



Tuesday, April 8th, 2014

The Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
200 Kent Street, 8th Floor
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0E6

Re: Turbot Co-Management in and adjacent to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area

Dear Minister Shea,

The Torngat Joint Fisheries Board ('the Board') is established by Part 13.10 of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (2005), and is empowered by Part 13.11 to provide recommendations on fish, fish habitat, and fisheries in and adjacent to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. We here offer our recommendations for the 2014 Turbot fishery in North Atlantic Fisheries Organizations (NAFO) Sub-Divisions 2 and 3KLMNO.

The Nunatsiavut Government has access to the Turbot fishery in adjacent areas through three groundfish licenses and a communal allocation of 3.38% of the Canadian allocation in 2+3KLMNO (189MT in 2013). Landings in 2013 under the licenses and the communal allocation amounted to 193.2MT. The Board is encouraged that the communal allocation, paired with split seasons to allow access under groundfish licences, is an effective means of increasing Nunatsiavut Government access to adjacent resources. We consider the 2013 season to be a successful test of the new approach, and we recommend:

1. That the Nunatsiavut Government communal allocation be increased to 650MT.
2. That the season/quota split be maintained.

We are confident that these recommendations are consistent with the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and Departmental allocation principles, and we look forward to working with you and your Department to accomplish our shared goals.

Yours truly,

John Mercer
Chairperson
Torngat Joint Fisheries Board



Torngat Joint Fisheries Board
Memorandum to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Turbot Co-Management in 2+3KLMNO
(April 8th, 2014)

Issue: Turbot Co-Management In and Adjacent to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

Recommendations:

1. Increase the Nunatsiavut Government communal allocation to 650MT.
2. Maintain the existing season/quota split.

1.0 Background:

1.1 *The Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*

- The Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB or 'the Board') is established by Part 13.10 of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA or 'the Agreement'), with its roles, responsibilities and powers outlined in Part 13.11. The Board is the primary body making recommendations on the conservation and management of fish, fish habitat, and fisheries in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, and has advisory powers in waters adjacent to the 'Zone'. The TJFB has both the authority and the responsibility to make recommendations to the Minister in respect of issues surrounding the management of Turbot, as per 13.11.1 (a) and (b).

1.2 *Case History*

- The TJFB has submitted recommendations on Turbot annually since 2010. Each year the Board has recommended a Nunatsiavut communal allocation of 650MT. In 2013 the Nunatsiavut Government was issued a communal allocation of 3.38% of the Canadian allocation in 2+3KLMNO, which equated to 189MT.

2.0 Management Framework and Resource Status:

- The status of the resource is uncertain, and made more so by uncertainty over landings. In 2003, in response to an apparent decline, the Fisheries Commission of NAFO (with advice from the Scientific Council) established a fifteen-year rebuilding plan for the 2+3KLMNO portion of the turbot resource. In 2010 the Fisheries Commission concluded a management strategy evaluation and established harvest control rules, which limit TAC adjustments in any given year to +/-5%. As a result,

