

**TORNGAT JOINT FISHERIES BOARD
FISHERIES WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 18-19, 2015**

Minutes of the Fisheries Workshop scheduled November 18-19, 2015 at Labrador North Chamber of Commerce, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL.

DAY 1: NOVEMBER 18, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Mercer, Chairperson
Eric Andersen
David Bonnell
Ricky Edmunds

Alphonsus Pittman
Craig Taylor
Keith Watts

REGRETS:

ALSO PRESENT:

Rosamond Andersen, Torngat Secretariat
Joey Angnatok, Designate
Todd Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government
Ben Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
Paul Foley, Memorial University, via video conference
Bob Hardy, Hardy Fish Co.
Ron Johnson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society
MP Yvonne Jones, Government of Canada
Leon King, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Wayne King, Dept. Fisheries and Oceans
Patricia Loder, National Research Council
Jody Manning, Nunatsiavut Government
Charles Mather, Memorial University

Jennifer Mitchell-Foley, Torngat Secretariat
Robyn Morris, Torngat Secretariat
Darryl O'Brien, Dept. Fisheries and Aquaculture
Louie Porta, Oceans North
John Sackton, Seafoodnews.com
Mary Snelgrove, Constituent Assistant
Jamie Snook, Torngat Secretariat
Ralph Tooktoshina, Designate
Sam Tooktoshina, Designate
George Voisey, Designate
Phillip Walsh, Marine Institute
Julie Whalen, Torngat Secretariat
Beverly White, Torngat Secretariat
Bryn Wood, Torngat Secretariat

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Beverly White, Torngat Secretariat

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, called the workshop to order at 8:45 a.m., initiating introductions.

Turbot Presentations

Overhead presentation titled "7th Annual Fisheries Workshop"

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "NG Communal Greenland Halibut Fishery"

T. Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "TFPC Turbot Fishery 2015 TJFB Fisheries Workshop"

R. Johnson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "Greenland Halibut (turbot)"

B. Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 9:58 a.m. and reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

Northern Shrimp Presentations

Overhead presentation titled "7th Annual Fisheries Workshop"

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "SFA 4 and 5 Shrimp Fishery 2015 Torngat Secretariat Shrimp Workshop November 18-19, 2015"

T. Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government, discussed the presentation with the participants.

*Overhead presentation titled "Assessment of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped Shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*) in Shrimp Fishing Areas 4 (NAFO Divisions 2G)"*

B. Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "Shrimp allocation policies and regional development in northern Labrador"

C. Mather, Memorial University, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Discussion

Has allocation processes of shrimp been compared to allocation processes of other species? Species are linked, for most you can't make a livelihood on one species alone. It seems that all species should be considered when thinking about allocations of one particular species.

Has this type of research been done in other land claims locations? There is a famous allocations case in Alaska regarding Pollock. Maybe Norway and Iceland would be another place to research.

Adjacency can be interpreted wrongly. People have no problem with coming north to fish, but if harvesters from the north went south it wouldn't be allowed to happen. Adjacency, unless clearly defined, will not be beneficial to Nunatsiavut harvesters.

The new federal Minister of Fisheries is from Nunavut. He stood up and argued for adjacency in the past, and was successful. Culturally he understands what these quotas do for the areas.

Adjacency depends on who's using the term.

MP Yvonne Jones and M. Snelgrove, Constituent Assistant, joined the meeting.

J. Manning, Nunatsiavut Government, departed the meeting.

Lunch Break: The meeting recessed at 11:48 a.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

During the lunch break, J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, welcomed MP Yvonne Jones and M. Snelgrove, Constituent Assistant. He gave a brief overview of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and initiated introductions.

MP Yvonne Jones discussed her background and views on the Labrador fishery with the participants. She offered her support; discussed the idea of forming a pan-Labrador fisheries coalition, discussed adjacency and quota allocations. During discussion she referenced Minister Tootoo's area compared to Nunatsiavut.

T. Broomfield, Nunatsiavut noted that with a majority liberal government, the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) looks forward to working with the new government.

MP Yvonne Jones and M. Snelgrove, Constituent Assistant, departed the meeting.

