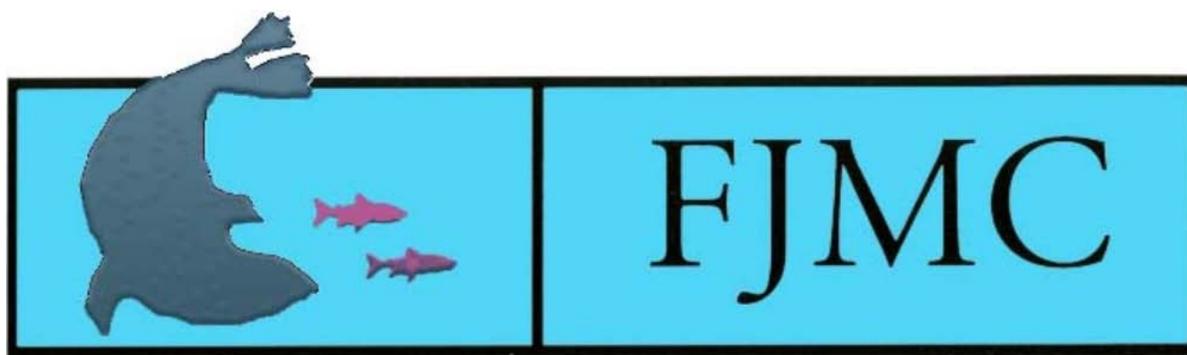


# FISHERIES JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL REPORT

2008-09



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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 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on fishery management and related issues within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. During the reporting year, 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 2008 and concluding March 2009.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Chairman**

Robert Bell

#### **Members**

Lawrence Amos  
George Burton Ayles  
David Victor Gillman  
Max Kotokak Sr.

#### **IGC Alternate Members**

Ron Gruben (September 2008)  
John Max Kudlak (September 2006)

#### **Resource Biologists**

Louie Porta  
Sheila Nasogaluak

## **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 two resource biologists to manage its programs.

## **COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

### ***Consultation and Planning***

In keeping with the co-management philosophy of the IFA, consultation with local Hunters' and Trappers' Committees (HTCs), the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), the DFO, and other government agencies formed an important part of the Committee's activities.

The Committee held three regular meetings, six teleconferences and three community meetings in Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk in November, and Sachs Harbour in June. These meetings were joint meetings with the local Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee to discuss issues of concern related to fish, marine mammals, and research priorities for the region.

One regular meeting was held in Winnipeg at the DFO'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 its research priorities and develops a work plan is unique among Inuvialuit Joint Implementing Bodies. Community meetings in June and 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 next fiscal year.

## ***Research and Monitoring***

The FJMC was active in numerous research, monitoring, and management programs in 2008-09. A total of 27 projects were conducted through joint efforts between the FJMC and DFO.

Support continues for char monitoring projects in Paulatuk and Ulukhaktok that provide information for existing community-based char fishing plans for the Hornaday near Paulatuk and Kuujjua near Ulukhaktok respectively. The FJMC continued to support the West Side Working Group in its efforts to develop a community-driven integrated fishing plan for the Yukon North Slope and West Side rivers west of the Mackenzie to Fish Creek near the Alaskan border. The Working Group continues to assemble critical scientific and traditional knowledge information on North Slope fisheries, information that will form the foundation of the developing management plan.

The quality of country foods also continues to be a significant concern for the communities. Therefore, the allocation of funds for research involving the collection of samples from harvested marine mammals for contaminant and disease analysis was continued. In addition to annual research project funding, the Committee also supported long-term harvest monitoring programs that provide essential harvest data required by the Committee and DFO biologists as a basis 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, coordination of special sample collections, and data collation. Monitors also keep track of aircraft traffic over whale camps and submit detailed incident reports in cases where aircraft may have harassed or disturbed whales and/or harvesters. At season's end, these harassment incident reports were turned over to DFO Conservation and Protection for follow-up with air charter companies as required.

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 2008-09.

