

Annual Report 2000-01

Fisheries Joint Management Committee

Under Section 14.(61) of the IFA, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) provides advice to the Minister of Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) on all



Members Max Kotokak Sr., Burton Ayles, mentoring student Northern Beatty, resource biologist Ed McLean, and alternate member Dennis Arey

matters affecting fisheries and management of fish and marine mammals found in the ISR. 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.

Implementation funds to support the Committee's operations, provided through a contribution agreement with DFO, totaled \$341,900. A second contribution agreement for \$90,000 provided support to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study

Consultation & Planning

In keeping with the co-management philosophy of the IFA, consultation with local HTC's, IGC, DFO and other government agencies formed an important part of the Committee's activities. In addition to holding 5 regular meetings, one special workshop on hydrocarbon development in the ISR, and 6 teleconferences, the Committee also held public meetings in Inuvik, Aklavik, and Tuktoyaktuk to discuss with hunters and fishers issues of concern related to fish, marine mammals, and research priorities for the region. One of our regular meetings was held in Winnipeg at Fisheries & Oceans Canada'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 our research priorities and develops a workplan is unique among Inuvialuit Joint Implementing Bodies. Community meetings in November, discussions with

Annual Report 2000-01

scientific staff at the Freshwater Institute in February and Committee planning sessions in February/March, all comprise the essential elements in the Committee's annual work plan and budgeting cycle for the new fiscal. The Committee is currently in the process of developing a Vision Statement that will stand as a strategic plan for the Committee over the next decade.

Research & Monitoring

The FJMC was active in numerous research & monitoring activities in 2000-01. A total of 24 projects were conducted through joint efforts between the FJMC and DFO. We have continued to support char monitoring projects in Paulatuk and Holman that provide information for existing community-based char fishing plans which have been implemented for the Hornaday and Kuujua 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 monitor project for that river system. The FJMC has allocated funds to set-up and support a working group that will develop a new community-based fishing plan that will cover numerous fish species and a range of North Slope/West Side rivers from the Big Fish River west to the Fish Creek near the Alaskan border. The West Side Working Group includes representatives from the Aklavik HTC, FJMC, DFO, and Parks Canada. At their first meeting held in Aklavik in January, a Terms of Reference document was developed.

Recognizing the importance of coregonids to subsistence fishers in the Beaufort Delta we funded a traditional knowledge project to identify spawning areas within the ISR and the early-stage public consultations required for the development of a future broad whitefish integrated fisheries management plan.

In accordance with Section 14.(64) c of the IFA, the Committee initiated its first annual survey of

Spring-Summer sport fishing catches in the ISR to provide needed information to better manage fish stocks in the region. Over 400 recreational anglers who purchased a Government of the Northwest Territories sport fishing licence within the region were invited to take part in the mailout survey. Additional data gathered from this survey will be used to develop an education program for next year to improve the public's understanding of and compliance with FJMC's sport fishing registry for Inuvialuit private lands.

For a second year, FJMC funded a satellite telemetry program to monitor the movements of ringed seals tagged in the vicinity of Holman. The Committee also supported an ongoing project designed to monitor the reproductive status and condition of ringed seals. The quality of country foods continues to be a significant concern for the communities. This year, the Committee funded research involving the collection of samples from harvested marine mammals

for contaminant and disease analysis.

In addition to annual research project funding, the Committee also continues to support a couple of long-running projects that provide essential subsistence harvest data required for sound management decisions. In co-operation with the HTC's, the Committee sponsors 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 collection, and data collation. The Committee also continues as funding partner along with various Federal and Territorial government agencies for the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. The newly re-designed Harvest Study returned to the ISR in 2000-01 after a brief hiatus.

Hydrocarbon Development

The FJMC is positioned to provide sound advice on issues related to the return of the oil and gas industry to the ISR. In preparation for the resurgence of hydrocarbon exploration and development in the Beaufort Delta, the FJMC hosted a workshop in August on natural gas development in the ISR. Committee members and key DFO staff received an industry perspective on development scenarios and a review of environmental concerns associated with on and offshore developments. The Committee and staff have been regular participants in pre-submission community and agency consultations by industry. FJMC has tightened their screening procedures for the review of all proposals before EISC that have the potential to impact on fish, marine mammals, and/or aquatic habitat in the ISR. . FJMC's Beluga Management Plan (third printing, 1998) was amended in 2001 to clarify guidelines concerning industry activities within critical beluga management zones where subsistence whaling activities occur. Finally the Committee has

continued to actively lobby DFO to take steps (i.e. staffing, program development) to be better prepared for accelerating development in the region.

Other Management Issues

The Committee actively participated in DFO's Regional Advisory Process (RAP) to develop the Eastern Beaufort Sea Beluga stock status report (2000) and prepared a joint submission with other Inuvialuit co-management bodies for presentation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Ottawa on Bill C-5 (Species at Risk Act).

Communications

FJMC continues 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.

Annual Report 2000-01

FJMC is a regular contributor of a news brief to the Joint Secretariat-Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committee's newsletter –the JS Bulletin. The Bulletin, edited by FJMC staff, is widely distributed to every Inuvialuit beneficiary and our government partners twice each year.

A summary report from last year's very successful Beaufort Sea 2000 Conference: Renewable Resources for Our Children was released this year. The conference, co-hosted by the FJMC, brought together 144 representatives including local harvesters, scientists, resource managers, educators, and youth for four days to review their understanding of renewable resources in the Beaufort Sea and develop a collective management vision for the future.

Student Mentoring Program

With a goal of increasing the number of Inuvialuit beneficiaries involved in the technical aspects of fish and marine mammal management in the ISR, the Committee continued its Student

Mentoring Program- now in its fourth year. Through the support of DFO staff in Inuvik and Winnipeg, as well as with financial assistance from the Government of the Northwest Territories, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and Enbridge Inc., four students participated in office and field projects around the ISR, Hay River, and in Winnipeg.