Snow Crab Presentations

Overhead presentation titled "7th Annual Fisheries Workshop"

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "2HJN Snow crab Fishery 2015 Torngat Secretariat Crab Workshop November 18-19, 2015"

T. Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "TFPC Snow Crab History TJFB Fisheries Workshop 2015"

R. Johnson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Overhead presentation titled "Div. 2HJ"

B. Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Snow crab quota discussion:

2J north is the NAFO division that Nunatsiavut holds the communal allocation. The 54 40 line divides the north and south of the Cartwright channel. We say 2J South but we're still fishing in the channel. If fishing in the south is good, it must be good in the north, it's the same channel. A lot of Nunatsiavut's crab fishery is concentrated in a small area.

The Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society thought that holding back the 15% was a good idea. The last large spike in recruitment was in 2003. R. Johnson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society, suggests, to keep the 15% for one more year. If the 15% is held back one more year, and catch rates are as beneficial as they have been this year, then maybe a change to the 15% can be considered.

Based on fish performance in 2013, quota should have been cut in 2014. The Nunatsiavut Government agreed to self-regulate instead of DFO decreasing the total allowable catch (TAC). The Nunatsiavut Government is using designated boats and that makes them different from all other areas because there must be a large exploitable biomass to make fishing economically viable. In 2015, the same thing happened. The TAC should have been decreased but again the NG agreed to maintain status quo. The fact that there's 15% in the TAC is a false thing because usually DFO would have cut that. It's not a bad thing that the fishery ended this year with hard shell on the ground. If the present TAC is maintained, we should be able to survive a couple of bad years.

One designate would like to see the TAC increased because from what he experienced during the fishery this year, the stock appears to be very healthy.

One designate noted that 2014 averaged a 1100 lb increase and 2015 averaged a 2600 lb increase.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 2:24 p.m. and reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

Northern Shrimp Policy

P. Foley, Memorial University, joined the meeting via video conferencing.

The attendees participated in a break out session. Three group facilitators were responsible for discussing one topic with each group. Each attendee was given the opportunity to discuss the three different topics.

C. Mather, Memorial University, gave a brief overview of the discussion he facilitated around the question "what are the main issues allocations, policies and practices?"

J. Whalen, Torngat Secretariat, gave a brief overview of the discussion she facilitated around the question "what's happening right now in the fishery."

C. Taylor, Torngat Joint Fisheries Board, gave a brief overview of the discussion he facilitated around the question "what benefits are resulting from the shrimp fishery?"

ADJOURNMENT

The Snow Crab Workshop held November 18, 2015 adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

**TORNGAT JOINT FISHERIES BOARD
FISHERIES WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 19, 2015**

Minutes of the Fisheries Workshop scheduled November 18-19, 2015 at Labrador North Chamber of Commerce, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL.

DAY 2: NOVEMBER 19, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Mercer, Chairperson
Eric Andersen
David Bonnell
Ricky Edmunds

Alphonsus Pittman
Craig Taylor
Keith Watts

REGRETS:

ALSO PRESENT:

Rosamond Andersen, Torngat Secretariat
Joey Angnatok, Designate
Todd Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government
Marie Clement, Labrador Institute
Ben Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
Bob Hardy, Hardy Fish Co. Ltd
John Hay, Char Harvester
Ernestina Ittulak, Char Harvester
Ron Johnson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society
Leon King, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Wayne King, Dept. Fisheries and Oceans
Maggie Kohlmeister, Char Harvester
William Lampe, Char Harvester
President Sarah Leo, Nunatsiavut Government
Patricia Loder, National Research Council
Carl McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government

Charles Mather, Memorial University
Jennifer Mitchell-Foley, Torngat Secretariat
Robyn Morris, Torngat Secretariat
Darryl O'Brien, Dept. Fisheries and Aquaculture
Rebecca Poole, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
Louie Porta, Oceans North
John Sackton, Seafoodnews.com
Darryl Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government
Jamie Snook, Torngat Secretariat
Ralph Tooktoshina, Designate
Sam Tooktoshina, Designate
Cody Tuglavina, Char Harvester
George Voisey, Designate
Phillip Walsh, Marine Institute
Julie Whalen, Torngat Secretariat
Beverly White, Torngat Secretariat
Bryn Wood, Torngat Secretariat

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Beverly White, Torngat Secretariat

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, called the workshop to order at 8:40 a.m. beginning with an electronic survey of participants who attended yesterday.

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, welcomed participants and initiated introductions.

Arctic Char Licensing

T. Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government, discussed Arctic Char licensing with participants.

