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FOREWORD

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement sets out the terms of the contract between the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement, representing the Inuvialuit of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and the Government of Canada, representing all citizens of Canada.

As outlined in that Agreement, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee was established to provide advice to the Inuvialuit and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on fishery management and related issues within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. 1 During the reporting year the Fisheries Joint Management Committee continued to work closely with government agencies, renewable resource user groups, and resource councils and committees established under the Agreement and by other land claim settlements on a variety of activities and programs. This report provides a summary of the Committee's activities for the fiscal year commencing April 2003 and concluding March 2004. One of the those activities is depicted on the front cover, our "community tour".

Committee Membership

Chairman

Robert Bell

Members

Billy Day
Don Dowler
Max Kotokak Sr.
Burton Ayles

IGC Alternate Members

Lorna Dillon
Donald Inuktalik

Resource Biologist

Kevin Bill





INTRODUCTION

Canada's Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) established the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) in 1986, as required by the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). The FJMC has the following responsibilities: (1) to assist Canada and the Inuvialuit in administering the rights and obligations related to fisheries under the IFA, (2) to assist the Minister in carrying out his responsibilities for the management of fisheries and marine mammals in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), and (3) to advise the Minister on all matters relating to Inuvialuit and ISR fisheries. The specific responsibilities of the FJMC are provided in Appendix A.

The Committee maintains an office at the Joint Secretariat in Inuvik, receives administrative support from that organization, and employed one resource biologist to manage its programs.

The FJMC works closely with government agencies, renewable resource user groups in the Inuvialuit communities, and other renewable resource boards in Canada and Alaska that oversee common migratory stocks.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Consultation and Planning

In keeping with the co-management philosophy of the IFA, consultation with local Hunters and Trappers' Committees (HTCs), the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), DFO and other government agencies formed an important part of the Committee's activities. The Committee held 5 regular meetings and 6 teleconferences, as well as public meetings in Paulatuk, Holman and Sachs Harbour to discuss with hunters and fishers issues of concern related to fish, marine mammals, and research priorities for the region. One of the regular meetings was held in Winnipeg at DFO's Freshwater Institute to facilitate information exchange and project planning with the Department's scientific and management staff. The process by which the FJMC sets its research priorities and develops a workplan is unique among Inuvialuit Joint Implementing Bodies. Community meetings in November, discussions with scientific staff at the Freshwater Institute in January and Committee planning sessions in March, all comprise the essential elements in the Committee's annual work plan and budgeting cycle for the next fiscal.

Research and Monitoring

The FJMC was active in numerous research, monitoring, and management programs in 2003-04. A total of 30 projects were conducted through joint efforts between the FJMC and DFO.

Support continues for charr monitoring projects in Paulatuk and Holman that provide information for existing community-based charr fishing plans for the Hornaday and Kuujjua rivers near Paulatuk and Holman respectively. Also in support of the Hornaday plan, the Committee continues to contribute to a baseline water quality and quantity monitoring project for that river system.

The FJMC continued to support the West Side Working Group in its efforts to develop a community-driven integrated fishing plan for the Yukon North Slope and West Side rivers from the Big Fish River west to Fish Creek near the Alaskan border. The Working Group continues to assemble critical scientific and traditional knowledge information on North Slope fisheries, information that will form the foundation of the developing management plan. The Committee



held a public feast and joint FJMC-WSWG meeting in Aklavik in June 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to gather further community input into the process and future objectives.

Support of a multi-year program to assess the ecology and fisheries resources of Husky and Sitidgi Lakes continues to be a priority of this Committee. These lakes support important local subsistence and recreational fisheries. In coming years, the Committee anticipates growing pressures associated with accelerating hydrocarbon development on surrounding lands and increased public access through seasonal ice roads and a proposed all-weather road to Tuktoyaktuk.

The Committee also contributed to an ongoing project designed to monitor the reproductive status and condition of ringed seals in Amundsen Gulf. The quality of country foods also continues to be a significant concern for the communities. As a result, the Committee allocated funds to projects that involved the collection of samples from harvested marine mammals (including ringed seals and beluga) for contaminant and disease analysis. In addition to annual research project funding, the Committee also supported long-term harvest monitoring programs that provide essential harvest data required by the Committee and DFO biologists as a basis for making sound management decisions.

