

Consultation Summary: Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee 2021-22 Total Allowable Catches for Northern and Striped Shrimp in the WAZ and EAZ

The Department held an indigenous pre-meeting of the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) on March 8, 2021 with Indigenous groups. It was well attended, with several groups having direct interests in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones (WAZ and EAZ).

Participants included:

1. Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB)
2. Nunavut Fishery Association (NFA)
3. Torngat Fish Producers Co-Op
4. Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC)
5. Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited (CSFL)
6. Northern Coalition (NC)
7. NunatuKavut Community Council
8. Innu Nation
9. Torngat Joint Fisheries Board
10. Nunatsiavut Government
11. Baffin Fisheries Coalition
12. Makivik Corporation
13. Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company Ltd.
14. Government of Nunavut

Staff from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) were not in attendance.

At the pre-meeting, the Department gave an overview of an Addendum submitted to the NWMB and NMRWB (the Boards) on March 5, 2021, for decisions and recommendations in the WAZ and the EAZ. It was noted that the views of the offshore fleet and other stakeholders would be solicited at the NSAC meeting the following day for the EAZ. The Department invited participants to provide their views on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) in both areas, with a reminder that the Boards have a decision-making role in WAZ, and a decision and advice role in the EAZ.

The Department encouraged Nunavut and Nunavik industry to make their views on TACs known to their respective Board, especially in the WAZ, which would not be discussed the following day at NSAC. NFA indicated that it would prepare written a submission to the NWMB regarding 2021-22 TACs for the WAZ and EAZ. Although no recommendation on TAC for the WAZ or EAZ was provided, Makivik Corporation noted the potential implications of TAC decisions for these areas in the context of perceived movement of the Striped shrimp resource between the Nunavik-West and Nunavik East management units.

The NSAC meeting (March 9, 2021) was attended by the above mentioned groups, as well as provincial governments from Atlantic Canada and Quebec, representatives for the offshore and inshore fleets, licence holders, processors, individual harvesters and fleet Chairs. The Department asked for stakeholder recommendations for TACs for both species in the EAZ.

Stakeholder views for the EAZ:

Northern shrimp (Pandalus borealis):

- Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP) supported applying a 15% exploitation rate (ER) to the two-year average of fishable biomass; this would result in a TAC of 13,601t, an increase of approximately 28% from last year.
- NC and QC supported increases in the TAC for EAZ stocks that are currently in a healthy state, despite observed volatility.
- NC supported applying a 20% ER to the two-year average of fishable biomass; this would result in a TAC of 18,135t, an increase of approximately 70% from last year. NC noted the significant increase in fishable biomass observed in the 2019 survey was not fully pursued the year prior in setting the 2020-21 TAC.
- NFA indicated they would provide views on TAC through co-management processes with the NWMB, looking to ongoing development of updated HDRs for EAZ stocks.
- Makivik Corporation noted they cannot offer views on an overall TAC for the EAZ where FB indices have shown to vary to a great extent between management units in this assessment zone.
- Government of Quebec supported management decisions that prioritize sustainability and conservation of the resource.
- NFA and NC noted that allocations in Davis Strait East management unit are only fished to a limited extent due to the exploratory nature of the fishery in this area. For this reason, it was highlighted that any potential ER considered for the EAZ TAC would be an overestimation and would not be realized.

Allocations:

- CAPP advocated for a reinstatement of offshore allocations, at a minimum, specifically to 5,250t in the Davis Strait West management unit.
- Nunatsiavut Government called for access to the EAZ on the basis of adjacency and interpretation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.
- Government of Quebec supported allocation regimes that reflect historic use of the resource and stability in allocations to allow for long-term planning and prosecution of the fishery.

Striped shrimp (P. montagui):

- CAPP proposed that the TAC for *P. montagui* include an 800t bycatch allowance in the Davis Strait management units (an increase from 410t in Davis Strait in 2020-21). It was proposed that this allowance be different from a directed quota in that the allowance could be exceeded on occasion.
- NC supported applying a 15% ER to the two-year average of fishable biomass; this would result in a TAC of 2,048t, an increase of approximately 144% from last year.

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Date: March 18, 2021

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ጉዳዩን ለማረጋገጥ (ሊ. ስርዓት P. montagui):

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