

Annual Report 2001–2002

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 2001 and concluding March 2002.

Committee Membership

Chairman

Robert Bell

Members

Billy Day

Don Dowler

Max Kotokak Sr.

Burton Ayles

IGC Alternate Members

Dennis Arey

Donald Inuktalik

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, and employs one resource biologist to manage its programs.

MEETINGS

In keeping with the co-management philosophy of the IFA, consultation with local Hunters & Trappers' Committees (HTCs), Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO), and other government agencies formed an important part of the Committee's activities. In addition to holding 5 regular meetings, 7 teleconferences, and one special joint meeting with a multi-agency working group developing a pilot marine protected area in the Beaufort Sea, the Committee also held 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 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 January and Committee planning sessions in March, all comprise the essential elements in the Committee's annual work plan and budgeting cycle for the new fiscal year.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Planning

After almost 2 years of development, the FJMC Vision Statement nears completion. The Vision Statement is a strategic plan that will direct FJMC's activities for the first decade of the new millennium. This important document contains a set of guiding fundamental principles, a clear vision for the future of fish and marine mammal management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and a set of milestones for the next decade.

Research & Monitoring

The FJMC was active in numerous research, monitoring, and management programs in 2001-02. A total of 25 projects were conducted through joint efforts between the FJMC and DFO (See Table 1).

We have continued to support charr monitoring projects in Paulatuk and Holman that provide information for existing community-based charr 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 allocated operating funds to support the West Side Working Group and its efforts to develop a community-driven integrated fishing plan that will cover numerous fish species and a range of Yukon North Slope/West Side rivers from the Big Fish River west to the Fish Creek near the Alaskan border. This fiscal year, the Working Group, which includes representatives from the Aklavik HTC and Elders Committee, FJMC, DFO, and Parks Canada Agency, assembled critical scientific and traditional knowledge information on North Slope fisheries that will form the foundation of the future management plan. A traditional knowledge study was completed that collected observations and stories from Inuvialuit fishers of the North Slope and western Delta waters. The local knowledge gathered spans over 70 years and provides valuable insights on trends in fishing site and species usage, as well as

changes in the local environment and habitat

Support of a multi-year program to assess 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 FJMC continues to allocate funds in support of a satellite telemetry program to monitor the movements of ringed seals. As a follow-up to a two-year tagging program conducted in Holman, seals were tagged this year in the Cape Perry area near Paulatuk. The Committee also continued to sponsor to a long-term 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. In response to this concern as well as to monitor animal health, the Committee allocated funds for research involving 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 supports long-term harvest monitoring programs that provide essential harvest data required by the Committee 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 collection, and data collation. Monitors also kept track of aircraft traffic over whale camps and filled out detailed incident reports in cases where aircraft harassed/disturbed whales and/or harvesters. At season's end, these harassment incident reports were turned over to DFO Conservation & Protection for follow-up with identified air charter companies.

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 2001-02.

Finally, in accordance with Section 14.(64) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, this fiscal year was a time of renewal for FJMC's Private Lands Sport Fishing Registry. Recreational anglers fishing within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region are now being surveyed on an annual basis. Results from FJMC's first annual ISR Spring-Summer Sport Angler Harvest Survey for 2000 were analyzed and communicated back to communities, recreational anglers, and government agencies. Data collection for the 2001 ISR Spring-Summer Sport Angler Survey was completed by the end of the 2001-02 fiscal year. The scope of the 2001 Spring-Summer angler survey was expanded to include both GNWT sport fishing licence holders and visitors to National Parks within the ISR who held a federal Parks Canada fishing permit. Findings from the 2000 pilot survey helped the FJMC in designing an effective promotional and education campaign for their ISR Private Lands Fishing Registry in 2001-02. The first stage of a promotional campaign to better educate fishing licence vendors, HTC's, and recreational anglers was completed. The campaign featured: large wall displays at major air and road travel gateways into the ISR; new private lands wall maps for all fishing licence vendors and HTC's in the region; information brochures reprinted and distributed to vendors and HTC's; advertisements in NWT Tourism's Explorers Guide / Guide to Hunting & Fishing in the Northwest Territories and Beaufort Delta Attractions Guide.