Char Purchase, Production, Sales

Overhead presentation titled "TFPC Arctic Char History TJFB Fisheries Workshop 2015"

R. Johnson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society Ltd., discussed the presentation with the participants.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Overhead presentation titled "North Labrador Arctic char program – Nain"

B. Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Discussion

There is very good data collected from the English River counting fence. The NG has been operating the fence with a financial contribution from the Government of Canada. NG thinks it would be ideal to get a long term financial commitment from the Government of Canada. It was suggested that now there may be a better opportunity to get this discussed more now that there is a new government.

Whether or not collection of data from the fish plant is still ongoing was questioned. Data has been sent to St. John's from the plant but the status of the data is unknown. Lack of communication is an issue, it was suggested by B. Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, that a regular teleconference be scheduled to understand what's going on and what the needs are.

Whether or not it is wise to continue to collect data was questioned. B. Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, feels it is and has offered to determine the status of the data that was sent this past year. It was suggested that the Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society keep a copy of the data that they collect.

It was suggested that Labrador Institute student researchers would be a good way to collect data. Funding is provided and the program can be delivered for fairly cheap.

The possibility of a mining company building a road through a big river near Nain was noted. One Designate questions the impacts that it may have.

An issue with complete stock assessments was noted. In the Western arctic, community based assessments are being carried out using drones. L. Porta, Oceans North, offered to share the information on those projects.

The National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) has been supported Canadian Fisheries Research Network (CFRN) for the last 5 years and the program is currently being renewed. The pan arctic char project is part of the renewal. B Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, suggested that Labrador be included in the project. If the project is accepted, then money will become available.

The NG has funded a position to work with the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans' researcher in Nain in the summer. Nobody was hired this summer because DFO didn't have a researcher there. Money is still budgeted for this position in case it continues.

Arctic char and the management plan haven't been looked at much in the previous years because the resource has been harvested well below the TAC level. More work will have to be done on stock assessment to get current data in case the stakeholders will ever want to increase the harvest levels.

The Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society intends to increase harvesting. It wasn't possible to do so this past fishing season because of mechanical issues.

Previously, the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB) wrote a letter to Minister Shea (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans at that time), advocating for the continuation of the English River counting fence. Ongoing work on char will help support the board's recommendations. The harvest details of the domestic fishery aren't known.

The Nunatsiavut Government is in the process of conducting a harvest survey for Nain and Makkovik. In Nain, almost every household in the community is involved and the amount of fish harvested in one year will be recorded. The NG has one year of data but will likely have to discontinue the study because of budget constraints. Data collected will be analyzed by Trent University. The NG introduced the survey in March to the community, explaining why it's important.

When the cod disappeared in Northern Labrador, the capelin disappeared first. But in the last few years, a higher number of capelin in the char has been observed.

Domestic harvest – at a national level, even though there are land claims agreements, rights to harvest etc., there's still an obligation on the harvester's part, to report their commercial harvest. Nationally, it's being said that there is still an obligation to report domestic harvest levels as well.

NG recognizes the importance of collecting domestic harvest data. But the funding from the Government of Canada didn't come through. The NG moved budgets around to complete the survey this year, but after that the survey will have to be cut because of the finances.

The TJFB will be hosting a board meeting in St. John's in January. It may be an opportunity to meet with the science branch of DFO.

Renewed interest in scallop has been brought to W. King's, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, attention in the last year. It's a species that has been untouched in the last 7-8 years. Existing data on scallop is similar to available data on char. This would cause problems should interest in a scallop fishery be brought up.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 9:56 a.m. and reconvened at 10:21 a.m.

Cod –One Designate noted there are lots of ghost nets off of Smoky. It was said that the cod is coming back south and north of Smoky, but none are being caught in Smoky. Whether or not DFO can do something about the nets was questioned. B Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans can bring the information back to DFO to find out more.

M. Clement, Labrador Institute, gave a brief overview of her background and her current projects.

Arctic Char Development Projects

Overhead presentation titled "Fisheries Workshop Goose Bay Labrador November 18, 2015"

B. Hardy, Hardy Fish Company, discussed the presentation with the participants.

Discussion

Whether or not whelk that's caught as a by catch can be sold on the dock was questioned. There are some restrictions but there are also regulations that allow for it to an extent. It was suggested to look into the provincial government policies to determine the correct answer.

The presentation gave an example of scallop harvested with little to no effort. It seems to be a good opportunity for harvesters to do that.

