

APPENDIX 2

Summary of Discussion: Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee Meeting and Indigenous Meeting (March 25-26, 2025)

A meeting of the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) took place on March 25-26, 2025. The Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) held a meeting with Indigenous participants on the afternoon of March 26, 2025. Both meetings were well attended:

- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB)
- Nunavut Fisheries Association (NFA)
- Torngat Fish Producers Co-Op
- Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC)
- Northern Coalition (NC)
- Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP)
- NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC)
- Innu Nation
- Torngat Wildlife Plants and Fisheries Secretariat
- Nunatsiavut Government (NG)
- Nunatsiavut Group of Companies (NGC)
- Baffin Fisheries Coalition (BFC)
- Arctic Fisheries Alliance (AFA)
- Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd (CSFL)
- Makivvik Corporation
- Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company (LFUSC)
- Government of Nunavut
- Pikalujak Fisheries
- Newfoundland Resources Ltd (NRL)
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)

Other participants at the general NSAC meeting included representatives of the offshore and inshore fleet, individual licence holders, provincial government representatives, and Oceans North (an environmental non-government organization).

The perspectives on science and management of *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* in the EAZ in this Summary of Discussion encompass views expressed by all NSAC members at the NSAC table as well as those of Indigenous members at the Indigenous meeting. Perspectives on science and management of *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* in the WAZ encompass only the views expressed by Indigenous members at the Indigenous meeting.

Perspectives on Northern and Striped Shrimp Science

DFO Science presented overviews of the stock assessments for *Pandalus borealis* and *P. montagui* in the EAZ and WAZ at the main NSAC table and provided a recap at the Indigenous NSAC meeting.

- At the NSAC table, NFA noted that although combined Total Allowable Catches (TACs) set in the North Stock Assessment Region (NSAR) would result in a potential exploitation rate (ER) of 21.2 per cent, the actual (realized) ER would be lower because the full TACs in the traditional stock areas that make up the NSAR are not fully taken.
- At the NSAC table, NC requested clarification if the increased predation pressure occurring in SFA 4 and EAZ was also present in the WAZ.
- DFO Science indicated that the predation pressure was present in all areas, but is primarily in SFA 4 and EAZ, with relatively reduced pressure occurring in the WAZ. The cod predation index was higher in the southern areas but may increase in the northern areas in the future.
- At the NSAC table, an industry member (Ocean Choice International) asked what the survey results suggest about redfish size and predation on shrimp in the northern versus southern areas.
- DFO Science indicated that the survey started picking up juvenile redfish in 2020. There was recent evidence that juvenile redfish in SFA 4 were comprised of multiple cohorts, which produces different size classes of juvenile redfish, and that they are likely migrants. It was noted that juvenile redfish can have a major impact on an ecosystem, even though they are not a direct predator of shrimp (until they are older and larger), through competing with juvenile shrimp for resources.
- CAPP followed up on this, noting that oceanographic currents suggest that juvenile redfish migration occurs from East Greenland.
 - It was requested that DFO Science provide the results of redfish DNA profiling/analysis. DFO Science committed to fulfilling this request.
- At the NSAC table, an industry member (Ocean Choice International) requested biomass abundance and size estimates of redfish in the northern areas.
 - DFO Science indicated that larger redfish are not commonly caught in northern areas (such as NAFO Division 0B).
- At the Indigenous meeting, NRL noted that they have seen big changes in Striped shrimp distribution in EAZ and WAZ, suggesting that NU/NK-E quota is now outside of Ungava Bay area, and asked if the science surveys have also found this.
 - DFO Science noted that the survey is limited in picking up changes in movement or distribution because the survey only provides a snapshot in time. There are year-to-year changes in shrimp distribution relative to the management boundary between EAZ and WAZ, but this movement is considered minimal from an ecological perspective.
- At the Indigenous meeting, NCC commented that under the new Northern shrimp assessment method, the area between the LRP (defined as Bmsy at 50%) and proposed USR is very narrow, meaning the stock may never fall below 50% Bmsy.
 - DFO Science indicated that they will follow up with NCC directly on further explanations and clarification on this matter.