In accordance with Section 14.(64) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Committee continued with FJMC's Private Lands Sport Fishing Registry. The promotional campaign initiated in 2001-02 to better educate the fishing public was continued with the renewal of large wall displays at major air and road travel gateways into the ISR; the provision of private lands wall maps for all fishing licence vendors and HTC's in the region; the reprinting and distribution of information brochures to vendors and HTC's; and the placement of advertisements in NWT Explorers Guide / Guide to Hunting and Fishing in the Northwest Territories and the Beaufort Delta Attractions Guide. The data collected in Sport Fishing Surveys completed in 2000, 2001, and 2003 are currently being analyzed and will be published as an FJMC Technical Report, as well as in other formal publications. The surveys and subsequent analyses will assist the Committee's management of sport fishing within the ISR.

In order to facilitate the distribution of information related to research within the ISR, the reactivated FJMC Technical Report series was continued. Several reports were published, distributed, and posted on the Committee's website, with several more currently being finalized and to be released during the 2008-09 fiscal year.

In order to facilitate the wishes of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the West Side Working Group was also re-activated after a year and half of inactivity. The initial meeting was held in Aklavik in January 2009 and there were representatives from Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Rat River Working Group, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Parks Canada and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee. The main topic on the table was the writing of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and how to achieve the writing process within the next year and how to identify actions and next steps for the coming year. The inclusion of the Gwich'in Renewable

Resource Committee Chair and staff will be invited to participate at each of the WSWG meetings.

### ***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. Prior to every Screening meeting, the Committee continues to review all proposals before EISC that have the potential to impact on fish, marine mammals, and/or aquatic habitat in the ISR, including those related to oil and gas.

### ***Beluga Management and Pilot Marine Protected Area***

The FJMC continued its support of the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI) in co-operation with the DFO. 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 group conducted community consultations throughout 2006-07 to finalize support for the marine protected area under the Oceans Act. The draft Tarium Niryutait MPA Management Plan and regulatory intent were completed, approved by the BSIMPI Senior Management Committee and Working Group, and sent to Ottawa for formal drafting and Ministerial approval. Once established, the FJMC will take over the day-to-day MPA management responsibility and operations, with support from DFO and the BSIMPI Secretariat.

In August 2007, the Committee was informed that a significant number of beluga had entered Husky Lakes, a brackish inland aquatic system to the south of Tuktoyaktuk. Following discussions between the FJMC, the Tuktoyaktuk HTC and DFO, the decision was made monitor the situation with a number of surveillance flights, which occurred from September through October. Communication plans were developed in order to minimize negative media coverage of the situation. In spring of 2008 it was decided that a working meeting be held with HTC members and elders of all six Inuvialuit communities, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This meeting was to determine if anything should be done about ice-entanglement of beluga whales in Husky Lakes and if something is to be done, then what and by whom. This working meeting was held in Tuktoyaktuk in June, 2008. The outcome of the meeting was a three year Action Plan and the requirement to develop an integrated communications plan. In this second year of a three year intervention plan, the deployment and setup of the camp at Gutchiak will be set up in early July.

### ***Emerging Commercial Fisheries***

In response to increasing interest by business entities from outside the region to develop a commercial fisheries in the Beaufort Sea, the Committee has continued to work closely with the DFO and the Inuvialuit Game Council to lay the foundations for developing a regionally managed, sustainable commercial fisheries in the Beaufort that will benefit Inuvialuit economically while not adversely impact traditional subsistence harvesting activities. One southern fishing company has applied for an exploratory fishing license,

### ***COSEWIC and Species-at-Risk Legislation***

The Committee has taken a more active role in ensuring Inuvialuit involvement in the protection of endangered fish and marine mammal species. The FJMC will continue to work with COSEWIC to better define the Committee's role in the federal assessment process for endangered species under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee participated in the preliminary stages of re-assessment of several species in 2006-07.

## **Communications**

The FJMC continues to develop its existing website ([www.fjmc.ca](http://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 its annual ISR community tour and regular contributions to the Joint Secretariat-Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committee's newsletter, the *JS Common Ground*.