- In co-operation with the HTC's, the FJMC delivers the beluga harvest monitoring program. Local Inuvialuit whale monitors employed by HTC's are stationed in each of the active whaling camps within the ISR. They collect biological information from each harvested whale. Committee staff provided training, program and logistic support, co-ordination of special sample collections, and data collation. Monitors also keep track of aircraft traffic over whale camps and submit detailed incident reports in cases where aircraft may have harassed or disturbed whales and/or harvesters. At season's end, these harassment incident reports were turned over to DFO Conservation and Protection for follow-up with air charter companies as required.
- Following the cancellation of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study, the Committee continued its support of the collection of Inuvialuit subsistence fisheries harvest data by DFO in 2003-04.

In accordance with Section 14.(64) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Committee continued with FJMC's Private Lands Sport Fishing Registry. Recreational anglers fishing within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region were surveyed in 2003-04 and will be analyzed for comparison with the data collected in 2000 and 2001. The promotional campaign initiated in 2001-02 to better educate the fishing public was continued with the renewing of large wall displays at major air and road travel gateways into the ISR; the provision of private lands wall maps for all fishing licence vendors and HTC's in the region; the reprinting and distribution of information brochures to vendors and HTC's; and the placement of advertisements in NWT Explorers Guide / Guide to Hunting and Fishing in the Northwest Territories and the Beaufort Delta Attractions Guide.

In order to facilitate the distribution of information related to research within the ISR, the FJMC Technical Report series has been re-activated. The first three publications of the series are: *Possible Impacts on Over-wintering Fish of Trucking Granular Materials Over Lake and River Ice in the Mackenzie Delta Area* (Stewart, 2001); *Mercury in Beluga Whales in the Canadian Beaufort Sea: Causes, Consequences, and Potential Research* (Rosenberg, 2003);



and *Inuvialuit Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Fisheries in Rivers West of the Mackenzie River in the Canadian Arctic* (Papik, Marschke and Ayles, 2003). The reports are being published and distributed, as well as posted on the Committee's website.

Hydrocarbon Development

The FJMC continued to be well positioned to provide sound advice on issues related to accelerating oil and gas industry activities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The Committee and staff have been regular participants in pre-submission community and agency consultations by industry. Prior to every Screening meeting, the Committee reviewed all proposals before EISC that had the potential to impact on fish, marine mammals, and/or aquatic habitat in the ISR, including those related to oil and gas.

Committee members and staff also attended numerous public meetings and workshops relating to the Mackenzie Gas Project, as well as the Devon Canada Inc.'s proposed Beaufort Sea Exploration Drilling Program and Comprehensive Study Report. The Committee will continue to participate in the review of these projects as they move through the Environmental Assessment and Review processes.

The Committee was also directly involved with the Environmental Impact Review Board's (EIRB) public review of the *WesternGeco Mackenzie Delta Marine 2D Seismic Program 2003*. This program has the potential to impact fish harvesting in the Mackenzie Delta. The Committee enlisted the services of a technical expert to ensure that any potential impact on Inuvialuit harvests would be mitigated, and that any concerns would be investigated. The EIRB eventually approved the program, but the proponent subsequently cancelled the project.

Beluga Management and Pilot Marine Protected Areas

The FJMC continued its support of the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI) in co-operation with DFO. This multi-stakeholder initiative is being facilitated through a Working Group that includes representatives from FJMC, DFO, Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Indian and Northern Affairs, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. The group conducted community consultations throughout 2003-04 to determine support for a pilot marine protect area under the Oceans Act. The proposed Marine Protected Area Management Plan and regulations are to be completed by early fall 2004 and sent to Ottawa for Ministerial approval.

Emerging Commercial Fisheries

In response to increasing interest by business entities from outside the region to develop a commercial fisheries in the Beaufort Sea, the Committee continued to work closely with DFO and the Inuvialuit Game Council to lay the foundations for developing a regionally managed,



sustainable commercial fisheries in the Beaufort that will benefit Inuvialuit economically while not adversely impact traditional subsistence harvesting activities.

