

# ONE PEOPLE ONE PLAN

## INUVALUIT PLAN FOR FISHING ON THE INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY

### ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ALONG THE ITH:

- Development of a long-term fish harvest monitoring program for important waterbodies along the ITH including Husky Lakes
- Development of a pilot Guardian program focused on Inuvialuit stewardship of the area

*Thank you to the HTC's and community members of Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik who developed this plan, and to everyone who respects the recommended management measures!*

A SUMMARY OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED BY INUVIALUIT FROM INUVIK & TUKTOYAKTUK TO ENSURE FISHING ALONG THE ITH IS SUSTAINABLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

### FOR MORE INFO OR TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE COMMUNITY FISHING PLAN FOR THE ITH:

- Contact FJMC staff at the Joint Secretariat office in Inuvik: (867) 777-2828; [fjmc-rb@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:fjmc-rb@jointsec.nt.ca)
- See the full plan on the FJMC website: <https://fjmc.ca/co-management/fisheries-management/>



[www.FJMC.ca](http://www.FJMC.ca)

### WHY A COMMUNITY FISHING PLAN FOR THE INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY (ITH) AREA?

The purpose of the community fishing plan for the ITH area is to ensure that the access to the land created by the all-weather road between Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik does not increase fishing pressure and negatively affect fish and fish habitat in the ITH area. The ITH provides greater access to areas such as Husky Lakes (Category E - for extreme significance and sensitivity within Inuvialuit Community Conservation Plans), which is an important area for Inuvialuit subsistence fishing, hunting, trapping and berry picking. The majority of fishing in this area has traditionally been Inuvialuit subsistence fishers from Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik; however, with the ITH, there is potential for a lot of new people to increase their access and use of this area for fishing (e.g., Inuvialuit from other communities, Gwitch'in and other First Nations, non-aboriginal NWT residents, tourists). Rather than waiting for these potential impacts of over-fishing to affect fish populations in the area, the Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs) have taken a proactive approach to manage potential issues before they start. Management recommendations for subsistence and sport fishing in the area have been developed, along with additional recommendations to ensure fisheries are managed sustainably for future generations. We request that everyone who plans on fishing in areas along the ITH respects the management recommendations that have been developed.



### HOW WAS THE COMMUNITY FISHING PLAN WAS DEVELOPED?

The community fishing plan for the ITH was developed through discussions and agreed upon by consensus decision at community meetings held in November 2016 in Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik, and a group meeting held in Tuktoyaktuk on February 2, 2017, with participation of the HTCs of Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik and Aklavik, and support provided by the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

### HOW LONG WILL THE COMMUNITY FISHING PLAN BE IN PLACE?

The fishing plan is voluntary, with no associated regulations under the Fisheries Act, with the potential future exception of recommendations that have been made to change Sport Fishing Regulations (non-beneficiaries) in the area. This is considered a working plan that will be reviewed annually (or as needed) to assess and improve its effectiveness, and to incorporate recommendations from all groups who rely on the fisheries resources in the affected areas; if the plan is not working or supported, it will be updated.

### GOALS OF THE COMMUNITY FISHING PLAN

**1. Maintain the existing stocks of fish in a way that ensures our ability to harvest and maintain traditional and economic activities for generations to come in keeping with the spirit of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA).**

*Continue taking care of and protecting the environment and fish populations (all fish species) so that harvesting (fishing to provide food), traditional activities (going out to a fish camp, not fishing but helping cut/cook fish), and economic opportunities (such as eco-tours) is still an option for Inuvialuit/ISR residents/tourists now and for future generations.*

**2. Ensure that our interactions with the fisheries maintain the integrity of the fish and the fish habitat.**

*Make sure how we travel and the actions we choose that affect fishing in any way do not harm the fishes' (amount of fish, health of the fish) and their homes.*

**3. Increase our understanding and knowledge of fish and fish habitat along the ITH.**

*Harvesters from Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik have a wealth of TLK for the area, and there have also been some scientific studies, but our current understanding of what fish and how much fish are in what lake or stream is still not that well known. Goal 3 is to get a better understanding and learn more about the fish (species, health, home) along the ITH.*

**4. To create and maintain monitoring and guardianship programs related to the preservation of fish and fish habitat in a manner that provides community education and self-regulation of the fishery.**

*In order to achieve the above goals, we need to depend on the Inuvialuit (elected board members, HTC membership, town citizens, etc.) to be our eyes and ears. This can be done with guardianship (Definition of guardian: protector, defender, custodian, one who looks after - example: hiring a trustworthy, knowledgeable Inuk to do seasonal patrols and pass along valuable information to those that will use the ITH). This can also be done through monitoring (data input from the ISR Community-Based Monitoring Program (CBMP)) and sampling of harvested fish.*



# FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

## ALL FISHERS - IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING HARVEST

Accurate harvest data is very important for making informed management recommendations. When paired with a fisheries monitoring program that collects information on the length, weight and age of fish, harvest data can help us understand whether or not harvest levels are impacting stocks (e.g., if we start catching smaller and younger fish this could be an indicator that a species of fish is being overharvested).