Table 1. Fisheries Joint Management Committee Summary of 2001/02 Research Proposals Approved by FJMC



Project Title	Project Manager	ISR Communities Aff	Final
Char Stock Identity Issues: Argo Bay	Lois Harwood	Paulatuk	4,000
Beaufort Sea Beluga: Reproduction (Year 2)	Lois Harwood	Inuvik	13,200
Fish Lake Char Monitoring	Lois Harwood	Holman	14,000
Holman Community Char Project	Lois Harwood (Ho)	Holman	9,000
Hornady River Char- Sampling of Subsistence Catches by Community Monitors	Lois Harwood	Paulatuk	15,000
Baseline Monitoring: Water Quality and Quantity at Hornady River (Year 4)	Lois Harwood	Paulatuk	12,300
An Assessment of the Ecology & Fishery Resources of Husky Lakes, NT and Community Monitoring of Catches	Lois Harwood	Tuk, Inuvik	44,000
Monitoring Reproductive Status and Condition of Ringed Seals at Holman (2001)	Lois Harwood	Holman	22,000
Tagging and Tracking of Ringed Seals at Cape Perry Using Satellite Telemetry	Lois Harwood	Paulatuk	25,000
Lower Mackenzie River Index Netting	Sam Stephenson	Aklavik, Tuk	8,000
West Side Char Fishing Plan	Sam Stephenson	Aklavik	23,000
Babbage and Firth Rivers Char Habitat Study	Sam Stephenson	Aklavik	0
Shingle Point Char Collection	Sam Stephenson	Aklavik	1,900
Paulatuk Char Management Plan	Sam Stephenson	Paulatuk	1,500
Holman Char Fishing Plan	Sam Stephenson	Holman	4,700
Brock Lake Fish Survey	Sam Stephenson	Paulatuk	16,500
Angler Diary Program	Sam Stephenson	Aklavik, Inuvik, T	1,500
Preparations for Chukchi Beluga Tagging: Traing Russian Beluga Biologist & Ice Breaker Sea Trials	Pierre Richard		5,000
Diseased Marine Mammal Sampling Project	Ole Nielsen	ISR	6,000
Beluga DNA Fingerprinting for Sample Recovery (<i>re-Hendrickson 2000 Jaws</i>)	Brigitte de March	ISR	3,100
Temporal Trends of Organochlorine and	Gary Stern	Tuk	11,000
2002 ISR Private Lands Fishing Registry Program Promotion	Ed McLean	ISR	4,000
Spring-Summer ISR Sport Angler Harvest Survey	Ed McLean	ISR	8,000
Impact of Ice Roads	Stephen Charlie		20,000
Impact of Barge Traffic	Stephen Charlie		7,500
Bottom Fauna Inventory	Stephen Charlie		12,000
Offshore regulation practices	Stephen Charlie		16,000
Canada Member	Stephen Charlie	ISR	60,000
Support Funds	Stephen Charlie	ISR	34,338
Mentoring Program	Stephen Charlie	ISR	30,000
TOTAL \$			\$432,538

Hydrocarbon Development

The FJMC continues 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. FJMC maintains tightened screening procedures for the review of all industry proposals before EISC that have the potential to impact on fish, marine mammals, and/or aquatic habitat in the ISR. Prior to every Screening meeting, the Committee continues to review all oil & gas proposals before EISC. Throughout the fiscal year, the Committee has been quite concerned for, and even critical of Fisheries & Oceans Canada's ability to meet the challenges related to increased hydrocarbon activities in this region. The FJMC has actively pressed the Department and other federal agencies for increased government staff & resource capacity in the region. In addition, to open lines of communication between DFO and their fisheries habitat regulator counterparts in Alaska during the current hydrocarbon boom, FJMC facilitated an informal meeting between field level biologists and regulators from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Alaska. The meeting allowed DFO representatives and their US colleagues to share information, experiences, and mitigation strategies regarding the impacts of oil & gas activity on fish and fish habitat.