COSEWIC and Species-at-Risk Legislation

With the Species at Risk Act given Royal Assent on December 12, 2002, the Committee has taken a more active role in ensuring Inuvialuit involvement in the protection of endangered fish and marine mammal species. The FJMC will continue to work with COSEWIC to better define the Committee's role in the federal assessment process for endangered species under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee participated in the preliminary stages of re-assessment of several species in 2003-04, including beluga and bowhead whales.

Communications

The FJMC continued to develop its existing website (www.fjmc.ca) as a means to better inform the public, government, and industry about FJMC and fisheries co-management in the ISR. A variety of FJMC reports and other materials are available on the site for downloading by interested parties. The FJMC reaches Inuvialuit beneficiaries within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region through its annual ISR community tour and regular contributions to the Joint Secretariat-Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committee's newsletter, the *JS Common Ground*. The newsletter is distributed to every registered Inuvialuit beneficiary each summer and winter.

Student Mentoring Program and Inuvialuit Youth

FJMC's Student Mentoring Program returned for its 7th successful season in 2003-04. The Program hosted 4 students (4 from Inuvik, with 3 completing the term), enjoyed new work placement partnerships (including DFO, Parks Canada, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Kavik AXYS, and Inuvialuit Environmental and Geotechnical), continued funding relationships with GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and Enbridge Inc. and completed the Boot Lake aquatic science training module featuring a new study manual developed by DFO. The FJMC Mentoring Program is offered in partnership with DFO and is designed to encourage Inuvialuit youth to finish high school and continue with their studies in the sciences so that they can become the ISR's future resource managers and biologists.

The FJMC also participated in a regional career fair – Career Quest 2004- with an FJMC tradeshow display. FJMC and Joint Secretariat staff was available to answer questions about the Mentoring Program from junior and senior high school students from around the Beaufort-Delta region. A presentation was also given to local high school students as part of the career fair in an effort to promote the program.



FUNDING

Funding of all renewable resource-related activities associated with the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement is provided by Canada and coordinated by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). To date, the funding has been allocated in 5-year blocks, with 2003-04 being the last of the current 5-year commitment.

In the case of the FJMC, while the overall process is coordinated by DIAND, DFO is responsible for developing budget forecasts for the 5-year blocks for submission to Treasury Board, and the resulting allocations for the FJMC become part of the Department's annual budget. A portion of the funds are categorized as "Operations and Maintenance" while the balance is identified as "Grants and Contributions". As a result, two funding mechanisms support the activities of the FJMC. First, for those activities described in the previous section under Research and Monitoring, while the projects and their budgets are identified by the FJMC, the funds to support the projects are administered by DFO. This arrangement is efficient since for the most part, the projects are carried out by DFO staff. Table 1 lists projects and activities supported through this process for the reporting year.

The operational activities of the Committee as well as some specific tasks identified in the IFA are funded through a contribution agreement between DFO and the Joint Secretariat. These costs which include Inuvialuit participation costs, chair costs and salary and operational costs for the Committee's biologist are detailed in Table 2. These funds are the subject of an annual audit.



Table 1. Projects funded through the FJMC budget process with the funds being administered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans during 2003-04.

