PA Framework requires that Harvest Decision Rules are  
45 developed that provide details on the harvest rates and possibly other management  
46 procedures that are required in each zone, or steps within a zone. These management



1 actions are designed to achieve the desired outcome by affecting the removal rate. For  
2 Northern shrimp, the spawning stock biomass is used to determine what PA zone the  
3 stock is in – Healthy, Cautious or Critical. Ultimately, the Minister has full authority on  
4 setting TACs.

5  
6 Past management decisions, including TACs, for Northern shrimp can be found here:  
7 <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/decisions/index-eng.htm>

8  
9 The PA is described in section 2.6, and the Harvest Decision Rules are at ANNEX I.

## 10 11 **7.11 Licencing**

12 The Northern shrimp fishery is a limited entry fishery with no new licences available.  
13 Only those who held a licence in the previous year will be eligible for renewal of that  
14 licence in the current year. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has absolute discretion  
15 under the *Fisheries Act* for the issuance of fishing licences. Licences may be reissued to a  
16 new licence holder upon the request of the current licence holder. In the case of offshore  
17 corporations, only those that have a majority of Canadian ownership are eligible to obtain  
18 licences. Generally, in the inshore fishery, only independent core fish harvesters are  
19 eligible to obtain a licence, they may decide to hold this licence in their wholly-owned  
20 corporations.

21 Nunavut sub-allocation recipients receive a temporary licence.

### 22 *Additional Inshore Licencing/ Allocation Measures- NL*

- 23 • Beam Trawl Licences:
  - 24 ○ 3K and 3L Shrimp beam trawl licences cannot be converted to otter trawl
  - 25 licences,
  - 26 ○ 3K and 3L Shrimp beam licences are not eligible for reissuance.
- 27 • SFA 4 Licences:
  - 28 ○ SFA 4 Northern shrimp licences may be reissued to an eligible 3L
  - 29 Independent Core fish harvester who does not currently hold a Northern
  - 30 shrimp licence.
  - 31 ○ Reissuance of SFA 4 Northern shrimp licences to individuals or entities in
  - 32 NAFO Division 2GHJ may be considered.
  - 33 ○ The permanent transfer of allocations from the SFA 4 inshore Northern
  - 34 shrimp fleet to the >100' shrimp sector is not permitted.
- 35 • Other general licencing policy provisions will apply.

### 36 37 Enterprise Combining & Licence Combining in the Inshore Sector

38 Enterprise combining is a voluntary fleet self-rationalization policy which allows most  
39 shrimp licence holders in Newfoundland and Labrador to acquire Northern shrimp from  
40 an enterprise within the same NAFO Division that is exiting the industry; other eligibility  
41 provisions apply. Licence Combining is similar to Enterprise Combining but does not  
42 require the enterprise holding the shrimp licence to exit the fishery, all other licences in  
43 the enterprise will not be cancelled. A maximum of four harvest caps may be held by one  
44 enterprise, however 3K south based enterprises hold a maximum of five harvest caps; this  
45 in order to reach a level of parity with a fully combined 3K north based enterprise Shrimp

1 Fishing Area 6 Northern shrimp licence. Shrimp beam trawl licences in 3KL and 3L are  
2 not eligible for enterprise combining. In addition, inshore enterprise allocations (EAs) in  
3 SFA 4 are eligible for combining within SFA 4.  
4

### 5 **7.12 Logbooks & Purchase Slips**

6 Catch estimates including by-catch levels are supplied by the licence holder on a daily  
7 basis. This is supplied through the completion and submission of a fishing logbook, either  
8 paper or electronic. For vessels >100 ft, a daily hail on catch is required. All shrimp  
9 caught must be counted against the quota.  
10

11 Logbooks are one of the monitoring tools used in this fishery. Under Section 61 of the  
12 *Fisheries Act*, all licence holders are required to complete and return logbooks to DFO.  
13 Logbooks must be completed accurately, in accordance with instructions provided.  
14 Logbook data is vital to both monitoring catch and for the science assessment process.  
15 Prompt return of logbooks is vital to ensure all logbook data is available for science  
16 assessments in January. The mandatory completion and return of logbook is a condition  
17 of licence. Shrimp purchase slips are required to be submitted by processors.  
18

### 19 **7.13 Dockside Monitoring**

20 The objective of the Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP) is to provide accurate, timely,  
21 and independent third party verification of landings to ensure the TAC is not overrun, and  
22 to ensure licence holders' catches are accurately accounted. DMP constitutes one of the  
23 primary sources of landing information on which the management of the inshore fishery  
24 is based. The fishing industry and the Department are therefore dependent on the  
25 accurate verification of landings by Dockside Monitoring Corporations (DMCs). All  
26 DMP costs are the responsibility of individual fish harvesters or fishing fleets. It is also  
27 the responsibility of licence holders to ensure that monitors who oversee the offloading of  
28 catches are certified by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The dockside monitoring  
29 requirement is managed as a condition of licence.  
30

31 Dockside monitoring by a certified Dockside Monitoring company is conducted on all  
32 inshore fleet landings. Dockside monitoring of shrimp landed from the >100' shrimp  
33 sector is not required because of the 100% observer coverage.  
34

### 35 **7.14 At-Sea Observers**

36 The At-Sea Observer Program was designed to collect independent third party fisheries  
37 data for science, resource management and compliance and deterrence purposes. This  
38 important component of fishery management provides information and an at-sea presence  
39 while fisheries are on-going. At-Sea Observers observe, record and report detailed  
40 biological and fishery data, such as size composition, catch, bycatch composition, fishing  
41 effort and all catch data, fishing gear type, fishing location, discarding and highgrading,  
42 gear restrictions, area and closed time provisions, etc.

43 The fishery is monitored by extensive industry-funded at-sea observer coverage. The  
44 >100' shrimp sector and Nunavut temporary licence holders carry 100% observer  
45 coverage resulting in approximately 2000 observer days annually. Observer coverage  
46 requirement for the inshore fleet is based on a 10% coverage target. Inshore licence

1 holders are required to carry at-sea observers at the request of DFO. Licence conditions  
2 are not valid unless a letter of arrangement from the observer company is attached  
3 confirming payment of observer fees. The at-sea observer requirement is managed as a  
4 condition of licence.

#### 5 **7.15 Vessel Monitoring System**

6 As a means to ensure compliance with regulations regarding the area fished, mandatory  
7 use of the electronic vessel monitoring system (VMS) was fully implemented in 2004.  
8 By utilizing VMS in the fishery there is more accurate, complete and detailed statistical  
9 information on the location and timing of fishing activity for DFO Science and Fisheries  
10 Management, and improved compliance for restricted areas and more efficient  
11 deployments of Conservation and Protection (C&P) resources. VMS includes an  
12 automatic location and communication (ALC) device that will transmit the vessel's  
13 position to DFO. Fish harvesters are responsible for covering the cost of the ALC device,  
14 its installation on-board their vessel, and the cost of operations. The VMS requirement is  
15 managed as a condition of licence.

#### 16 17 **7.16 NAFO Regulatory Area**

18 NAFO REGULATORY AREA – The Northern shrimp fishing licence is not valid for  
19 operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) unless the NAFO Schedule is attached  
20 and the licence holder/operator has received a briefing from the Offshore Compliance  
21 Unit, NL Region. While operating in the NRA outside Canadian Fisheries Waters, the  
22 licence holder/operator shall abide by the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement  
23 Measures.

#### 24 25 **7.17 Land Claims Restrictions**

26 Fishing for shrimp is only permitted in the NSA as defined in the Nunavut Land Claims  
27 Agreement (NLCA), or in the NMR as defined in the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims  
28 Agreement (NILCA) to enterprises that receive allocations in these areas, as amended  
29 from time to time.

#### 30 31 **7.18 Species at Risk Act**

32  
33 The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) came into force in 2003. Under the SARA species may  
34 be identified as “at risk”. The purposes of the Act are: “...to prevent wildlife species  
35 from being extirpated or becoming extinct, to provide for the recovery of wildlife species  
36 that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity and to manage  
37 species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.” A  
38 main issue related to species at risk is the incidental capture of species of Wolffish. Their  
39 status as species at risk in Canada results in legal protection and mandatory recovery  
40 requirements. Protection under the Act prohibits killing, harming and harassing of  
41 individuals and also prohibits damaging or destroying their residence, i.e., protection of  
42 critical habitat.

43  
44 Three species of Wolffish are commonly caught as bycatch. Two species, the Northern  
45 wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and the Spotted wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), are  
46 listed as “threatened” under SARA and therefore prohibitions apply. Both species have

1 undergone a decline in population size of more than 90% since the late 1970's. For these  
2 two species, current management measures, as conditions of licence for the fishery,  
3 require that they be returned to the water at the site where they are captured. Release  
4 should be done as quickly as possible without harm to the Wolffish in order to maximize  
5 the animal's survival, however, dead wolffish must also be returned to the water. A third  
6 species, the Striped wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*), is listed as "special concern" and is also  
7 protected under SARA. Conditions of licence require reporting of interactions with  
8 wolffish while conducting fishing operations, in the logbook.

9  
10 To address the condition of these wolffiish species, DFO, in conjunction with industry,  
11 fish harvesters and other governmental departments, has developed a *Recovery Strategy*  
12 *for Northern Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish, and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish*  
13 *in Canada* that has identified actions to protect and recover these species.