Weir – it was discussed to trap in the rivers but at the time the harvesters wanted to fish in the bays. It's our goal to try it in the upcoming year.

Whelk and scallop fisheries in small boats exist in Labrador. If NG has interest it's just a matter of visiting those areas to learn about the technology.

Fileting equipment was discussed as they produce better consistency and shape, higher yield and a better quality. Fileting is probably the most complex skill and there are limited numbers of fileters in Nain.

A. Pittman, TJFB member, asked for details on the limited scallop fishery in Nain in the past. R. Johnson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society, and K. Watts, TJFB member, responded.

One attendee noted that regarding regulations around direct sales, it has raised expectations by consumers in areas like St. John's. Potential for a niche market.

One attendee noted that scallops in 2004-2005 were of much poorer quality. A good possibility that the next few years it will continue to be very good and it can be sold quite readily at good prices.

Lunch Break: The meeting recessed at 11:20 a.m. and reconvened at 1:06 p.m.

The lunch break was hosted at the Royal Canadian Legion in conjunction with the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce. J. Sackton, Seafoodnews.com, gave a presentation on the global market outlook for fisheries related to the workshop. The luncheon was open to the public.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government and D. Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, joined the meeting.

Nunatsiavut Government Presentation and Discussion

Overhead presentation titled "Torngat Joint Fishery Board Workshop 2015 Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL November 19, 2015"

D. Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government discussed the presentation with the participants.

Discussion

It was asked if the NG will have a meeting with the designates to help them understand the multi-year designations. The report has been drafted, with plans to have it finalized by the end of the month. Then the plan is to ensure everyone understands how it works.

It was asked if there will be a retirement package for the designates. It was noted that this topic hasn't been discussed with the NG Minister before. Some other attendees acknowledged it as being a good idea.

The Nain Char harvesters in general were asked if they would be open to doing individual scallop fishing from their boats. No responses were given.

One attendee asked if the NG will be pushing the federal government, now that there's a new government and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is from Nunavut, to seek new possibilities in quotas, financing/funding. D. Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, responded that Minister Tootoo understands Nunatsiavut's situation and there will be a big push.

One Designate referred to the Nunatsiavut Government's fisheries fund. Suggesting that the people who got ahead in life were the ones who put the money on the table, the government should consider hiring someone who can get a foot in the door to try to get access to funding.

One attendee referenced the NG's new fisheries policies. It was suggested that it be important that the people who will be responsible for making decisions and implementing the policies include fishers. Building the fishery will give current and future fishers something to look forward to. D. Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, noted that Tri Nav did the report. Getting the youth involved is a very good point. Getting youth engaged in every part of the government is important. The issue raised is mentioned in the report and will be incorporated.

One Designate addressed the Nunatsiavut Government representatives regarding the fishing committee that was going to be formed last year. He stated that last year the NG said there will be no more licenses issued and that the fishing committee would be notified of any more allocations. He suggested that new fishers were in the fishery this year but the committee wasn't notified. The NG representatives responded suggesting that not everyone was informed of the committee, some designates aren't aware of the committee or their meetings. C. McLean, Deputy Minister, Nunatsiavut Government, suggested the President of the fishing committee set up a meeting with him.

One Designate inquired about the process for a new fisher to express interest in licenses/allocations issued by the Nunatsiavut Government. He stated that Nain is the biggest community along the coast of Labrador and a lot of younger people have asked how they can be considered for license/allocation should the opportunity come up. The Nunatsiavut Government representatives responded stating that when the NG was formed, the allocations were based on the existing fishers. Currently it's based on who applies and if they meet all the requirements. There is not a priority in the policy right now based on community. The priority system is preferential to those who are beneficiaries, who are vessel owners and then it goes down from there to people involved in co-op arrangements etc.

J. Angnatok, Designate mentioned multi-year designations. As a vessel owner, you can only employ so many people. It's near impossible for others to get their sea time. Right now their hands are tied. He suggests Labrador have its own fleet. It would allow more people to get involved.

Health break: 2:41 p.m., 2:56 p.m.

The participants completed an electronic survey.

Final comments

C. Mathers, Memorial University – enjoyed the workshop; great to have a range of people involved in the fishery; very interesting; typically you don't see such a range of people, congrats to the Secretariat.

P. Loder, National Research Council – really enjoyed my first fisheries workshop; very interesting; there have been the same issues for years.