Beluga Management and Pilot Marine Protected Areas

The FJMC was pleased to initiate the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI) in co-operation with Fisheries & Oceans Canada. 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 goal of this Initiative is to establish a pilot marine protect area under the Oceans Act to ensure that traditional Inuvialuit subsistence whaling in sensitive areas identified under the Beluga Management Plan (2001, Amended 3rd Printing) will not be impacted by accelerating development activities in the Beaufort-Delta.

FJMC worked in cooperation with the Inuvialuit Game Council and Inupiat signatories to

organize and provide technical support for the first meeting of the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Beaufort Sea Beluga Commission meeting held in Anchorage, AK.

Emerging Commercial Fisheries

In response to increasing interest by business entities from outside the region to develop commercial fisheries in the Beaufort Sea, the Committee has been working closely with Fisheries & Oceans Canada and the Inuvialuit Game Council to lay the foundations for a regionally managed, sustainable commercial fisheries in the Beaufort Sea that will benefit Inuvialuit economically while not adversely impact traditional subsistence harvesting activities.

COSEWIC and Species-at-Risk Legislation

The FJMC has worked more closely with COSEWIC over the past year to better define the Committee's role in the federal assessment process for endangered species. The Committee participated in the preliminary stages of re-assessment of bowhead and beluga whales.

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. The FJMC reaches Inuvialuit beneficiaries within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region through their annual ISR community tour and regular contributions of an FJMC news brief to the Joint Secretariat-Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committee's newsletter -the JS Bulletin. The Bulletin is widely distributed to every registered Inuvialuit beneficiary each Spring and Fall.

Student Mentoring Program & Inuvialuit Youth

FJMC's Student Mentoring Program returned for its 5th successful season in 2001-02. The Program hosted 4 students (3 from Inuvik and 1 from Tuktoyaktuk), enjoyed new work

placement partnerships (including Parks Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories- Department of Resources & Wildlife, Aurora Research Institute, Kavik AXYS, Inuvialuit Environmental & Geotechnical), an expanding family of funding agencies (including the Territorial Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and Enbridge Inc.), and welcomed the return of the Boot Lake aquatic science training module featuring a new study manual developed by Fisheries & Oceans Canada. As part of an effort to recruit new students for the 2001 Program, FJMC staff organized and delivered a school tour to high schools in Inuvik, Aklavik, and Tuk in May 2001. This tour involved DFO staff and FJMC Committee members. Through this tour, relationships were established with local science teachers who will be key in the annual recruitment of new academically gifted Inuvialuit students into the Mentoring Program. 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.

FJMC staff and members also participated in a regional career fair - Career Quest 2002- with an FJMC tradeshow display and classroom presentation to junior and senior high school students from around the Beaufort-Delta region.

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 DFO contribution agreement		
SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE		
Fisheries Joint Management Committee Operations		
For the Year Ended March 31, 2002		
REVENUE		
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans - Contribution	\$368,325.00	
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans - Project Recoveries	\$34,297.00	
	\$402,622.00	
EXPENDITURES		
Chairman - Honoraria	\$43,535.00	
Chairman - Per Diems	\$1,942.00	
Chairman - Travel and Accommodation	\$20,943.00	
General & Office	\$2,939.00	
Inuvialuit - Honoraria	\$49,094.00	
Inuvialuit - Per Diems	\$7,712.00	
Inuvialuit - Travel and Accommodation	\$39,090.00	
Meeting Costs	\$6,285.00	
Program Supplies	\$2,054.00	
Rent	\$5,000.00	
Resource Biologist - Wages and Benefits	\$65,058.00	
Resource Biologist - Travel and Accommodations	\$24,041.00	
Resource Biologist - Per Diem	\$2,546.00	
Telephone	\$5,473.00	
Beluga Workshop	\$5,417.00	
Consultation Planning and Publication	\$31,185.00	
Fishing Registration	\$9,745.00	
Beluga Monitors	\$44,083.00	
DFO Projects	\$34,297.00	
	\$400,439.00	
EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURE)	\$2,183.00	
TRANSFER TO (FROM) CONTRIBUTIONS REPAYABLE	\$2,183.00	
EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURE)	0	

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.