14  
15 The Species at Risk Public Registry can be accessed at: [http://www.registrelep-](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/index/default_e.cfm)  
16 [sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/index/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/index/default_e.cfm)

### 17 18 **7.19 Other Inshore Management Measures, NL Region**

- 19• All shrimp harvested must be landed
- 20• Freezing of shrimp is not permitted on the vessel during any trip, except the four SFA 4  
21 licence holders
- 22• Mechanical shrimp sorting device are not authorized on board the vessel
- 23• The Licence Holder/Operator shall not fish in more than one Shrimp Fishing Area during  
24 the same Shrimp fishing trip, unless there is an At-sea Observer onboard the fishing  
25 vessel. If an At-sea Observer is onboard the fishing vessel, the Licence Holder/Operator  
26 is authorized to fish multiple Shrimp Fishing Areas during the same trip
- 27• The Licence Holder/Operator shall not fish in more than one Shrimp Fishing Area during  
28 the same tow
- 29• Under existing regulations, transport licenses are required to transport Northern shrimp  
30 by vessels other than fishing vessels. For the inshore fleet transport licences will only be  
31 issued for transporting Northern shrimp that has been landed on shore. Transhipment  
32 from inshore fishing vessels is not authorized

## 33 34 **8 SHARED STEWARDSHIP ARRANGEMENTS**

35  
36 There are mechanisms not based on policy or a regulatory framework that allow the  
37 Department to advance conservation aspects of the Northern shrimp fishery.

### 38 39 **8.1 Working Groups**

- 40 Working Groups: There are several NSAC Working Groups established to address  
41 ongoing issues or resolve one time occurrences. Ongoing working groups include:
- 42 • Marine Stewardship Council – aids industry in maintaining their MSC certification,  
43 which was achieved in 2008
  - 44 • Ecosystems – looks at issues such as closed areas, corals and sponges, and other  
45 ecosystem related concerns
  - 46 • Precautionary Approach – established to improve the current PA

- 1 • SFA 1 PA – established to develop HDRs and a PA for SFA 1, which is a shared  
2 stock with Greenland
- 3 • DFO Science / Resource Management / Industry Working Group – established to  
4 look at issues and make recommendations to NSAC on issues where Science and  
5 Resource Management intersect.

## 6 7 **8.2 Northern Shrimp Research Foundation**

8  
9 DFO has partnered with the Northern Shrimp Research Foundation (NSRF) to conduct a  
10 shrimp survey in SFA 4 and the EAZ since 2005. In 2012, section 10 of the *Fisheries Act*  
11 was adopted, which changed the administrative rules around Joint Projects. Beginning in  
12 2014 the NSRF and DFO also worked collaboratively to do the science survey in the  
13 Western Assessment Zone. This survey is the only independent source of information of  
14 shrimp stocks in these areas, providing the necessary information for determining stock  
15 status in the Precautionary Approach Framework and informing decisions on TAC.

16  
17 Beginning in 2013 and subject to annual Ministerial approvals, a 1,700t allocation of  
18 shrimp from SFA 4 has been used to generate the financing required to cover the costs of  
19 the Northern shrimp survey pursuant to section 10 of the *Fisheries Act*. For this work,  
20 DFO enters into a collaborative agreement with the NSRF to perform the activities. The  
21 quota for the surveys was added as a NSRF allocation in SFA 4 and generates proceeds  
22 of approximately \$1.5 million to fully cover costs of the survey conducted by NSRF.

23  
24 As per the draft National Policy for Allocating Fish for Financing Purposes, project  
25 proponents must demonstrate support (2/3 majority) for both the proposal and the  
26 allocation that will be set aside to finance the activity before it is approved by the  
27 Department.

## 28 29 **8.3 Closed Areas**

30  
31 Information on closed areas, including voluntary closures can be found in section 7.3.

## 32 33 **9 COMPLIANCE PLAN**

34  
35 The Conservation and Protection program promotes and maintains compliance with  
36 legislation, regulations and management measures implemented to achieve the  
37 conservation and sustainable use of Canada's aquatic resources, and the protection of  
38 species at risk, fish habitat and oceans.

39  
40 The program is delivered through a balanced regulatory management and enforcement  
41 approach including:

- 42  
43 • Promotion of compliance through education and shared stewardship;
- 44 • Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities; and,
- 45 • Management of major cases /special investigations in relation to complex  
46 compliance issues.

1 The deployment of Conversation and Protection resources in the northern shrimp fishery  
2 is conducted in conjunction with the management plan objectives as well as in response  
3 to emerging issues. The mix of enforcement options available and overriding  
4 conservation objectives determine the level and type of enforcement activity. The  
5 enforcement operational planning process is designed to establish priorities based on  
6 management objectives and conservation concerns. The monitoring and evaluation  
7 elements of enforcement operational plans facilitate in-season adjustments should  
8 conservation concerns and/or significant non-compliance emerge. Additionally, the  
9 National Fisheries Intelligence Service (NFIS) is to have a growing role in advising  
10 Conversation and Protection programs through intelligence-led, fully integrated, threat-  
11 risk based priority setting and decision making practices.

## 12 **9.1 Regional Compliance Program Delivery**

13  
14 Conservation and Protection is responsible for compliance and enforcement work related  
15 to all the regional fisheries, as well as habitat, the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program,  
16 and other activities. Given the magnitude of the task, allocation of time towards a specific  
17 fishery is based in large part on an assessment of risk to the resource. In relation to the  
18 Northern shrimp fishery, the primary activities conducted by C&P include the following:  
19

### 20 • **Education and Shared Stewardship**

21 Conservation and Protection Supervisors and Area Chiefs will actively participate in  
22 annual consultations with the fishing industry and Indigenous organizations. Compliance  
23 issues will be presented and recommendations requested for resolution. As well,  
24 informal meetings will continue as required to resolve in-season matters.  
25

26 As part of its activities under the education pillar, C&P will present and discuss fisheries  
27 conservation with fishers on a regular basis. The resulting information will be used as  
28 part of the planning process within C&P.  
29

### 30 • **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance**

31  
32 C&P promotes compliance with the management measures governing the northern  
33 shrimp fishery by the following means:  
34

35 ***Patrols and Inspections:*** C&P Detachments will conduct shrimp patrols by vehicle,  
36 vessel, and fixed wing aircraft in accordance with national/regional priorities and  
37 operational plan. Detachments will ensure that monitoring and inspections of fish landing  
38 activity are carried out.  
39

40 ***Dockside Monitoring:*** The Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP) provides for  
41 independent third-party verification of landed catch in metric units by a DFO certified  
42 Dockside Observers. DMP is required in the northern shrimp fishery for all landings from  
43 <100ft vessels, but is not currently required on shrimp landed from >100ft vessels due to  
44 100% observer coverage.

1 **Aerial Surveillance:** Conservation and Protection will ensure that surveillance flights are  
2 conducted throughout the season as part of the operational plan. Dedicated air  
3 surveillance patrols are conducted in the northern shrimp fishery areas utilizing both  
4 Transport Canada and DFO contracted air surveillance aircraft.

5  
6 **Vessel Monitoring:** The VMS system will be relied upon to provide real-time data on the  
7 location of vessels within this fleet. Utilization of this resource will assist officers in  
8 monitoring fishing activity, monitoring closed areas, deploying resources, determining  
9 the port of destination and the estimated time of arrival to port. The VMS data will also  
10 be relied upon to conduct future analysis and comparisons of fishing activity.  
11 Additionally, for more complete coverage, there is an agreement in place with Greenland  
12 to share VMS data.

13  
14 **At-sea Observer Program:** At-Sea Observers will be deployed in accordance with the  
15 established deployment plan to observe record and report aspects of the fishing activity.  
16 The resulting data will be utilized to compare reported catch composition of vessels  
17 against other available sources of information (DMP, Logbooks, observed trips vs. non-  
18 observed trips). There is 100% Observer Coverage for vessels over 100 feet and 10% for  
19 smaller inshore vessels, other requirements include daily hails, catch reports and port  
20 entry reports.

21  
22 Fishery Officers will review quota monitoring reports to ensure individual quotas are not  
23 exceeded.

## 24 **9.2 Consultation**

25  
26  
27 Shared stewardship and education are achieved in Northern Shrimp Fishery through a  
28 renewed emphasis on the importance of C&P communication with the community at  
29 large including:

- 30
- 31 • C&P participation in advisory meetings with Resource Management, other DFO
  - 32 branches and industry to determine expectations in relation to monitoring, control and
  - 33 surveillance activities.
  - 34 • Presentations to client/stakeholder groups, including school visits or community
  - 35 awareness programs.
  - 36 • Informal interaction with all parties involved in the fishery on the wharf, during
  - 37 patrols or in the community to promote conservation.
  - 38 • Internal DFO consultation with Resource Management and other DFO branches to
  - 39 assess the effectiveness of enforcement activities and to develop recommendations for
  - 40 the upcoming season.

## 41 42 **9.3 Compliance Performance**

43  
44 Post season analysis sessions will be conducted between C&P and Resource Management  
45 staff to review issues encountered during the previous season and to make

1 recommendations on improving management measures. The initial sessions will be  
 2 conducted at the Area level, followed by a regional session that will be held with other  
 3 sectors.

