

Annual Report 2000–2001

Fisheries Joint Management Committee

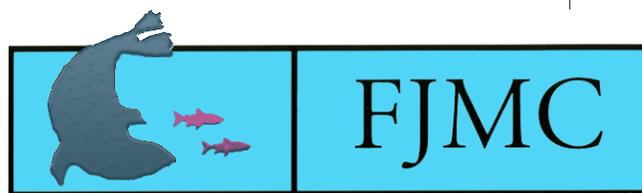


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FOREWORD

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 2000 and concluding March 2001.

Committee Membership

Chairman

Robert Bell

Members

Billy Day
Don Dowler
Max Kotokak Sr.
Burton Ayles

Resource Biologist

Ed McLean

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.

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 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 (see Table 1) 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 projected 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.

FJMC Annual Report 2000 - 2001

| Table 1. Summary of FJMC Projects for 2000 - 2001 Fiscal Year | |  FJMC | |
|---|-----------------|--|--|
| | | Approved | |
| Project | Project Manager | FJMC Budget | |
| Canada Members | Allen | \$55,000 | |
| Support Funds | Allen | \$30,500 | |
| Summer Students | Allen | \$20,000 | |
| Beaufort Sea Beluga Reproduction | Harwood | \$14,000 | |
| Monitoring reproductive status of ringed seals at Holman | Harwood | \$22,000 | |
| Tagging and tracking of ringed seals at Holman | Harwood | \$35,000 | |
| Hornaday River charr sampling | Harwood | \$16,000 | |
| Hornaday water gauge | Harwood | \$10,000 | |
| Assessment of Husky Lakes fishery resources | Harwood | \$10,000 | |
| Prince Albert Sound charr | Harwood | \$9,000 | |
| Fish Lake charr monitoring | Harwood | \$12,000 | |
| Lower Mackenzie index netting project | Stephenson | \$8,000 | |
| West Side charr management plan | Stephenson | \$6,000 | |
| Paulatuk charr management plan | Stephenson | \$12,000 | |
| Holman charr fishing plan | Stephenson | \$11,000 | |
| Broad whitefish integrated management plan consultations | Stephenson | \$3,000 | |
| Assessment of fish populations near Paulatuk | Johnson | \$20,000 | |
| Charr stock discrimination using nuclear DNA | Reist | \$10,000 | |
| Diseased marine mammal sampling | Ole Nielsen | \$6,000 | |
| Coregonid biology in the ISR | Tallman | \$9,000 | |
| Workshop on beluga tagging in Chukchi Sea | Richard | \$20,000 | |
| Sachs Harbour benthic survey | Siferd | \$31,000 | |
| Micro-PIXE | Babaluk | \$4,000 | |
| Stock status reports for north slope dolly vardeen charr | Reist | \$30,000 | |
| | | \$403,500 | |

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.

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.

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 related to the DFO contribution agreement with the Joint Secretariat

**Schedule of Revenue and Expenditure
Fisheries Joint Management Committee Operations
For Year Ended March 31, 2001**

REVENUE

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Dept. of Fisheries and Ocean - Contribution | \$341,900 |
|---|------------------|

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Chairman - Honoraria | \$41,197 |
|----------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Chairman - Per Diems | \$1,586 |
|----------------------|---------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Chairman - Travel and Accommodation | \$23,653 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|

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|------------------|---------|
| General & Office | \$5,954 |
|------------------|---------|

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Inuvialuit - Honoraria | \$22,147 |
|------------------------|----------|

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Inuvialuit - Per Diems | \$7,608 |
|------------------------|---------|

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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Inuvialuit - Travel and Accommodation | \$42,417 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|

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|---------------|----------|
| Meeting Costs | \$11,858 |
|---------------|----------|

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| Program Supplies | \$6,134 |
|------------------|---------|

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|------------------------------|----------|
| Investment in Capital Assets | \$18,445 |
|------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|------|---------|
| Rent | \$5,000 |
|------|---------|

| | |
|---|----------|
| Resource Biologist - Wages and Benefits | \$62,236 |
|---|----------|

| | |
|--|----------|
| Resource Biologist - Travel and Accommodations | \$10,261 |
|--|----------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Resource Biologist - Per Diem | \$578 |
|-------------------------------|-------|

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|-------------------------|---------|
| Travel & Accommodations | \$4,084 |
|-------------------------|---------|

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Beluga Workshop | \$2,342 |
|-----------------|---------|

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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Consultation Planning and Publication | \$57,856 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|

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|----------------------|---------|
| Fishing Registration | \$8,969 |
|----------------------|---------|

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Beluga Monitors | \$46,960 |
|-----------------|----------|

| | |
|--|------------------|
| | \$379,285 |
|--|------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURE) | -\$37,385 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|---|----------|
| TRANSFER TO (FROM) CONTRIBUTIONS REPAYABLE | \$42,559 |
|---|----------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURE) | \$5,174 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

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.