TORNGAT JOINT FISHERIES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING # 36
MARCH 26, 2015

Minutes of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board regular meeting scheduled March 26 2015, Parks Canada Board Room, Nain, Nunatsiavut.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
John Mercer, Chairperson
Eric Andersen
David Bonnell

Craig Taylor
Keith Watts (via teleconference)

REGRETS:
Alphonsus Pittman

ALSO PRESENT:
Rosamond Andersen, Finance and Administration Officer (via teleconference) Julie Whalen, Fisheries Research Program Manager
Aaron Dale, Policy Analyst Bryn Wood, GIS Analyst
Jamie Snook, Executive Director Bev White, Executive Assistant

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:
Bev White, Executive Assistant.

MEETING CONVENED
A quorum being present, John Mercer, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Review and Adoption of the Agenda

Record of Decision

That the Agenda for the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board Meeting #36 scheduled March 26, 2015 be adopted as amended:
• Add discussion on SFA 5
• Add debrief on Meeting with President Leo
• Discuss topics as time allows

Adoption Minutes of Previous Meeting

Record of Decision

That the minutes from the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board meeting #35 held February 5, 2015 be adopted as presented.

CONSSENSUS ACHIEVED

That the minutes from the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board teleconference March 13, 2015 be adopted as presented.

CONSSENSUS ACHIEVED
Shrimp Discussion SFA 5

J. Snook, Executive Director, and A. Dale, Policy Analyst, discussed SFA 5 with the Board. The Board would like to recommend a 10% increase to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) levels, noting with caution that it would cause the exploitation rate to increase to 20.1%. The Board would also like to recommend that 75% of the increase be allocated to the Nunatsiavut Government.

Request for Action (RFA 36-01)
It was requested that the Secretariat prepare a recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans regarding Shrimp SFA 5 agreeing to a 10% increase in the TAC levels and that it be allocated as per past Board recommendations on allocations with 75% going to the Nunatsiavut Government.

Debrief on Meeting with President Leo

The Board discussed the meeting that was held March 25, 2015 with President Leo. Minutes were not recorded for the meeting that was held on March 25, 2015.

Crab RAP Review and Recommendation
Briefing Note titled “Snow Crab Regional Advisory Process (RAP)”
Briefing Note titled “2015 Snow Crab Recommendation Analysis”

J. Whalen, Fisheries Research Program Manager, discussed the briefing notes with the Board. During discussion, the importance of log book returns; continuing education and handling initiatives and the Nunatsiavut Government’s cooperation with managing last year’s quota were acknowledged.

The Board would like to recommend status quo (312MT in area 2HJN) for the TAC of snow crab.

Request for Action (RFA 36-02)
It was requested that the Secretariat, prepare a draft recommendation on Snow Crab TAC to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and share it with the Board for review.

Turbot Review and Recommendation
Briefing Note titled “2015 Turbot Recommendation Analysis”

A. Dale, Policy Analyst, discussed the briefing note with the Board.

The Board would like to recommend a communal allocation increase to 650MT with no modification to the quota/season split.

Request for Action (RFA 36-03)
It was requested that the Secretariat, prepare a recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans regarding turbot and share with the Board for review.

It was noted during discussion that E. Andersen, Board member, will attend 2+3K Turbot Working Group conference on April 14th, 2015.
GIS Presentation

Overhead presentation titled “Geographic Information Systems Overview Torngat Joint Fisheries Board March 25, 2015”

B. Wood, GIS Analyst, discussed the presentation with the Board.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 10:40 am and reconvened at 11:05 am.

Salmon and Char Updates

Briefing Note titled “Arctic Char Stakeholders’ Meeting March 11, 2015”

Briefing Note titled “Salmonid Workshop”

J. Snook, Executive Director, discussed the Arctic Char briefing note with the Board. The recommendations in the briefing note are carried forward for action requested at previous meetings.

Because of the economic development focus from the Nunatsiavut Government and the Torngat Fish Producers Cooperative Society Ltd arctic char is becoming a more important species. The Board would like to recommend to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans that arctic char science continue in the Nain area.

The Board would like the Secretariat to continue to stay updated on char and provide support as required in line with the Board’s mandate.

Request for Action (RFA 36-04)

It was requested that the Secretariat, prepare a recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans that Arctic Char science continue in the Nain area.

J. Whalen, Fisheries Research Program Manager, discussed the salmonid workshop briefing note with the Board. The Board made the following requests for action during discussion:

- That the Secretariat to continue to attend the annual salmonid stakeholder meetings
- That the Secretariat to conduct an analysis of the trigger criteria
- Prepare a recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to continue funding the English River counting facility

Request for Action (RFA 36-05)

It was requested that the Secretariat continue to attend the annual salmonid stakeholder meetings.

Request for Action (RFA 36-06)

It was requested that the Secretariat, conduct an analysis of the trigger criteria.

Request for Action (RFA 36-07)

It was requested that the Secretariat, prepare a recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to continue funding the English River counting facility.

J. Whalen, Fisheries Research Program Manager, informed the Board that the Labrador Institute has hired a student to carry out salmon research since the salmon genetics research was cancelled in November, 2014. She also noted other funding partners have agreed to contribute to the research and the Secretariat was approached to ask for the Board’s interest in contributing. It would require funding
for this current year and next fiscal year. The Board would like the Secretariat to review the Board’s budget and if the money is available the Board would like to participate.

**CONSENSUS ACHIEVED**

**Request for Action (RFA 36-08)**

It was requested that the Secretariat review the Board’s budget to determine whether or not the finances are available for the Board to contribute to the Labrador Institute’s salmon research. If the funds are available, the Secretariat will follow up with the Board and the Labrador Institute.

**Next Meeting Discussion**

Briefing note titled “Location and date for the next TJFB meeting”

The next regular TJFB meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 17-18, 2015 in North West River, NL.

**Request for Action (RFA 36-09)**

It was requested that the Secretariat, inform the Board of specific dates for events in June, 2015 (ex: NASCO annual meeting, Expo etc) that the Board will consider when planning for the next meeting.

**In Camera**

The Board participated in an in camera session. Minutes were not recorded for the discussion.

**Lunch Break: The meeting recessed at 12:00 pm and reconvened at 1:25 pm.**

**Work Plan and Financial Update**

Overhead Presentation titled “Workplan 14-15 Torngat Joint Fisheries Board March 26, 2015 Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL”

Document titled “Torngat Joint Fisheries Board: Research Program”

Document titled “Torngat Joint Fisheries Board Projects 2014-15”

Overhead Presentation titled “Torngat Joint Fisheries Board Expenditure Report March 18, 2015”

Overhead Presentation titled “Torngat Secretariat Statement of Expenses 18-Mar-15”

J. Whalen, Fisheries Research Program Manager, discussed the workplan with the Board.

J. Whalen, Fisheries Research Program Manager, showed two short Atlantic Char/Atlantic Salmon videos that have been prepared for the Torngat Secretariat as part of the Stewardship and Education program. The Board suggested that the videos be shown at the NASCO annual meeting being held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, June 2015.

The Board also suggested similar videos be produced focused on the commercial fishery in Nunatsiaqout.

R. Andersen, Finance and Administration Officer, joined the meeting via teleconference.

R. Andersen, Finance and Administration Officer, discussed the expenditure reports with the Board.

R. Andersen, Finance and Administration Officer, departed the meeting.
Conclusion

The Torngat Joint Fisheries Board Meeting held March 26, 2015 concluded at 3:20 p.m.

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This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board Meeting held March 26, 2015 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption at the Regular Meeting held October 27-28, 2015.

Bev White, Recording Secretary

John Mercer, Chairperson