## **Student Mentoring Program and Inuvialuit Youth**

FJMC's Student Mentoring Program has been suspended pending an audit for the 2009-10 fiscal year. In past programs, the students would be in work placement partnerships with Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, the Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study (CASES), Canadian Wildlife Service, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, and continued funding relationships with GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and Enbridge Inc. The long term goal of the program 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.

## **FUNDING**

Funding of all renewable resource-related activities associated with the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement is provided by Canada and coordinated by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). Until the current year, funding has been allocated in 5-year blocks, with 2008-09 representing the fifth year of what is described as a 10-year funding commitment.

In the case of the FJMC, while the overall process is coordinated by DIAND, DFO is responsible for developing budget forecasts for the block submission to Treasury Board. The resulting allocations for the FJMC become part of the Department's annual budget. A portion of the funds are categorized as "Operations and Maintenance" while the balance is identified as "Grants and Contributions". As a result, two funding mechanisms support the activities of the FJMC. First, for those activities described in the previous section under Research and Monitoring, the projects and their budgets are identified by the FJMC, while the funds to support the projects are administered by DFO. This arrangement is efficient, since for the most part, the projects are carried out by DFO staff. Table 1 lists projects and activities supported through this process for the reporting year.

The operational activities of the Committee, as well as some specific tasks identified in the IFA, are funded through a contribution agreement between DIAND and the Joint Secretariat. These costs, which include Inuvialuit participation costs, chair costs and salary and operational costs for the Committee's biologists, are detailed in Table 2. These funds are the subject of an annual audit.



**Table 1. Projects funded through the FJMC budget process with the funds being administered by Fisheries and Oceans Canada during 2008-09.**

Project Title	Manager	Total Budget
Genetic Analysis of Canadian Dolly Varden Mixed-Fishery Stocks Along the Beaufort Sea Coast	Bajno	\$15,000
Hornaday River Char Fishing Plan Meetings	Bill	\$10,000
Hornaday River Arctic Char over wintering and spawning location reconnaissance	Bill	\$50,000
Sachs Harbour Fishing Plan & Community Consultations	Bill	\$10,000
Fisheries assessment of lakes/ivers along Tuktoyaktuk to Granular Source 177 Access Road	Bill/Porta	\$20,000
Shingle Point Harvest Study	Bill	\$12,000
Ulukhaktok, Sachs Harbour and Paulatuk Harvest Studies	Bill	\$35,000
Ulukhaktok Char Fishing Plan and Community Consultations	Bill	\$10,000
Beaufort Beluga and Climate Change	Ferguson	\$9,500
Systematic aerial survey in the SE Beaufort Sea for bowhead and beluga whales, August 2009	Harwood	\$220,000
Movements, behavior and philopatry of ringed seals in the southeast Beaufort Sea, 2009, including in the vicinity of OBC seismic activity.	Harwood	\$95,000
Charr Monitoring at Fish Lake, NT, 2009	Harwood	\$24,000
Reproduction and Condition of ringed seals taken in the regular harvests at Ulukhaktok, NT - 2009	Harwood	\$36,000
Charr Monitoring at Hornaday River, NT, 2009	Howland	\$35,000
Population assessment of Big Fish River Dolly Varden	Howland	\$64,000
Fish survey and ecosystem structure of Yukon nearshore coastal waters.	Johnson	\$50,000
Sachs Harbour Char Research and Community-Based Monitoring (CBM) Baseline Data Collection Component	Knopp	\$47,000
Contaminant Associated Health risks in Beluga whales	Loseto	\$150,000
Dolly Varden ( <i>Salvelinus malma</i> ) life history and habitat associations in the Western Arctic.	Mochnac	\$35,000
Hornaday River fish habitat assessment and water monitoring program	Mochnac	\$66,000
Seal Picornavirus/Parasite Study (second and final year of the study).	Neilson	\$32,500
Detection of Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPNV) in the Water of the Rat River and Tissues of Dolly Varden	Neilson	\$30,000
Food Web Structure of Lower Trophic Levels in the Near-shore Regions of the Beaufort Sea	Ramlal	\$110,000
Mercury in western Arctic marine mammals	Stern	n/a
Identification and Description of spawning and over-wintering habitats of anadromous fish species in the Mackenzie valley	Tallman/Howland	\$185,000
Bowhead Tagging	Harwood	\$120,000
Canada Members	Dow	\$60,000
Support Funds	Dow	\$60,000
		<b>\$1,611,000</b>