L. King, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans – my third year attending workshop; always interesting and informative, thank you for the opportunity.

A. Pittman, TJFB member – my seventh year attending workshop; as a member of the Board I feel this was well organized and very informative; this year the atmosphere is a little more laid back and people are listening a little more and have provided the Board with information that will help with making recommendations.

Dave – my seventh year attending workshop as well; invaluable information and allows me to better participate in Board discussion; thank you and all the best.

B. Hardy, Hardy Fish Co. – my first time attending; well organized and very informative.

P. Walsh, Marine Institute – my first time attending; very informative; well organized; suggest inviting researchers from places like Baffin Island because of overlapping stocks and lots of research.

J. Angnatok, Designate – a lot of frustrations that always come out in meetings like this but looking at it from management, we're still fortunate to be able to harvest after all these years; I'm the only enterprise owner in northern Labrador, it can be frustrating but it's also seen in the south; there's a lot to be said about the young people that can still do this and be able to put food on his table.

R. Johson, Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society – I like these workshops as a way to get everyone's viewpoints but this year was a little different because of the change in government. Provincially and federally I hope it can move forward a lot more than we have in the past. If we have nothing to share then we bicker over the little bit we do have. Hopefully through multi year designations and everything else we can move into a fishery that others want to be a part of. I hope for a cautious approach to crab, I'm adamant on the 15%.

W. King, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans – I've been to all the workshops; another good one; some work still to be done; this far into it with only one vessel on the north coast of Labrador there's work to be done on harvesting capacity; I sit on a committee for northern issues like narwhal and beluga NG may be interested in it.

T. Broomfield, Dept. Fisheries and Oceans – it's always good to hear different views from different people; we always work very hard to move the fishery forward, even though it may not be evident; hearing from everyone helps us do our job when we bring the issues forward; I'd be more concerned if we didn't have the workshops.

L. Porta, Oceans North – it's my first workshop; suggest looking to other co-management boards and other land claims agreements to learn from them; there could be some interesting benefits.

R. Edmunds, TFJB member – thank you.

M. Clement, Labrador Institute – very helpful especially while I'm doing projects in the region; anyone having concerns regarding the projects please contact me.

B. Davis, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans – thank you for the invitation, and thank you for listening, thank you for the education you've given me; when I go back and need to make an argument I'm better armed.

J. Hay, Char harvester – my first workshop; I'm really glad I came.

C. Tuglavina, Char harvester – no comment.

W. Lampe – no comment.

E. Ittulak, Char harvester – first comments were given in Inuktitut; this is my first year attending; thank you for inviting me; all the presentations were very informative.

M. Kohlmeister, Char harvester – this is my second time attending; I enjoyed it thank you.

C. Taylor, TJFB member – as a board member it's enriching, this cross section of people have been able to participate; we should keep it up.

D. O'Brien, Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture – thank you; I'm on the steering committee, these gatherings are very helpful from a development point of view, and I've been working at it for 20+ years; development can be very slow, I've seen action and initiative since starting to come to these meetings, not all that was brought up last year but the char and it's a start; Labrador is behind the 8 ball when it comes to fisheries development; development of the fishery in Nunatsiavut – cod, crab and shrimp and building capacity has been talked about, but education of harvesters is needed; the Marine Institute is there to help.

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat – there are a lot of positive things happening in Nunatsiavut.

K. Watts, TJFB member – another good workshop; it's good to have everyone around the table; it's good to hear all the viewpoints, when you work in a certain sector to tend to get carried away with your own; I look forward to the future, I feel this year we have a bit of hope to see things change and move forward; as a company we've been able to make some strides, I think we have a good future to look forward to, to make the future better in all of Nunatsiavut.

J. Sackton, Seafoodnews.com – I appreciate the invitation and I've learned a lot; thank you everyone.

R. Tooktoshina, Designate – been attending for 3 of 4 years; keep at it.

J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat – I know there's certainly a lot of progress. Things need to get better but there certainly is a lot there to be grateful for. On the management side, we're still able to fish and that's an opportunity there. I appreciated everyone at this workshop; you made my job easy as a facilitator and safe travels to all of you traveling home.

CONCLUSION

The Snow Crab Workshop held November 19, 2015 concluded at 3:34 p.m.

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This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Snow Crab Workshop held November 19, 2015.

Bev White, Recording Secretary

Jamie Snook, Facilitator

