

# Annual Report 1999–2000

Fisheries Joint Management Committee



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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 Department of Fisheries and Oceans on fishery management and related issues within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. During its seventh, eighth and ninth years of operation, 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 1999 and concluding March 2000.

#### **Committee Membership**

##### **Chairman**

Robert Bell

##### **Members**

Billy Day  
Don Dowler  
Max Kotokak Sr.  
Burton Ayles

##### **Resource Biologist**

Joey Amos

### ***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 employs one resource biologist to manage its programs.

### ***Meetings***

In keeping with the co-management philosophy of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, consultation with local Hunters and Trappers Committees, the Inuvialuit Game Council and DFO, as well as other government agencies formed an important part of the Committee's activities in 1999-00. In addition to holding five regular meetings, one special meeting and several teleconferences, the Committee held public meetings in Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour to discuss with hunters and fishers issues of concern related to fish and marine mammals, including current and planned FJMC projects. While in Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour, Committee members also visited the schools to explain to students, most of whom are beneficiaries of the claim, the Committee's role in renewable resource management. One of the regular meetings was held in Winnipeg at the Freshwater Institute to facilitate information exchange and project planning with the Department's scientific and management staff. The community meetings and the discussions with scientific staff, along with January and March planning sessions, comprise the essential elements in the Committee's annual work plan and budgeting cycle.

### ***Research and Management Programs***

The Committee was active in numerous monitoring and research activities during 1999-00 (see table 1). The third year of a 3-year project to evaluate the state of the important cisco and herring populations in the vicinity of Tuktoyaktuk was completed. A final report is in preparation. Char monitoring was carried out at Holman, Paulatuk and Shingle Point. Community-based charr fishing plans that depend upon the monitoring information have been implemented for the Hornaday and Kuujjua Rivers near Paulatuk and Holman respectively.

The Committee provided support for the first year of satellite telemetry program to monitor the movements of ringed seals that were tagged in the vicinity of Holman. It also worked with DFO and representatives of the Gwich'in and Sahtu Renewable Resource Management Boards to develop an integrated fishery management plan for inconnu. Since the quality of country foods continues to be a significant concern in the communities but information related to contaminants is often not accessible, the Committee retained an independent consultant to gather and collate all information related to contaminants in fish and marine mammals from studies carried out in or near the Settlement Region.

In co-operation with the HTC's, the Committee continued to sponsor the beluga harvest-monitoring program. Whale monitors employed by HTC's are stationed in each of the active whaling camps within the ISR. They collect biological information from each whale harvested. Committee staff provided program and logistic support, co-ordinated the collection of any special samples, and collated all data.

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Table 1. FJMC funding allocations for 1999 - 2000

Project	Project Manager	FJMC Allocation
Sachs Harbour Marine Benthic	Siferd	37.3
Tuk Harbour Cisco	Harwood	35.0
Husky Lakes Lake Trout	Harwood	3.0
Holman Charr & Fishing Plan	Harwood	8.5
Kuuji River Char	Harwood	31.0
Kuuk River Charr	Harwood	12.0
Beaufort Amundsen Ringed Seal, monitoring	Harwood	24.0
Beaufort Amundsen Ringed Seal, telemetry	Harwood	20.0
Big Fish River Charr Enumeration	Stephenson	2.6
Hornaday River Fishing Plan	Harwood	19.0
Hornaday River Char Spawning		5.0
Hornaday River Water Monitoring	Harwood	5.0
Stk Status, Hornaday River Char	Cosens	4.0
Microsatellite DNA Tech Char	Reist	10.0
Aquatic Marine Fish Field Guide	Reist	10.0
Dolly Varden Char Otolith Chem	Babaluk	5.0
RAP Meeting, Big Fish River Charr	Cosens	1.0
Lower Mackenzie Index Netting Project	Stephenson	9.9
Mackenzie River Transboundary Workshop	Tallman	5.0
Contaminants in the ISR	Macdonald	12.3
Mercury in beluga organs	Lockhart	7.5
Canada Member Costs		55.0
Support Funds		25.0
Student Mentoring Program		20.0
Beaufort Sea Conference		30.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>397.1</b>

### ***Student Programs***

With the goal of increasing the number of beneficiaries involved in the technical aspects of fish and marine mammal management, the Committee continued its Student Mentoring Program. With support of Department staff, both in Inuvik and Winnipeg, and with financial assistance from the Brighter Futures program, four high school students participated in office and field projects in the Inuvik and Aklavik areas.

### ***Beaufort Sea 2000***

In mid-September the Committee's long-planned Beaufort Sea Conference 2000 took place in Inuvik. Three and a half days of workshops and presentation sessions brought elders, school students and HTC reps from the region together with scientists and managers from across Canada and as far away as Japan to focus on the major issues facing the Canadian Beaufort Sea during the next decade. Co-sponsored by the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Arctic Institute of North America and the Aurora Research Institute, the conference provided a forum where 150 delegates, more than half of whom were from the six communities of the Settlement Region met to explore a variety of issues ranging from the effectiveness of co-management, and the application of new technologies such as satellite telemetry to consideration of new tools for managing human impacts on ocean resources. "It was a tremendously successful conference" said conference chair Don Dowler. "I don't recall a session where the level of participation of community people, and especially students and elders, was so high." In his closing remarks to the participants, recently appointed chair of the Canadian Polar Commission, Michael Robinson, noted that the co-management model that has been developed and refined in the western Arctic is a model for the rest of the world, and is now being applied to resource management conflicts from Africa to New Zealand.

### ***International Agreements***

Finally in March the Committee participated in the signing of the user-based Inuvialuit-

Inupiat Beluga Whale Agreement. Under discussion for nearly ten years and patterned after a highly successful polar bear agreement, the document commits the signatories to share harvest information, cooperate on research and management studies, share traditional and practical knowledge related to harvesting, and in general take a cooperative approach to their interactions with Eastern Beaufort Sea stock of beluga whales.

### ***FUNDING***

The operations of the FJMC (excluding most projects) are supported through a contribution agreement between the DFO and the Joint Secretariat. That annual agreement provides funds for Inuvialuit participation, Chair costs as well as salary and operational support for the resource biologist and Committee programs. Table 2 contains the audited financial statement related to income and expenditures under the contribution agreement.

**Table 2. Audited financial statement for DFO-Joint Secretariat Contribution Agreement for 1999 - 2000**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE  
Fisheries Joint Management Committee Operations  
For the Year Ended March 31,2000**

REVENUE	
<b>Dept. of Fisheries and Ocean - Contribution</b>	<b>\$350,500</b>
EXPENDITURES	
Chairman - Honoraria	\$40,037
Chairman - Per Diems	\$1,927
Chairman - Travel and Accommodation	\$26,678
General & Office	\$3,401
Inuvialuit - Honoraria	\$17,424
Inuvialuit - Per Diems	\$4,943
Inuvialuit - Travel and Accommodation	\$32,715
Meeting Costs	\$10,127
Program Supplies	\$15,231
Investment in Capital Assets	\$23,007
Recruiting	\$14,017
Rent	\$5,000
Resource Biologist - Wages and Benefits	\$39,597
Resource Biologist - Travel and Accommodations	\$5,959
Resource Biologist - Per Diem	\$292
Travel & Accommodations	\$1,791
Consultation Planning and Publication	\$16,848
Fishing Registration	\$8,858
Beluga Monitors	\$40,089
	<b>\$307,941</b>
<b>Excess Revenue (Expenditure)</b>	<b>\$42,599</b>

## **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.*