Resource Management: New Assessment Model for Northern Shrimp (*P. borealis*)

At the NSAC table, DFO Resource Management (RM) presented an overview of the 2025-26 management approach for *P. borealis* considering the new Northern shrimp assessment model:

- 2025-26 will be treated as a transition year and the fishery will be managed using the existing SFA approach.
- For 2025-26, the SFA-level Precautionary Approach stock status will be determined from the 2025 assessment and the SFA-level fishable biomass values from the 2024 assessments (i.e., 2023 value) will be used for TAC recommendations.
- Traditional allocations (e.g., stable shares allocated by traditional SFA management units) and existing season bridging approaches will be used for 2025-26.

Illustrative 2025-26 Total Allowable Catches

DFO RM provided the following 2025-26 TACs in EAZ and WAZ for illustrative purposes:

- **EAZ - *P. borealis***: maintaining the TAC at 2024-25 levels (8,513 t), or applying the 2-Step HDR, resulting in a 13.3 per cent increase to 9,643 t.
- **EAZ - *P. montagui***: applying the 2-Step HDR, resulting in a 20.9 per cent increase in TAC to 2,680 t.
- **WAZ - *P. borealis***: maintaining the TAC at 2024-25 levels (4,186t), or applying the 2-Step HDR, resulting in a 14.4 per cent decrease to 3,584 t.
- **WAZ - *P. montagui***: applying the 2-Step HDR, resulting in a 2.7 per cent decrease in TAC to 14,956 t.

Perspectives – Access and Allocations, TACs, and Management Measures

DFO RM sought views on TACs and management measures for *Pandalus borealis* and *P. montagui* in the EAZ at the main NSAC table, with discussions on WAZ TACs reserved for the Indigenous meeting. DFO reminded NSAC participants of the NWMB and NMRWB's (the Boards') decision-making role in WAZ, and decision and recommendation role in the EAZ.

- At the NSAC table and Indigenous meeting, there was broad support for using the 2-Step HDR to establish the 2025-26 *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* TACs in EAZ and WAZ.
- At the NSAC table, the NG and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board expressed that as co-management partners, they need to be involved in the management of the *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* fisheries in the EAZ.
- At the NSAC table, CAPP requested clarification on why the 2-Step HDR, as supported by NSAC, was not followed for the EAZ Striped shrimp TAC decision last year (2024-25).
 - DFO RM indicated that the TAC decision followed the required co-management process which included considerations from co-management partners. The decision was taken to deviate from following the 2-Step HDR based on conservation concerns from co-management partners.
 - DFO committed to providing a more detailed rationale on the 2024 decision.
- At the Indigenous meeting, NRL, Makivvik Corporation, NFA, and QC expressed concerns regarding the decision timing for EAZ and WAZ TAC announcements affecting their fishing operations. They requested that allowable interims in the settlement areas be increased from 50% to 75% to allow for fishing once ice clears.

- DFO RM committed to exploring this change with co-management partners.
- To improve the efficacy of future NSAC Indigenous meetings, DFO RM requested input and feedback on the format of these meetings moving forward.
 - In response, Indigenous Members requested that DFO provide advance notice of NSAC Indigenous meeting topics that will be raised, and for the Department to seek input on discussion topics from participants.
 - DFO indicated that there will be follow-up where groups and their representatives will be contacted to solicit more detailed input.
- Stock management of Northern shrimp in WAZ was raised at the Indigenous meeting.
 - DFO RM indicated that TAC decisions and recommendations in the WAZ will be sought from co-management partners as per the normal process.

DFO RM will work with co-management partners on next steps for the fishery in light of the new assessment approach.

DRAFT