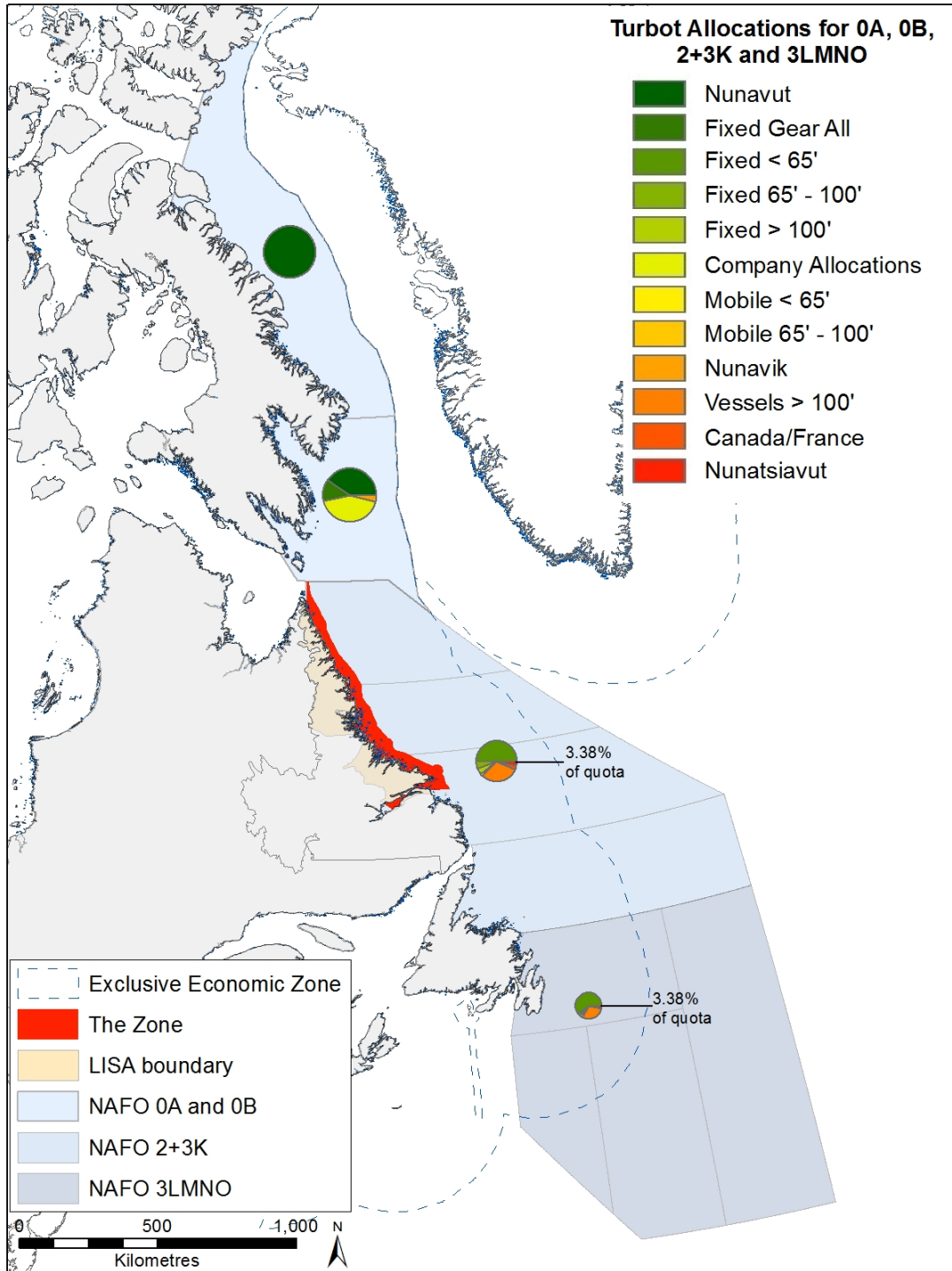


the 2+3KLMNO TAC for 2014 was reduced by 5%. The TJFB fully supports the rebuilding plan, the harvest control rules, and the resultant 5% decrease in 2014.

3.0 Total Allowable Catch and Allocations:

- Nunavut has 100% of the 6,500MT quota in Sub-Division 0A, and 41% of 7,000MT in 0B. Nunatsiavut has access to 3.38% of 3,900MT in 2+3K (132MT in 2013), and 3.38% of 1,724MT in 3LMNO (58MT in 2013). While the fishery has developed in the North and South over the last several decades, the Turbot fishery in Nunatsiavut has progressed little. Although the 2013 communal allocation has increased Nunatsiavut Government participation, the Nunatsiavut Government is not a significant beneficiary of the significant Turbot resources in and adjacent to the zone. The zone established by the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement accounts for 7.66% of NAFO Sub-Divisions 2+3K, and 5.33% of 2+3KLMNO.

Figure 1.0 Turbot Allocations for 0A, 0B, 2+3K, and 3LMNO





4.0 2013 Fishery Update

- The Nunatsiavut Government landed 177.1MT of the 189MT communal allocation, and 16.1MT on permits associated with groundfish licenses. An additional 85.5MT was caught on non-Nunatsiavut Government permits and landed at the processing facility in Makkovik.

5.0 Split Quota/Season:

- In 2007 the DFO implemented a quota/season split to allow northern interests an opportunity to participate in the competitive Turbot fishery. The quota/season split has been only partially successful in this respect, but it has proven a necessary compliment to the communal allocation. In practice, any modification to the existing quota/season split would compromise the Nunatsiavut Government's ability to harvest Turbot in the competitive fishery and the communal fishery.

6.0 Consultation and Deliberation

- The TJFB hosted a Turbot workshop in Happy Valley – Goose Bay in November of 2012. The workshop brought together fishers, researchers, processors, and managers, and those discussions continue to inform the Board's recommendations.
- The Board meets quarterly and Turbot is an Agenda item at each meeting. This recommendation emerged from meetings held in Happy Valley – Goose Bay on January 21st, 2013, and St. John's on March 4th, 2014.
- Representatives of the Board regularly attend Groundfish Advisory Meetings and Turbot Working Group Meetings to better understand stakeholder perspectives. However, participation in these processes does not detract from the Board's responsibility to make recommendations to your office.
- A representative of the Board participated as a member of the Canadian delegation to the NAFO annual general meetings in 2012 and 2013.

7.0 Policy and Legislative Considerations

- The Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the Fisheries Act, the Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations, the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization Fisheries Commission decisions, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans policies provide the legal, constitutional and policy context to the supplied recommendations.

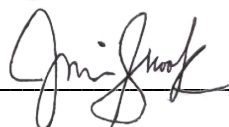


8.0 Summaries and Conclusions

- Whereas the Nunatsiavut Government is immediately adjacent to 2+3K; and considering that 7.33% of 2+3K is comprised of the zone; and having also considered allocations to the North and South; and recognizing that the 3.38% allocation was harvested successfully in 2013; and recognizing that access to Turbot is a critical element of the fishing industry in Nunatsiavut; the Board recommends that the communal allocation be increased to 650MT.
- Whereas the existing quota/season split has been in place since 2007; and recognizing that the Nunatsiavut Government's access to the competitive Turbot fishery is made possible by the split; and recognizing also that the Nunatsiavut Government's participation in the competitive fishery facilitates their ability to harvest the communal allocation; the Board recommends that there be no modification to the quota/season split.

Prepared by: Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat

Approved by:  Chairperson

Approved by:  Executive Director