4  
 5 The C&P program captures and maintains compliance activity information, The  
 6 following table gives a breakdown of Fishery Officer enforcement effort and compliance  
 7 results in the shrimp fishery for the past five years.

8 **TABLE 2 Northern Shrimp- Enforcement Summary**

Year	Fishery Officer Patrol Hours	Violation Break-down					
		Warning Issued	Charges Laid	Charges Pending	Charges not Approved	NAFO Citations	Tickets Issued
2012	980.5	27	6	0	0	0	0
2013	815	29	9	1	1	0	0
2014	829.75	24	5	0	0	1	0
2015	686	31	5	5	3	0	0
2016	667.5	23	1	9	0	0	0

9  
 10 **9.4 Current Compliance Issues**

11 Conservation and Protection issues may differ for the >100' sector and the inshore fleet  
 12 but overall include: fishing gear requirements; quota monitoring; by-catch; highgrading;  
 13 licence conditions; dockside monitoring requirements; shrimp species verification of  
 14 borealis or montagui; and, area/time closures.

15  
 16 Compliance concerns in this fishery include fishing closed areas, hail requirements for  
 17 port entry, bycatch, discards, and misreporting of the species and /or area of capture. The  
 18 objective to address the issues are to minimize compliance concerns while ensure  
 19 compliance with the management measures as outlined in the Strategy.

20  
 21 **9.5 Compliance Strategy**

22  
 23 C&P develops operational plans that outline monitoring and compliance activities that  
 24 will be carried out by C&P personnel adjacent to shrimp management areas. C&P  
 25 Regions collaborate on the development of these operational plans, both formally (e.g.  
 26 Northern Operations Committee) and informally. Detachment's will promote effective  
 27 monitoring and enable personnel to effectively maintain compliance with management  
 28 measures.

29  
 30 The objectives of the operational plans are to provide a body of information that will  
 31 provide guidance to C&P personnel, while engaged in monitoring and reviewing of  
 32 fisheries, to ensure compliance and conduct investigations. Sources of information to be  
 33 used include vessel positioning data, officer inspection data, fishing logs, DMP records,  
 34 briefing and de-briefing of observers, and at sea observer records. Operational plans and  
 35 program results will be routinely assessed to ensure compliance principles are met.



1  
2 Compliance strategies include:

- 3
- 4 • Compliance promotion activities with all stakeholders
  - 5 • Stewardship activities including the NSAC sub-committee on conservation and  
6 compliance
  - 7 • Report-a-Poacher program through crime stoppers
  - 8 • Scheduled dedicated and multi-tasked air surveillance , and other sea surveillance as  
9 per operational requirements
  - 10 • 100% coverage of At-Sea Observers for the > 100' sector
  - 11 • 100% dockside monitoring for inshore vessels, and other dockside checks
  - 12 • Auditing of landings data
  - 13 • Investigating non-compliance
  - 14 • Taking enforcement actions including warnings and prosecutions where  
15 noncompliance is detected
  - 16 • Enforcing Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) requirements, including an agreement  
17 with Greenland on sharing of VMS data
  - 18 • Working with other enforcement partners, including Transport Canada (use of  
19 surveillance aircraft), Department of National Defence (vessel and surveillance  
20 aircraft use, as available) and Greenlandic Fisheries Authorities (exchange of  
21 information and best practices).
- 22

## 23 **10 PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

24  
25 The Sustainability Survey for Fisheries is completed annually to help DFO self-assess  
26 progress towards sustainability, identify gaps in knowledge and practices, and to report  
27 externally on performance and progress towards sustainable management of fisheries.

28  
29 Under multiyear management, every second year NSAC convenes to discuss current  
30 science advice, management measures and performance of the fishery. The NSAC  
31 meeting is an opportunity for stakeholders to review the fishery, and raise any point or  
32 concern and if necessary, propose changes to management that could improve the  
33 operations and/ or overall sustainability.

34  
35 A regular review of the Northern shrimp fishery is conducted at NSAC meetings and  
36 includes an assessment of whether the objectives are being achieved and key  
37 management issues are being addressed. Stakeholder experience and feedback,  
38 information gathered through other evaluation processes and science assessments are  
39 used to identify and determine key issues and objectives, as well as potential strategies  
40 for achieving outcomes.

## 41 **11. Glossary**

42  
43 *Abundance*: Number of individuals in a stock or a population.

44  
45 *Age Composition*: Proportion of individuals of different ages in a stock or in the catches.

1  
2 *Biomass*: total weight of all individuals in a stock or a population.  
3  
4 *Bycatch*: The unintentional catch of one species when the target is another.  
5  
6 *Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE)*: The amount caught for a given fishing effort. Ex: tonnes  
7 of shrimp per tow, kilograms of fish per hundred longline hooks.  
8  
9 *Communal Commercial Licence*: Licence issued to Indigenous organizations pursuant to  
10 the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations* for participation in the general  
11 commercial fishery.  
12  
13 *Discards*: Portion of a catch thrown back into the water after they are caught in fishing  
14 gear.  
15  
16 *Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP)*: A monitoring program that is conducted by a  
17 company that has been designated by the Department, which verifies the species  
18 composition and landed weight of all fish landed from a commercial fishing vessel.  
19  
20 *Ecosystem-Based Management*: Taking into account species interactions and the  
21 interdependencies between species and their habitats when making resource management  
22 decisions.  
23  
24 *Fishing Effort*: Quantity of effort using a given fishing gear over a given period of time.  
25  
26 *Fishing Mortality*: Death caused by fishing, often symbolized by the mathematical  
27 symbol  $F$ .  
28  
29 *Fixed Gear*: A type of fishing gear that is set in a stationary position. These include traps,  
30 weirs, gillnets, longlines and handlines.  
31  
32 *Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC)*: A fishery conducted by Indigenous groups for food,  
33 social and ceremonial purposes.  
34  
35 *Gillnet*: Fishing gear: netting with weights on the bottom and floats at the top used to  
36 catch fish. Gillnets can be set at different depths and are anchored to the seabed.  
37  
38 *Groundfish*: Species of fish living near the bottom such as cod, haddock, halibut and  
39 flatfish.  
40  
41 *Landings*: Quantity of a species caught and landed.  
42  
43 *Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)*: Largest average catch that can continuously be taken  
44 from a stock.  
45

1 *Mesh Size*: Size of the mesh of a net. Different fisheries have different minimum mesh  
2 size regulation.  
3

4 *Mobile Gear*: A type of fishing gear that is drawn through the water by a vessel to entrap  
5 fish. These include otter trawls and Danish/Scottish Seines.  
6

7 *Natural Mortality*: Mortality due to natural causes, symbolized by the mathematical  
8 symbol M.  
9

10 *Observer Coverage*: When a licence holder is required to carry an officially recognized  
11 observer onboard their vessel for a specific period of time to verify the amount of fish  
12 caught, the area in which it was caught and the method by which it was caught.  
13

14 *Pelagic*: A pelagic species, such as herring, lives in midwater or close to the surface.  
15

16 *Population*: Group of individuals of the same species, forming a breeding unit, and  
17 sharing a habitat.  
18

19 *Precautionary Approach*: in fisheries management is about being cautious when  
20 scientific knowledge is uncertain, and not using the absence of adequate scientific  
21 information as a reason to postpone action or failure to take action to avoid serious harm  
22 to fish stocks or their ecosystem. This approach is widely accepted as an essential part of  
23 sustainable fisheries management.  
24

25 *Quota*: Portion of the total allowable catch that a unit such as vessel class, country, etc. is  
26 permitted to take from a stock in a given period of time.  
27

28 *Recruitment*: Amount of individuals becoming part of the exploitable stock e.g. that can  
29 be caught in a fishery.  
30

31 *Research Survey*: Survey at sea, on a research vessel, allowing scientists to obtain  
32 information on the abundance and distribution of various species and/or collect  
33 oceanographic data. Ex: bottom trawl survey, plankton survey, hydroacoustic survey, etc.  
34

35 *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*: The Act is a federal government commitment to prevent  
36 wildlife species from becoming extinct and secure the necessary actions for their  
37 recovery. It provides the legal protection of wildlife species and the conservation of their  
38 biological diversity.  
39

40 *Spawner*: Sexually mature individual.  
41

42 *Spawning Stock*: Sexually mature individuals in a stock.  
43

44 *Stock*: Describes a population of individuals of one species found in a particular area, and  
45 is used as a unit for fisheries management. Ex: NAFO area 4R herring.  
46

1 *Stock Assessment*: Scientific evaluation of the status of a species belonging to a same  
2 stock within a particular area in a given time period.

3  
4 *Total Allowable Catch (TAC)*: The amount of catch that may be taken from a stock.

5  
6 *Tonne*: Metric tonne, which is 1000kg or 2204.6lbs.

7  
8 *Trawl*: Fishing gear: cone-shaped net towed in the water by a boat called a "trawler".  
9 Bottom trawls are towed along the ocean floor to catch species such as groundfish. Mid-  
10 water trawls are towed within the water column.

11  
12 *Validation*: The verification, by an observer, of the weight of fish landed.

13  
14 *Vessel Size*: Length overall.