**Table 2. Funds provided through the Joint Secretariat contribution agreement**

**JOINT SECRETARIAT INUVIALUIT RENEWABLE RESOURCE COMMITTEES  
SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE**

Fisheries Joint Management Committee Operations

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUDGET</b>	<b>FREE BALANCE</b>
Chairman's Expenses:		
Honoraria	43,300.00	(711.55)
Travel	15,000.00	7,536.75
Accommodation	4,147.00	576.50
	<u>62,447.00</u>	<u>7,401.70</u>
Inuvialuit Expenses:		
Honoraria	41,400.00	(8,994.36)
Per Diems	12,000.00	(1,393.66)
Travel	38,000.00	6,765.65
Accommodation	12,500.00	(2,103.58)
	<u>103,900.00</u>	<u>(5,725.95)</u>
Other Operation Costs		
Marine Protected Areas	10,000.00	10,000.00
Consultation & Conferences	12,000.00	(2,235.32)
Office Rent	5,000.00	0.00
Telephone & Fax	3,500.00	(2,721.60)
Office Costs	3,203.00	(21,749.58)
	<u>33,703.00</u>	<u>(16,706.50)</u>
Meetings		
June Tour	13,500.00	2,808.67
November Tour	13,500.00	(10,105.12)
Meeting Costs	3,000.00	1,289.63
	<u>30,000.00</u>	<u>(6,006.82)</u>
STAFF		
Resource Person		
Salaries	146,705.00	(3,889.60)
	<u>146,705.00</u>	<u>(3,889.60)</u>
Resource Support		
Program Supplies	4,300.00	3,270.00
Shipping	1,000.00	1,000.00
Recruiting/Relocation	0.00	0.00
Fixed Assets	4,600.00	(16,636.02)
Travel	30,000.00	6,515.92
Accommodation	8,000.00	(1,396.16)
Per Diems	2,500.00	(2,312.00)
	<u>50,400.00</u>	<u>(9,558.26)</u>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>427,155.00</u>	<u>(34,485.43)</u>

Table 2. Continued from previous page.

	ANNUAL BUDGET	FREE BALANCE
<b>JOINT SECRETARIAT INUVIALUIT RENEWABLE RESOURCE COMMITTEES</b>		
<b>SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE</b>		
Fisheries Joint Management Committee Operations – Cont'd		
For the Year Ended March 31, 2008		
<b>PROGRAMS</b>		
Beluga Monitoring		
Contracts	53,500.00	(4,715.13)
Workshops	5,000.00	1,287.64
Office Costs	6,500.00	1,577.36
Husky Lakes	0.00	(18,629.96)
	<u>65,000.00</u>	<u>(20,480.09)</u>
Fishing Registration		
HTC Stipend	5,900.00	(1,100.00)
Per Form Charges	5,500.00	3,621.50
1-800 System	2,000.00	1,324.47
	<u>13,400.00</u>	<u>3,845.97</u>
Other Programs		
Student Participation	40,000.00	34,785.97
Beluga Jaw Ageing	7,000.00	7,000.00
West Side Working Group	12,000.00	(3,023.50)
	<u>59,000.00</u>	<u>38,762.47</u>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		
Consultants	26,650.00	22,148.75
Committee Publications	11,565.00	4,038.54
Marine Protected Areas	0.00	0.00
Sachs Harbour Char Monitoring	16,900.00	(550.17)
	<u>55,115.00</u>	<u>25,637.12</u>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>192,515.00</u>	<u>47,765.47</u>

## 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.*