Title	Manager	O&M
Canada Members	Charlie	\$68,000
Support Funds	Charlie	\$37,000
Micro-PIXE analysis of Dolly Varden otoliths	Babaluk	\$15,000
Acoustic monitoring of seismic survey vessels in Mackenzie River.	Gyselman	\$5,000
Beluga reproduction and condition	Harwood	\$24,000
Seal reproduction and condition	Harwood	\$25,000
Seal ice survey spring	Harwood	\$10,000
Husky/Sitidgi monitoring	Harwood	\$18,000
Husky Lakes assessment	Harwood	\$30,000
Sitidgi Lake assessment	Harwood	\$18,000
Hornaday charr monitoring	Harwood	\$15,000
Hornaday gauge	Harwood	\$10,000
Hornaday fishing plan implementation	Harwood	\$12,000
Fish Lake monitoring	Harwood	\$14,000
Diseased Marine Mammal Sampling Project	Nielsen	\$10,000
Lake drawdown – oil and gas	Stephenson	\$5,000
Tag recoveries – Alaska	Stephenson	\$4,000
Brock Lake fish survey	Stephenson	\$12,000
Sachs Harbour arctic char baseline data collection	Stephenson	\$7,500
Holman char plan meeting	Stephenson	\$4,000
Delta long-term monitoring	Stephenson	\$6,000
Harvest studies – Sachs, Holman, Paulatuk	Stephenson	\$21,000
Tuk – Arctic cisco monitor (July - September)	Stephenson	\$4,000
Shingle Point Dolly Varden Harvest	Stephenson	\$3,000
Broad whitefish/lake whitefish management plan	Stephenson	\$1,000
Changes to composition of Delta fisheries	Stephenson	\$20,000
Harvester monitoring	Stephenson	\$6,000
Mercury in western Arctic marine mammals	Stern	\$28,600
		\$433,100



Table 2. Funds provided through a Contribution Agreement

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE1	
Fisheries Joint Management Committee Operations	
For the Year Ended March 31, 2004	
REVENUE Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans - Contribution	\$458,200
EXPENDITURES Chairman - Honoraria	43,768
Chairman - Per Diems	2,193
Chairman - Travel	10,361
Chairman - Accommodation	4,467
Chairman - Telephone and Fax	5,046
General & Office	2,708
Inuvialuit - Honoraria	54,528
Inuvialuit - Per Diems	11,296
Inuvialuit - Travel	35,192
Inuvialuit - Accommodation	14,231
Meeting Costs	10,928
Consulting	6,191
Rent	5,000
Resource Biologist - Wages and Benefits	74,665
Resource Support - Program Supplies	5,497
Resource Support - Travel	13,132
Resource Support - Accommodation	4,477
Resource Support - Per Diems	2,961
Yukon North Scope Conference	1,942
Beluga Tagging Consultation	11,339
Consultation Planning and Publication	36,518
Fishing Registration	10,968
Beluga Monitors	52,181
Project and Student Support	14,275
Beluga Jaw Aging	13,852
West Side Working Group	11,273
	458,989
EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURE)	(789)
TRANSFER TO (FROM) CONTRIBUTIONS REPAYABLE	(789)
EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURE)	\$



APPENDIX A

FJMC Responsibilities

As described under Section 14(64) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee shall, among its other activities:

- (a) review information on the state of fishing in waters on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands and Crown lands in any areas where the Inuvialuit have an interest and fishery related activities on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands;*
- (b) identify areas of waters on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands where fishing has taken place and predict where fishing may in the future take place;*
- (c) determine current harvest levels;*
- (d) develop, maintain and control a public registration system for fishing in waters on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands and for entry on 7(1)(b) lands for the purpose of fishing;*
- (e) restrict and regulate the public right to enter on 7(1)(b) lands for the purpose of fishing where such restriction and regulation is required for the conservation of a stock, to prevent serious conflict with Inuvialuit activities, to prevent interference with other Inuvialuit use of the land to which they have title or to prevent unreasonable interference with Inuvialuit use and enjoyment of the land;*
- (f) deny entry to persons who abuse the right;*
- (g) allocate subsistence quotas among communities;*
- (h) determine the reporting requirements and review the role of "the Hunters and Trappers Committees in regulating the subsistence harvest and collection of harvest statistics;*
- (i) make recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on subsistence quotas for fish, harvestable quotas for marine mammals, Inuvialuit commercial fishing, allocation of the preferential fishing licences to be granted under subsections (29) to (32), regulations regarding sport and commercial fishing in waters on 7(1)(a) and (b) lands and the identification of waters where such fishing may be prohibited; and*
- (j) advise the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on regulations, research policies and administration of fisheries generally affecting the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and on any new international agreements being developed that might apply to Inuvialuit fisheries.*