15  
16 *Year-class*: Individuals of a same stock born in a particular year. Also called "cohort".  
17

## 18 ANNEXES

### 19 ANNEX A - History of the Northern Shrimp Fishery

#### 20 21 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

22  
23 The Northern shrimp fishery began back in the early 1970s when DFO conducted  
24 exploratory cruises that verified the presence of shrimp stocks off Newfoundland and  
25 Labrador.

26  
27 In 1977, four Canadian companies (all with Gulf-based processing facilities) were  
28 licensed to prosecute the Labrador shrimp fishery under co-operative arrangements to  
29 determine the commercial feasibility of harvesting these stocks.

30  
31 Landings continued to increase significantly into the 1980s and 1990s, and additional  
32 offshore licences were added; by 1991 there were 17, and no additional offshore licences  
33 have been issued since this time.

34  
35  
36 In 1989 the Enterprise Allocation (EA) regime, which was introduced in 1987 on a trial  
37 basis was adopted permanently, with the introduction of mandatory, industry paid,  
38 observer coverage.

39  
40 During the early years, many licence holders reduced their risk by using foreign vessels  
41 to harvest allocations of Northern shrimp. By 1990, all licence holders were required to  
42 use Canadian flagged vessels with Canadian crews to harvest all allocations. The  
43 exception to this rule is the use of replacement vessels on a temporary basis.  
44

1 In 1996, then Minister Mifflin announced that DFO was calling for proposals on  
2 principles for the sharing of potential quota increases as the fishery expanded to include  
3 inshore and special allocation holders.

4  
5 In 1996, the >100' shrimp sector held quota in all SFAs except for SFA 7; these 1996  
6 amounts in each SFA were the thresholds below which sharing to no offshore entities  
7 would cease and formed the foundation of the LIFO policy. Additionally, the total 1996  
8 quota (36,700t) was considered an overall threshold, meaning that if a TAC fell below the  
9 threshold in one area, it could preclude sharing in another.

10  
11 In 1997, existing licence holders supported the sharing of quota increases as the fishery  
12 opened to other stakeholders.

13  
14 In 2010, due to a declining biomass in SFA 6, the LIFO principle was triggered for the  
15 first time resulting in the complete removal of two special allocation holders. The  
16 remainder of the reductions was shared by the inshore and >100' shrimp sectors at 10%  
17 and 90% respectively. The remaining special allocation holders were not affected. With  
18 the exception of 2015, LIFO continued to be triggered every year in SFA 5, 6 and / or 7  
19 until it was abolished in 2016, which resulted in the full or partial removal of several  
20 special allocation holders.

21  
22 The reductions and the consequent application of LIFO in 2010 and 2011 lead to an  
23 external review of the principles, policies and methodologies used to apply the reductions  
24 was carried out by Ernst & Young. They concluded that the Department did correctly  
25 interpret and apply the appropriate principles, policies and methodologies to the  
26 reductions; however they noted the Department should endeavour to increase  
27 communication with stakeholders in the future.

28  
29 The Northern shrimp fishery first achieved Marine Stewardship Council certification in  
30 2008, and by 2012, the full > 100' sector and inshore portions of the Northern shrimp  
31 fishery attained joint Marine Stewardship Council Certification.

32  
33 In 2013, the boundaries in the North (SFAs 2 and 3 at the time) were modified to align  
34 with scientific surveys and land claim areas. For the first time, allocations were granted  
35 to Nunavik proper in the Nunavik Marine Region. The boundary change included new  
36 allocations for both species to both Nunavut and Nunavik inside the respective settlement  
37 areas, which comprise the WAZ. The management boards representing Nunavut and  
38 Nunavik agreed to share the TACs 50/50.

39  
40 Also as a result of the boundary changes in 2013, new commercial and exploratory  
41 allocations for borealis and montagui were created for the Eastern Assessment Zone, and  
42 were granted to the >100' sector, as well as Nunavut and Nunavik. The new TACs and  
43 allocations in the EAZ and WAZ are not comparable to 2012 levels or earlier in SFAs 2  
44 and 3.

1 For the 2013/14 season, 1,700t of the increased TAC in SFA 4 was allocated off the top  
2 to the Northern Shrimp Research Foundation survey through the use of fish provision in  
3 the *Fisheries Act*. Additionally, a cap of 4,033t was first placed on montaguui bycatch in  
4 SFA 4.

5  
6 In 2016, LIFO was replaced by proportional sharing in SFAs 4 – 6, with allocation  
7 holders receiving a percent share of the respective TAC. Decisions in the North will be  
8 made on a case by case basis considering Land Claims obligations.

---

## 10 ANNEX B - PROFILE OF ACCESS

11 Need to provide a link\\

## 12 ANNEX C – Information on the Last In, First Out (LIFO) Policy

13 The Last In, First Out (LIFO) principle was a key allocation tool the Department used  
14 between 1996 – 2016. LIFO had been described in principle in all Northern shrimp  
15 IFMPs since 1997, however the term “LIFO” was first used in the 2003 IFMP. The  
16 sharing arrangements and principles agreed to in 1997 formed the basis of LIFO, which  
17 recognized the exploratory work and dependence of the offshore fleet. During the late  
18 1990s, when the shrimp stocks continued to increase, the fishery opened up to other  
19 participants in SFAs 4 – 6. Participation in northern areas began to expand in 1999.

20  
21 LIFO was an approach to sharing the changes in TAC depending on the SFA, and was  
22 described as follows:

23  
24 *To ensure the viability of the traditional, >100' shrimp sector was not jeopardized, the*  
25 *1996 quota levels in each SFA were set as thresholds. Sharing will only take place in a*  
26 *particular SFA if the quota rises above the threshold of that Area. If quotas decline in*  
27 *future years back down to the thresholds, the sharing will end and the new, temporary*  
28 *entrants will leave the fishery. The overall 1996 quota (37,600t) for all Areas combined*  
29 *will also be used as a threshold to determine sharing. Thus a major decline in one or*  
30 *more SFAs could preclude further sharing in any Area. Should there be a decline in the*  
31 *abundance of the resource in the future, temporary participants will be removed from the*  
32 *fishery in reverse order of gaining access – last in, first out. Temporary licences and*  
33 *temporary allocations will only continue as long as the overall threshold level or*  
34 *individual threshold levels are maintained when quotas are set.*

35  
36 In 2006, DFO announced that additional access to the shrimp fishery would be frozen to  
37 encourage stability in the short term. In 2007, the Newfoundland and Labrador's inshore  
38 fleets' temporary licences were converted to regular licences to facilitate the  
39 rationalization of the inshore shrimp fishery through Enterprise Combining.

40  
41 LIFO was applied to manage changes in quotas when the TAC fell to a range below the  
42 threshold for that SFA. . When this occurred, special allocation holders were removed  
43 first from the fishery, with the remainder of the reductions shared among the > 100'

1 sector and inshore fleet according to prearranged sharing formulas, (proportional to how  
2 quota increases had been received) , which varied by SFA.

3  
4 A special allocation was a maximum amount for that group at that TAC level or greater,  
5 with the premise that the special allocation holder entered the fishery at the *previous* TAC  
6 level, at which point their allocation would have been 0. Therefore, the LIFO policy  
7 recognized that a special allocation holder would hold a proportional level of quota if the  
8 TAC was between these two levels.

9  
10 Beginning in 2010, decreases began occurring in the southern range of the Northern  
11 shrimp fishery, triggering the LIFO policy each year in one or more SFAs. LIFO was  
12 applied in 2010 and 2011 in SFA 6. In 2012, LIFO was applied in SFA 6 as a  
13 proportionate increase and in SFA 7 as a proportionate decrease. In 2013, LIFO was  
14 applied to reductions in SFAs 5 and 6. In 2014, the TAC and all allocations were fully  
15 reinstated in SFA 5.

16  
17 In terms of LIFO, SFA 7 was unique in that the fishery began in 2000, after the LIFO  
18 thresholds were announced in 1997. Three allocation holders entered the SFA 7 fishery at  
19 the same time, unlike the other SFAs, and therefore no threshold existed. However, to be  
20 consistent with the management measures in other SFAs, the same principles applied  
21 governing access and allocations in SFA 7. By 2014, the TAC in SFA 7 fell to a level at  
22 which the Miawpukek First Nation held no quota, leaving only the original three  
23 stakeholders; their quotas were reduced to the same proportions as when they first  
24 entered the fishery. Beginning in 2015, the SFA 7 fishery was closed to commercial  
25 fishing.

## 26 27 **Independent Review**

28  
29 The 2010 and 2011 application of LIFO to the reductions in SFAs 6 and 7 led to several  
30 stakeholders in the fishery criticizing the Department's approach publicly and at NSAC  
31 meetings. An independent reviewer (Ernst & Young) was tasked with analyzing whether  
32 the policies, methodologies and principles on applying TAC reductions amongst fleets  
33 and special allocation holders were respected and appropriately applied to the decision  
34 making process for Northern shrimp. Stakeholder participation in the review was high,  
35 with all relevant stakeholders in the fishery, including the > 100' sector and inshore fleet,  
36 special allocation holders, provincial and territorial governments and agencies, and  
37 relevant land claims Management Boards and Inuit organizations, were provided the  
38 opportunity to participate in the process through interviews, open forum discussions,  
39 conference calls, meetings and/or written submissions.

40  
41 The final report determined that the appropriate departmental policies, principles and  
42 methodologies were used in both the TAC reductions that occurred in SFA 6 and with the  
43 application of the LIFO principle as it is defined. It also recommended increased  
44 transparency in the establishment of policies and principles and in their application and  
45 interpretation.

46

1 More information on the independent review can be found at [http://www.dfo-](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/reports-rapports/eap-pce/index-ns-cn-eng.htm)  
2 [mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/reports-rapports/eap-pce/index-ns-cn-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/reports-rapports/eap-pce/index-ns-cn-eng.htm)  
3

#### 4 **Ministerial Advisory Panel (MAP)**

5  
6 LIFO remained a highly contentious issue with varying perspectives from stakeholders  
7 especially when reductions were first applied in 2010. Given the complexity of the issue  
8 and need for a broad range of expertise, a Ministerial Advisory Panel (MAP) comprised  
9 of four individuals was appointed by the Minister in April 2016, tasked with providing  
10 advice on whether the LIFO policy specific to the Northern shrimp fishery should be  
11 continued, modified or abolished.  
12

13 The MAP operated as an independent, external body, however the Department provided  
14 operational and logistic support to their process. The MAP held five public stakeholder  
15 meetings in Newfoundland and Labrador, and one each in Iqaluit and Halifax. It received  
16 41 written submissions and over 100 in-person presentations in an open and transparent  
17 process. All relevant interests in the fishery participated in the review.  
18

19 In the final report delivered to the Minister in June, 2016, the MAP concluded that LIFO  
20 was not a sustainable instrument of public policy. Their principle recommendation was  
21 that LIFO should be replaced by proportional percent shares. The recommendation to  
22 move to percentage shares was approved by the Minister after additional NSAC  
23 consultations with stakeholders on the abolishment of LIFO in SFAs 4 – 6. Percent shares  
24 allow for increased predictability in allocations, and for participants to share equitably in  
25 any changes in TAC. In the northern SFAs, proportional percent shares were not  
26 implemented, rather access and allocation decisions will continue to be made through the  
27 appropriate consultative processes in a manner consistent with the Land Claims  
28 Agreements, on a case by case basis.  
29

30 In establishing the percent shares for the southern areas, adjacency, fairness and  
31 Indigenous access were among the key considerations for the Department.  
32

33 Information related to the MAP process, including Terms of Reference, written  
34 submissions, supplementary MAP recommendations and the MAP's final report and  
35 conclusions can be accessed at:

36  
37 [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/comm/shrimp-crevette/shrimp-](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/comm/shrimp-crevette/shrimp-crevette-eng.htm)  
38 [crevette-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/comm/shrimp-crevette/shrimp-crevette-eng.htm)  
39

#### 40 **ANNEX D Northern shrimp licence holders and their representative organizations**

<b>Year Issued</b>	<b># of Licences</b>	<b>Licence Holder</b>	<b>Representative Organization</b>
1978	2	Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Co. Ltd.	Northern Coalition (NC)
1978	2	Ocean Choice International Inc.,	Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP)



1978	2	Mersey Seafoods Ltd.,	CAPP
1978	1	M.V. Osprey Ltd,	CAPP
1978	1	Crevettes Nordiques,	CAPP
1978	1	Atlantic Shrimp Co. Ltd.,	CAPP
1978	1	Torngat Fish Producers Coop Society Ltd.,	NC
1978	1	Caramer Ltd.,	CAPP
1979	1	Makivik Corp,	NC
1987	1	Pikalujak Fisheries Ltd.,	independent
1987	1	Qikiqtaaluk Corporation,	NC
1987	1	Harbour Grace Shrimp Co.,	CAPP
1987	1	Unaaq Fisheries Inc.,	NC
1991	1	Newfound Resources Ltd.	CAPP

1

2 **ANNEX E - Coordinates of the Fishery**

3

4 Subject to conditions of licence, and not including closed area coordinates, the waters of  
5 the management units in which fishing for shrimp is permitted are:

6

7 (a) In the waters of Management Unit 0: Canadian Fisheries Waters in Davis Strait and  
8 Baffin Bay that lie north of latitude 66°15'N, south of latitude 78°10'N, west of longitude  
9 60°30'W, and east of longitude 80°W.

10

11 (b) In the waters of Management Unit 1: Canadian Fisheries Waters in Davis Strait and  
12 Baffin Bay that lie north of latitude 66°15'N and east of longitude 60°30'W.

13

14 (c) In the waters of Management Unit **Davis Strait East (DS E)**: between 61°N and  
15 66°15'N, east of 63°W and east of the Nunavut Settlement Area.

16

17 (d) In the waters of Management Unit **Davis Strait West (DS W)**: between 60°30'N and  
18 66°15'N west of 63°W and east of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Nunavik Marine  
19 Region.

20

21 (e) In the waters of Management Units Nunavut East (NU E) and/or Nunavik East (NK  
22 E): the area inside the Nunavut Settlement Area east of 66°W; and the area inside the  
23 Nunavik Marine Region east of 66°W and north of 60°30'N. Access to the NSA or the  
24 NMR is limited to those enterprises which have been allocated quotas in these areas,  
25 which is amended from time to time.

1  
2 (f) In the waters of Management Units Nunavut West (NU W) and/or Nunavik West (NK  
3 W): the area inside the NSA bounded by 70°W and 66°W; and the area inside the NMR  
4 bounded by 70°W and 66°W to 60.30°N. Access to the NSA or the NMR is limited to  
5 those enterprises which have been allocated quotas in these areas, which is amended from  
6 time to time.

7  
8 (g) In the waters of Management Unit 4: Canadian Fisheries Waters adjacent to the Coast  
9 of Labrador that lie north of latitude 57°15'N, south of latitude 61°00'N excluding that  
10 portion north of 60.30N, east of the Nunavik Marine Region and Nunavut Settlement  
11 Area and west of 63W longitude.

12  
13 (h) In the waters of Management Unit 5: Canadian Fisheries Waters adjacent to the Coast  
14 of Labrador that lie north of a line drawn from shore at latitude 53°45'N, east to longitude  
15 55°00'W, thence north to latitude 54°45'N, thence east to the outer limits of Canadian  
16 Fisheries Waters and south of latitude 57°15'N.

17  
18 (i) In the waters of Management Unit 6: Canadian Fisheries Waters adjacent to the Coast  
19 of Southern Labrador and Northern Newfoundland that lie north of latitude 49°15'N and  
20 south of a line drawn from shore at latitude 53°45'N, east to longitude 55°00'W, thence  
21 north to latitude 54°45'N, thence east to the outer limits of Canadian Fisheries Waters.  
22

## 23 **ANNEX F - NORTHERN SHRIMP ENTERPRISE ALLOCATION PROGRAM**

### 24 **Establishment and Utilization of Enterprise Allocations**

25 Access and quotas allocated to > 100' sector licence holders are known as enterprise  
26 allocations (EA), and those licence holders shall participate equally in such access and  
27 quotas.

28 EAs shall be based on the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) established for the respective  
29 Northern Shrimp Fishing Areas.

30 EAs to individual licence holders will be in the form of "licence quotas" which are equal  
31 allocations of shrimp expressed in absolute amounts or tonnages.

32 >100' sector licence holders will have equal access to all Northern shrimp stocks and  
33 fishing areas for which the sector has EAs (SFAs 0, 1, 4-6 and MUs Davis Strait. The EA  
34 for each licence, for each SFA, is determined by dividing the quota set for the >100'  
35 sector in that SFA by seventeen (the number of > 100' sector licences in the fishery).

### 36 **Administrative Guidelines for Enterprise Allocations in the Northern Shrimp** 37 **Fishery**

- 38 1. No permanent transfers of EAs between enterprises are permitted.

- 1           2. Inter-enterprise transfers of EAs are permitted on a temporary basis. Quota is  
2           freely transferable between and within enterprises provided that:  
3           ○ the transfer applies only to the current season;  
4           ○ notification of the transfer registered in the EA Temporary Transfer  
5           System (EATTS)  
6           3. Licence holders will have 30 days following the end of the fishing season to  
7           complete transfers in order to cover any inadvertent overruns of their EAs.

8           **ANNEX G - NORTHERN SHRIMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**  
9           **AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

10          **CHAIR**

11          Director General, Resource Management Operations, DFO – Ottawa or by another  
12          representative of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

13          **MEMBERS**

14          Atlantic Shrimp Company Ltd.  
15          Baffin Fisheries Coalition  
16          Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP)  
17          Caramer Limited  
18          Crevettes Nordiques Ltée.  
19          Imakpik Fisheries  
20          Ocean Choice International  
21          Harbour Grace Shrimp Company Ltd.  
22          Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company  
23          Nunatsiavut Government  
24          Makivik Corporation  
25          Mersey Seafoods Ltd.  
26          M.V. Osprey Ltd.  
27          Newfound Resources Ltd.  
28          Northern Coalition  
29          NunatuKavut Community Council  
30          Nunavut Offshore Allocation Holders Association (NOAHA)  
31          P.E.I Atlantic Shrimp Corp.  
32          Pikalujak Fisheries Ltd.  
33          Qikiqtaaluk Corporation  
34          Torngat Fish Producers Cooperative Society Ltd.  
35          Unaaq Fisheries Inc.  
36          Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Environment P.E.I.  
37          Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut  
38          Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec  
39          New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture  
40          Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries and Land Resources  
41          Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
42          DFO - Newfoundland and Labrador Region

- 1 DFO - Quebec Region
- 2 DFO - Maritimes Region
- 3 DFO – Gulf Region
- 4 DFO - Central and Arctic Region
- 5 DFO – Ottawa NHQ
- 6 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- 7 Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
- 8 Nunatsiavut Government
- 9 Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB)
- 10 Association of Seafood Producers (ASP)
- 11 Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (FFAW)
- 12 Fogo Island Co-operative Society
- 13 Innu Nation – Labrador
- 14 Qikiqtani Inuit Association
- 15 Nunavut Tunngavik Inc
- 16 Regroupement des Associations de Pêcheurs de la Basse Côte Nord
- 17 St. Anthony Basin Resources Inc. (SABRI)
- 18 One representative from each FFAW inshore fleet - 2J, 3K north, 3K south, 3L, 4R, and
- 19 the Association des Capitaines Propriétaires de la Gaspésie
- 20

## 21 **PURPOSE**

22 The Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) serves as a forum for the discussion  
 23 of issues on the management and development of the Northern shrimp fishery providing  
 24 advice and recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

## 25 **SCOPE**

26 NSAC will provide input on Integrated Fisheries Management Plans respecting Northern  
 27 shrimp, including but not limited to advice on:

- 28 • quota allocations and other regulatory measures (such as seasons, size limits and
- 29 gear restrictions) and amendments thereto;
- 30 • conservation and compliance issues; and
- 31 • licencing policy.

## 32 **MEMBERSHIP**

33 Membership on the NSAC shall be limited to:

- 34 • one representative of each company that holds a >100' sector Northern shrimp
- 35 fishing licence;
- 36 • one representative of each area and fishers receiving special allocations or holding
- 37 inshore fishery licences;
- 38 • one provincial or territorial or land claim-government representative from each of
- 39 New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward
- 40 Island, Quebec, Nunavut Territory, Nunatsiavut and Nunavik Inuit ,

- 1 • one representative of recognized industry associations/groups
- 2 • representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

### 3 **PROCEDURES**

4 No formal voting procedures will be entrenched in the conduct of the NSAC; rather it  
5 will seek to operate on a consensus basis.

6 Meetings will be convened at dates and times agreed upon by the chair and there will be  
7 at least one meeting every second year. The NSAC may determine that additional  
8 meetings are necessary and request the chair to make arrangements accordingly. The  
9 chair shall be responsible for notifying all members of any meeting.

10 The chair shall establish, in consultation with the NSAC members, agenda items for  
11 NSAC meetings. These items will be subject to the consensus of NSAC members at the  
12 commencement of each meeting.

13 Ad hoc working groups may be established by the NSAC to review specific issues and  
14 report their findings to NSAC as a whole.

15 If a member cannot attend an NSAC meeting, that member may nominate an alternate by  
16 notifying the chair as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

17 Non-members may attend NSAC meetings. They may not sit at the table but can  
18 participate in discussions following input from members.

### 19 **ADMINISTRATION**

20 Summary minutes of each meeting will be prepared in both official languages (French  
21 and English). The summary minutes will be distributed by the Department of Fisheries  
22 and Oceans after they are reviewed and accepted by the chair. Minutes of NSAC  
23 meetings can be found at:

24 <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports-eng.htm#3>

### 25 **ANNEX H – Stock Assessment and Precautionary Approach Framework**

#### 26 Stock Assessment and Precautionary Approach

27

28 The Science Advisory Reports for northern shrimp are available on the DFO Canadian  
29 Science Advisory Secretariat website:

30

31 An assessment of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Shrimp Fishing Areas 4-6 and  
32 of Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) in Shrimp Fishing Areas 4 in 2016:

33 [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2017/2017\\_012-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2017/2017_012-eng.html)

34

35 Assessment of Northern Shrimp, *Pandalus borealis*, and Striped Shrimp, *Pandalus*  
36 *montagui*, in the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones, February 2017:

1 [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2017/2017\\_010-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2017/2017_010-eng.html)

2  
3 SFA 7 is assessed and managed by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization  
4 (NAFO). NAFO 0 + 1 is assessed by NAFO but managed independently by Canada and  
5 Greenland. Science advice can be found on the NAFO website:

6  
7 In order to find the advice for SFA 7, follow the link below and click on Scientific  
8 Advice and then NAFO Stocks. The information for SFA 7 is located in the link entitled:  
9 Northern Shrimp in Div. 3LNO.

10 <http://www.nafo.int/science/nafo-stocks.html>

11  
12 In order to find the advice for NAFO 0 + 1, follow the link below. The information for  
13 NAFO 0 + 1 is located in the link entitled: Northern shrimp in SA 0+1.

14 <http://www.nafo.int/science/coastal.html>

## 15 16 **ANNEX I : Harvest Decision Rules SFA 4 – 6, EAZ, SFA 1**

### 17 Harvest Decision Rules (HDRs) SFA 4 – 6, EAZ

18 The following provisional rules are to be used when setting TACs.

#### 19 **When SSB is Above the Upper Stock Reference (USR):**

- 20 • Measures should generally promote the SSB remaining above the URP.
- 21 • The base target exploitation rate will be 15% of exploitable biomass. This rate can  
22 increase gradually, particularly as an artifact of a stable TAC strategy applied  
23 during a time of declining SSB while in this zone, subject to monitoring/signals  
24 that excessive fishing mortality is being exerted on the stock.
- 25 • The exploitation rate should not exceed FMSY, a level that is yet to be calculated,  
26 but is thought to be well above the base target exploitation rate. Changes in the  
27 TAC should generally not exceed 15% of the previous TAC, unless the stock is  
28 declining precipitously.
- 29 • Government should not facilitate any increase in industry capacity/infrastructure  
30 during any period.

#### 31 **When SSB is between the Limit Reference Point (LRP) and the Upper Stock 32 Reference (USR) (i.e. in the Cautious Zone):**

- 33 • Measures should generally promote the SSB rebuilding towards the URP, subject  
34 to natural fluctuations that may be expected to occur in biomass and survey  
35 results.
- 36 • If SSB is in the upper half of the Cautious Zone, the exploitation rate should not  
37 exceed 2/3 FMSY, thought to be significantly above 15% of exploitable biomass
- 38 • If SSB is in the second lowest quadrant of the Cautious Zone, the exploitation rate  
39 should not exceed 1/2 FMSY, thought to be above 15% of exploitable biomass

- 1 • If SSB is in the lowest quadrant of the Cautious Zone, the exploitation rate should  
2 not exceed 15% of exploitable biomass
- 3 • The TAC should not be increased if the SSB is projected to decline or is within a  
4 declining trend
- 5 • Changes in the TAC should generally not exceed 15% of the previous TAC,  
6 unless the stock is declining precipitously.

#### 8 **When SSB is Below the Limit Reference Point (LRP):**

- 9 • Measures must explicitly promote an increase in the biomass above the LRP  
10 within 6 years of falling below the LRP.
- 11 • Any fishing mortality must be in the context of a rebuilding plan, and should not  
12 exceed 10%.

### 14 **Harvest Strategy SFA 1**

#### 16 **Preamble**

17 Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 1 is the Canadian management unit that is part of a trans-  
18 boundary stock that is harvested and managed separately by both Greenland and Canada.  
19 While an agreement with respect to TAC-setting or quota shares has not yet been  
20 reached, there is full cooperation with respect to scientific research, surveillance and  
21 enforcement, and a full exchange of information between the two jurisdictions. Both  
22 States refer to the NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Group (NIPAG) for formal  
23 scientific advice, which is provided annually. The stock is assessed as a single  
24 population.

#### 25 **Stock Assessment**

26 The assessment framework incorporates a logistic stock-recruit model, fitted by Bayesian  
27 methods, that uses CPUE and survey series as biomass indicators, and includes as  
28 removals catch data, assumed free of error, as well as a term for predation by Atlantic  
29 Cod, using available series of cod biomass. The model is used to provide short term (1  
30 year) and medium term (5 year) projections.

#### 31 **Stock Status deficiencies**

32 After a decade of increasing biomass and expanding distribution in the 1990's, both the  
33 biomass and the fishery have contracted back towards the north. Fishable biomass has  
34 declined since its 2003 peak, but is currently estimated to remain above Bmsy; the risk of  
35 being below Blim (30% of Bmsy) is very low (<1%).

### 36 **Harvest Decision Rules (HDRs)**

#### 37 **Preamble**

38 In the absence of a TAC-setting and quota-sharing agreement with Greenland on this  
39 trans-boundary stock, the approach outline below will be taken by Canada. Reference  
40 points and scientific advice are based on a quantitative assessment model and stock  
41 composition indices as articulated by the Scientific Council (SC) of the Northwest

1 Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). Previous work by the SC has shown that a  
2 maintained mortality risk of 35% is low enough to keep stock levels safely at or above  
3  $B_{MSY}$ .

4 The Harvest Strategy will remain in place until such time that Canada and Greenland may  
5 adopt common Harvest Decision Rules.

#### 6 Objectives

- 7 • Achieve/maintain the stock in the Healthy Zone ( $>80\%$  of  $B_{MSY}$ )
- 8 • Avoid serious harm to the reproductive capacity of the stock by maintaining biomass  
9  $>30\%$  of  $B_{MSY}$
- 10 • Avoid total removals in excess of maximum sustainable yield
- 11 • Manage the TAC and quotas to facilitate a balance of opportunity and stability in the  
12 industry, subject to the need to respond to precipitous biomass declines
- 13 • Maintain Canada's quota share of this trans-boundary stock.

#### 14 Reference Points

- 15 • Healthy Zone =  $>80\%$  of  $B_{MSY}$
- 16 • Cautious Zone =  $>30\%$   $B_{MSY}$  and  $< 80\%$   $B_{MSY}$
- 17 • Critical Zone is  $<30\%$   $B_{MSY}$
- 18 • Limit Reference Point for biomass ( $B_{lim}$ ) =  $30\%$  of  $B_{MSY}$

19 Limit Reference Point for total mortality =  $Z_{MSY}$

#### 20 Harvest Decision Rules (HDRs)

21 The Canadian quota will be 17% of 5/6 of the TAC designated by Canada, or 14.2%  
22 of the entire designated TAC.

- 23 • When the biomass is above 80% of  $B_{MSY}$ , the risk of being above  $Z_{MSY}$  should be less  
24 than 35%, based on the 3-year projections.
- 25 • When the biomass is between 30-80% of  $B_{MSY}$ , the risk of being above  $Z_{MSY}$  based on  
26 the 3-year projections should not exceed 17-35%, with the risk tolerance being lower  
27 the closer the biomass is to  $B_{lim}$ , with 17% at the lower end and 35% of the upper  
28 end of this range.
- 29 • If the biomass is below the Healthy Zone and approaching  $B_{lim}$  (middle of the  
30 cautious zone) then a special meeting will be sought with Greenland to develop  
31 actions that endeavor to mitigate or reverse the decline (e.g. a rebuilding plan). In the  
32 absence of agreement on measures to be taken, special conservation measures may be  
33 taken unilaterally by Canada.

#### 34 Notes:

- 35 • Biomass refers to fishable biomass as calculated by the assessment model. Biomass  
36 values are to be based on point estimates.



- 1 • Precipitous decline: When the biomass decreases by more than 25% in the cautious  
2 zone; a special NSAC discussion will be held to evaluate all available biomass signals  
3 and the recent stock trend to determine if special conservation measures are required  
4 and/or consultations with Greenland on appropriate measures will be triggered
- 5 • Canadian quotas that are uncaught in one year may be carried forward to the  
6 following year in accordance with criteria and levels to be agreed between DFO and  
7 quota holders as long as the harvest level is consistent with the HDRs above.
- 8 • These HDRs are subject to change as Canada further develops guidance on the  
9 application of the PA framework on its domestic fisheries. This could include rules  
10 that provide stability in TAC (i.e. a maximum and minimum percentage change).  
11

12 **ANNEX J- NORTHERN SHRIMP RESEARCH – Provisional and Subject to**  
13 **change**

14  
15 **On-going Research (as of 2016):**

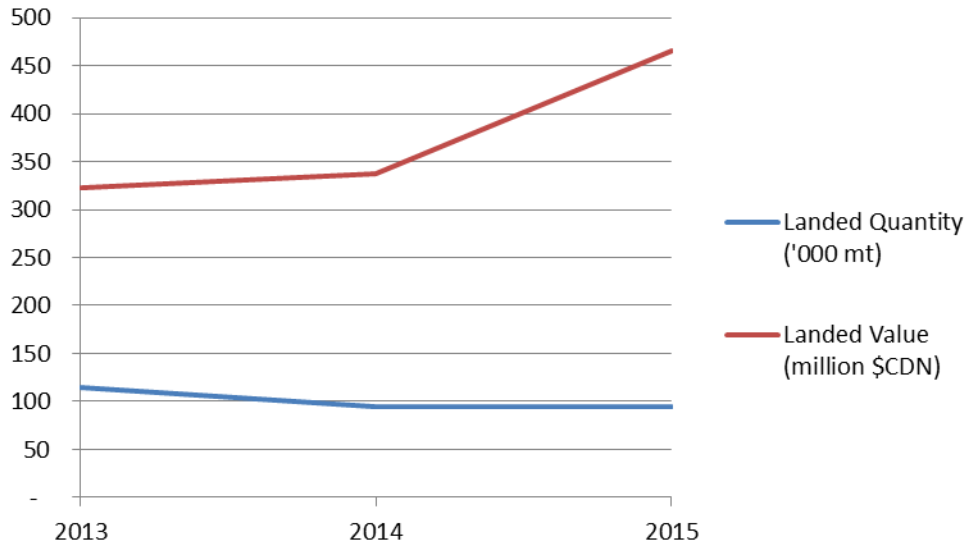
- 16 • In SFAs 5, 6 and 7, continue with the autumn DFO survey in 2HJ3KLNO, and the  
17 spring DFO survey in 3LNOPsn.
- 18 • In SFA 4, WAZ and EAZ continue with summer DFO-NSRF survey on an annual  
19 basis in order to determine and update shrimp biomass indices. Also, continue to  
20 collect data on environmental covariates with the intent of developing relationships  
21 with the shrimp distribution.
- 22 • In WAZ, DFO will attempt to analyze spatial/temporal variability of shrimp  
23 distribution. Two cruises, in addition to the annual DFO-NSRF survey, will be  
24 performed to study seasonal variability in shrimp biomass distribution.
- 25 • Continue to conduct genetic analysis to delineate stock assessment area(s), especially  
26 for use in modeling. Preliminary results from completed work indicate shrimp are  
27 genetically similar along the eastern coasts of NL (SFAs 4-7).
- 28 • Continue efforts to develop age-length keys for Northern Shrimp.
- 29 • Continue efforts to develop an assessment model.
- 30 • Continue to gather and analyze information related to corals, sponges and other  
31 vulnerable marine ecosystems.
- 32 • Continue to analyze trends in the fish community (including shrimp).
- 33 • Continue diet studies of major groundfish species (predators of shrimp).  
34

35 **Potential Future Research**

- 36 • Conditional on the development of an accepted assessment model, to begin a  
37 Management Strategy Evaluation in order to develop modeled harvest decision rules.
- 38 • To determine trophic level for key species (including shrimp) using diet composition  
39 and stable isotopes.
- 40 • To develop fisheries production potential models.
- 41 • To analyze relationships between shrimp catch survey results and measured  
42 environmental covariates to seek potential linkages (responses) of the stock to large  
43 scale oceanographic variability.

1 Explore relationships/correlations between groundfish and shrimp, including various  
2 size classes of both, from available survey data.  
3 ANNEX K – Economic Information

4 *Canadian Northern Shrimp Fishery, Total Domestic Landings, 2013-2015<sup>3</sup>*



5

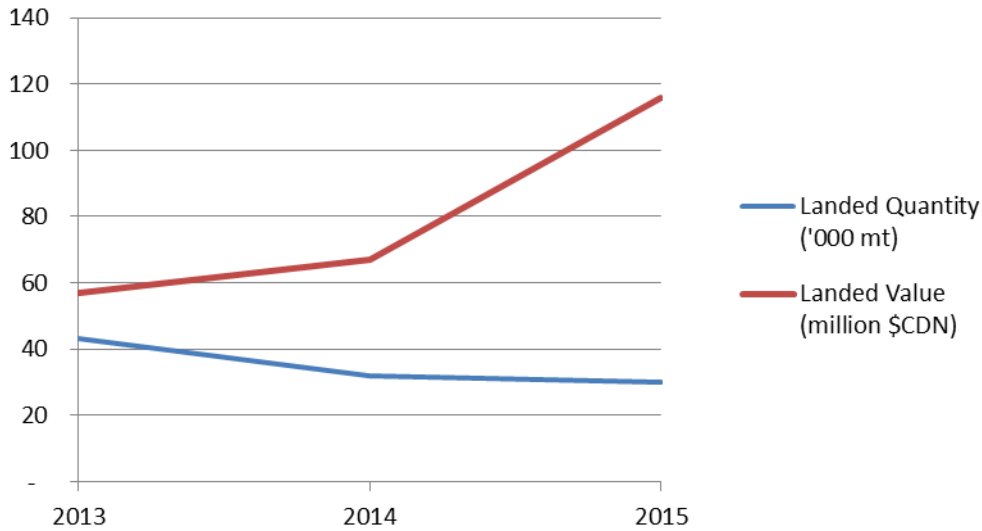
6

7 **Inshore Fleet Landings**

8 Annual landed quantities by the inshore fleet declined 30% between 2013 and 2015 in  
9 parallel with TAC declines, while annual landed value more than doubled (Figure X).  
10 Annual average landed prices for unprocessed shrimp increased by 191% from \$1.33/kg  
11 in 2013 to \$3.87/kg in 2015. Cumulatively, from 2013 to 2015, the inshore fleet's landed  
12 quantities accounted for 34% of the total taken from the Northern shrimp fishery.

<sup>3</sup> Data source: Canadian Atlantic Quota Reports

1 *Figure X: Canadian Northern Shrimp Fishery, Inshore Fleet Landings, 2013-2015*

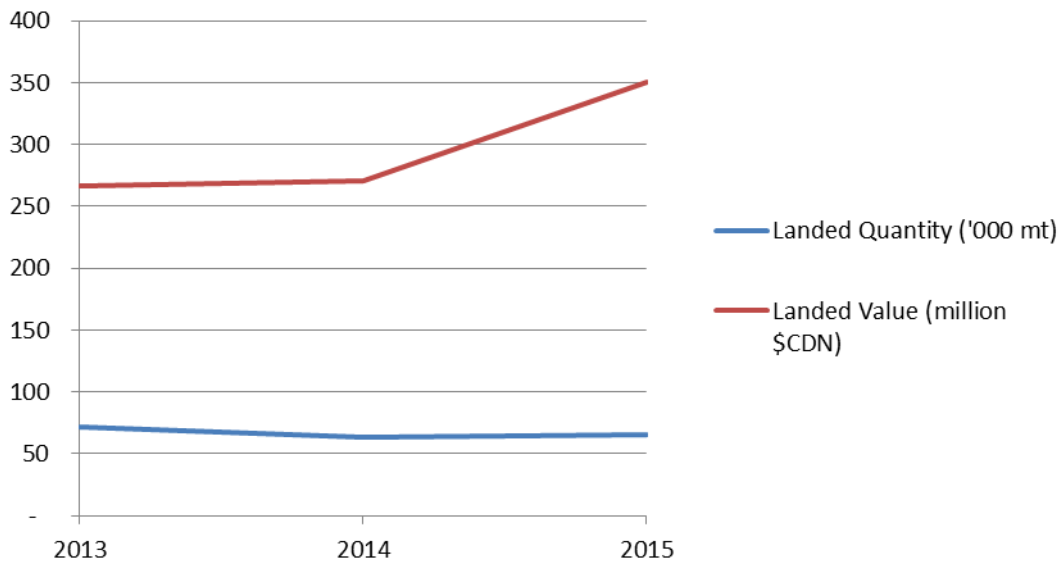


2

3 **100' Fleet Landings**

4 Annual landed quantities by the >100' fleet, which include quotas from special  
 5 allocations, declined 10% from 2013 to 2015 in parallel with TAC declines, while annual  
 6 landed values increased by 32% (Figure X). Increases in annual landed values were  
 7 primarily driven by year-over-year increases in the annual average landed price. For the  
 8 majority of landings, average landed prices for the >100' fleet product, which is  
 9 processed at sea, increased 46% from \$3.69/kg in 2013 to \$5.38/kg in 2015.  
 10 Cumulatively, from 2013 to 2015, the >100' fleet's landed quantities accounted for 66%  
 11 of the total taken from the Northern shrimp fishery.

12 *Canadian Northern Shrimp Fishery, >100' Fleet Landings, 2013-2015*

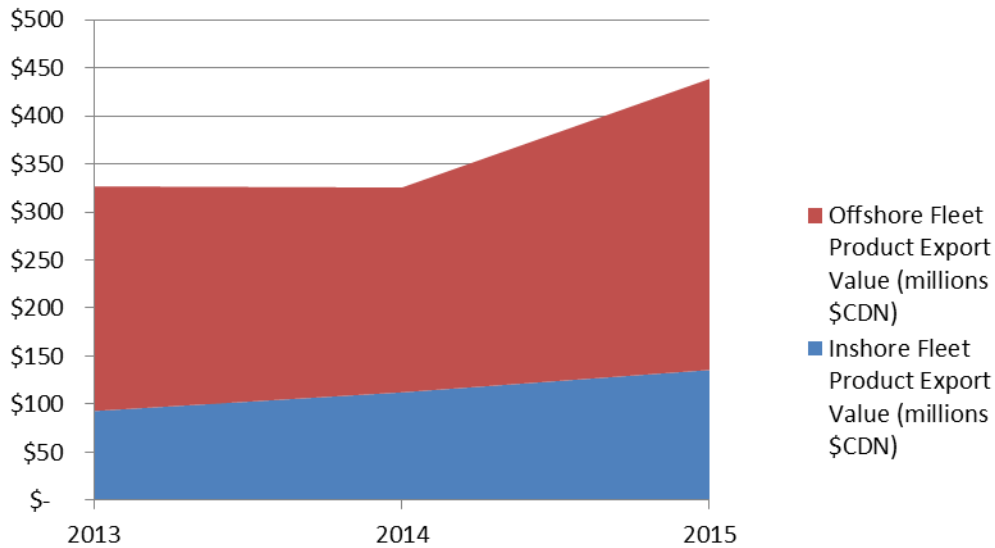


13

14

1 Exports<sup>45</sup>

2 *Canadian Northern Shrimp Export Value 2013-2015*



3

4

5 **Inshore Fleet Exports**

6 The inshore fleet focuses on the cooked and peeled product, which is processed on shore.  
 7 The market for this product is predominately Europe. Annual exports of Canadian cooked  
 8 and peeled product of Northern shrimp averaged 11,000 mt from 2013 to 2015, with an  
 9 annual average value of \$114M (Table 1). Canada’s main destinations for this product  
 10 are the United Kingdom, Denmark, and the United States, accounting for 59%, 23% and  
 11 9% respectively, of total cooked and peeled product shrimp export value in 2015.

12 *Northern Shrimp Inshore Fleet Product Exports, 2013-2015*

	2013	2014	2015
Quantity ('000 mt)	12	12	10
Value (millions \$CDN)	93	112	135

13

14 **100’ Fleet Exports**

15 The >100’ fleet focuses on a frozen at sea, shell-on product (cooked or raw). The product  
 16 has strong markets in Asia and Western Europe. Annual export volumes of Canadian  
 17 frozen shell-on Northern shrimp averaged 58,000 mt from 2013 to 2015, valued at  
 18 \$250M annually (Table 2). The >100’ fleet’s product was largely exported to China,

<sup>4</sup> Source: DFO EXIM Trade Database: Statistics Canada, International Trade Division.

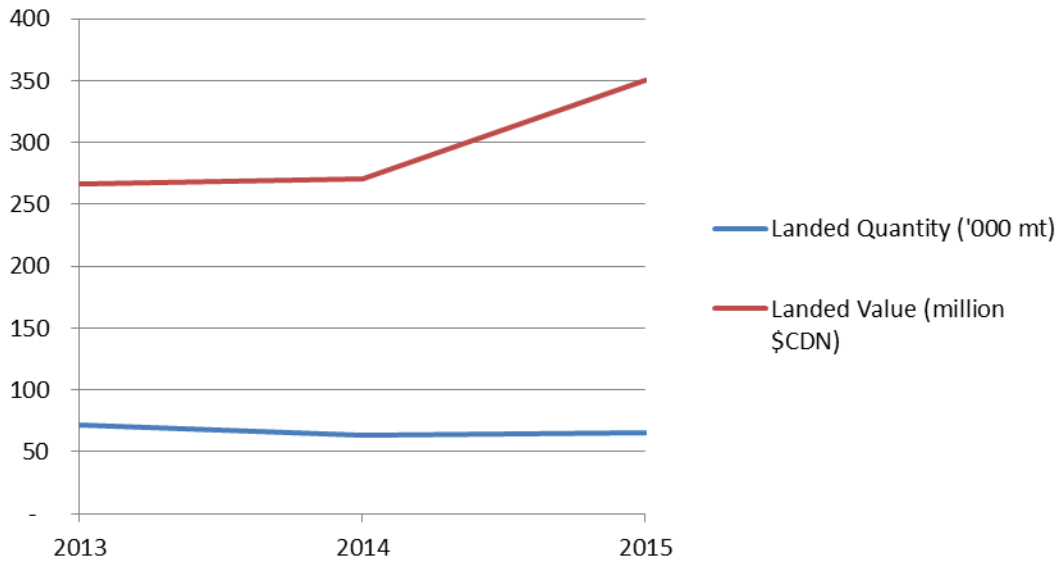
<sup>5</sup> Export data presented in this section may include a small amount of Gulf of St. Lawrence shrimp exports since these are captured in the same Harmonized System (HS) export codes. Inshore fleet exports include products exported directly from Newfoundland and Labrador. A small amount of inshore exports may be excluded due to transprovincial shipment prior to international export.

1 Denmark and Iceland, accounting for 41%, 18% and 17% respectively of Canada's total  
 2 frozen shell-on shrimp export value in 2015.

3 *Northern Shrimp >100' Fleet Product Exports, 2013-2015*

	2013	2014	2015
Quantity ('000 mt)	65	53	57
Value (million \$CAN)	234	213	303

4



5

6

7

8

Employment

9 Approximately 200 inshore NL vessels harvest shrimp, with each vessel having at least  
 10 five crew members plus the captain onboard. Additionally, between 2013 and 2015 the  
 11 inshore fleet supplied shrimp to 10 processing plants, resulting in onshore employment to  
 12 approximately 2,000 people. The >100' shrimp sector licence holders double-crew their  
 13 vessels (24 to 28 crew depending on the size of the vessel) employing approximately 520  
 14 crew for the entire fleet. The Northern shrimp fishery also provides indirect employment  
 15 for goods and service providers that support harvesting, processing and distributional  
 16 activities.

17