- Inuvialuit beneficiaries can report their catch to the ISR CBMP
- Sport fishers can report their catch to the FJMC Sport Fishing Registry



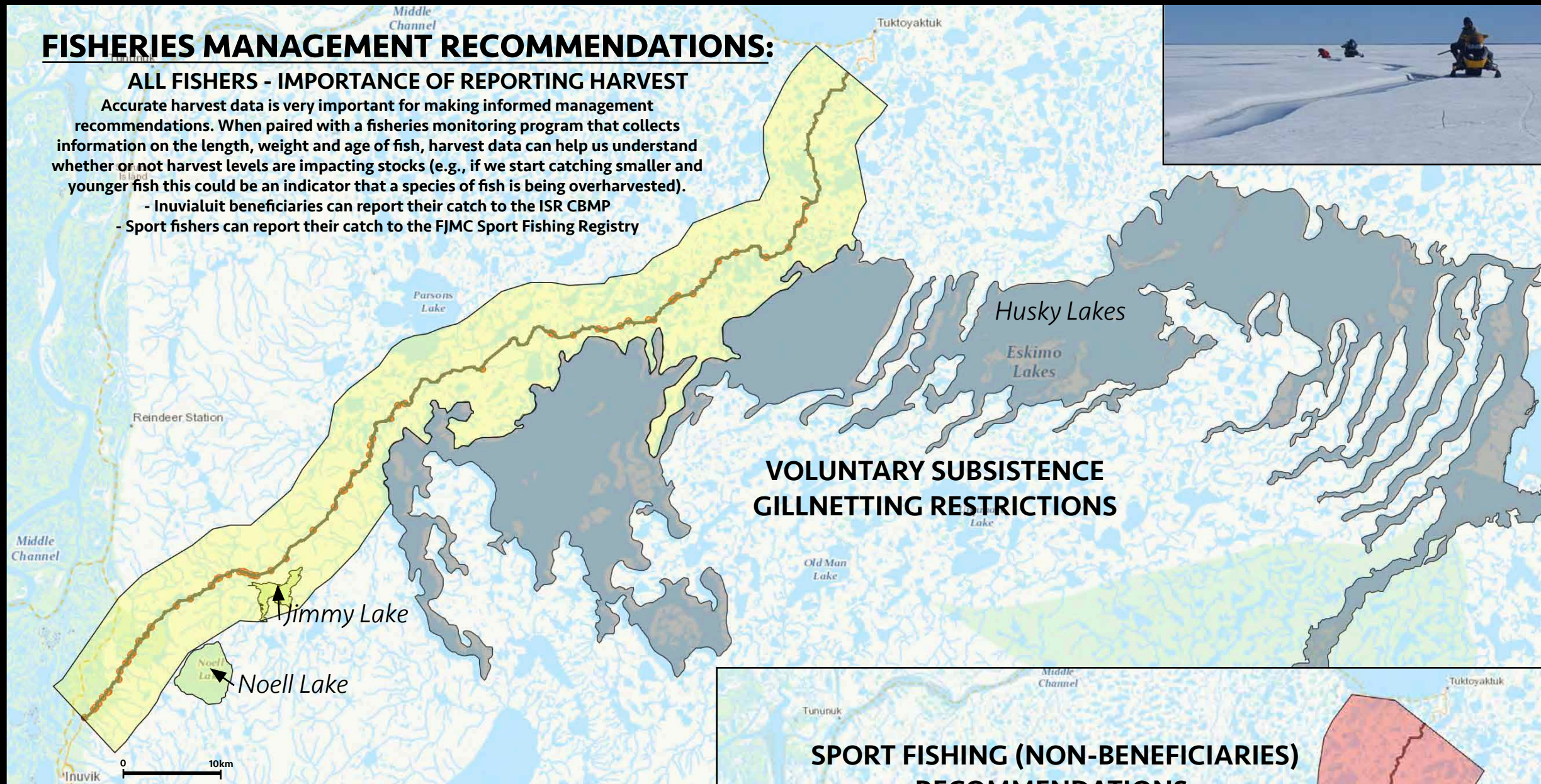
## SPORT FISHING (NON-BENEFICIARIES) RECOMMENDATIONS

Inuvialuit from Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk have recommended **catch and release** fishing for **all fish species** on **Husky, Jimmy and Noell Lakes, as well as within 10 km of the ITH**. Additional recommendations for sport fishers in the ITH area are:

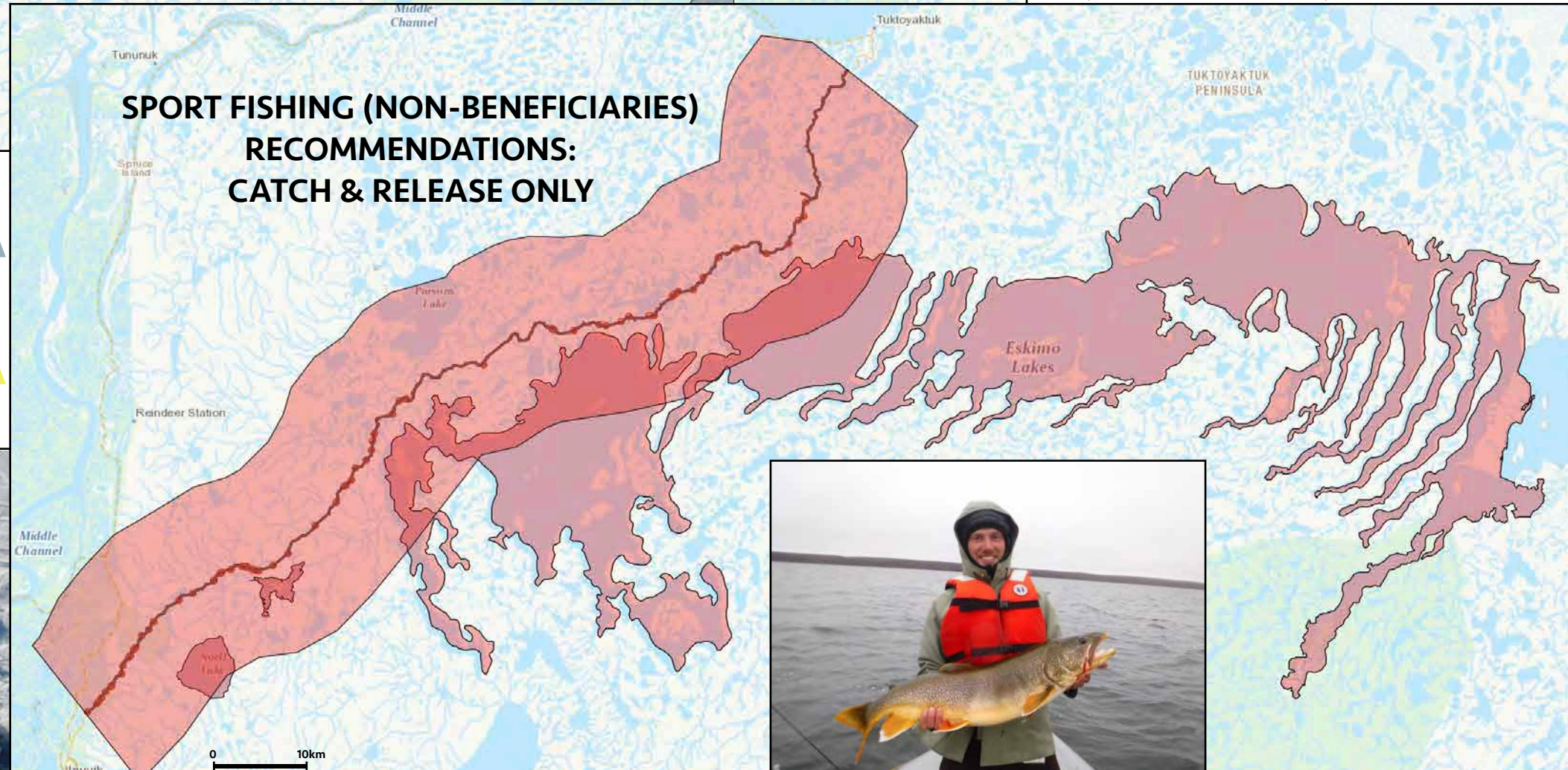
- Sport fishers that plan to fish on Inuvialuit Private Lands need to register their plans to fish and report their catch through the FJMC Sport Fishing Registry, in addition to ensuring they have a valid sport fishing licence that has been validated for the ISR. Registering to sport fish on Inuvialuit Private Lands can be done at the local HTC or with the FJMC. Visit the FJMC website for more information on sport fishing in the ISR: [www.fjmc.ca](http://www.fjmc.ca)
- Request to not use downriggers
- No sport fishing to occur during the seasonal gillnetting closure period for Husky Lakes (April 10-June 1, and August 15-October 15)

**\*Note:** The communities have requested a DFO Variation Order to adopt these sport fishing recommendations. This process will first require DFO consultation with relevant NWT residents, and the DFO process to review this request will take time.

## VOLUNTARY SUBSISTENCE GILLNETTING RESTRICTIONS



## SPORT FISHING (NON-BENEFICIARIES) RECOMMENDATIONS: CATCH & RELEASE ONLY



### VOLUNTARY SUBSISTENCE GILLNETTING RESTRICTIONS

#### HUSKY LAKES: Seasonal gillnetting closures

- April 10 to June 1: so that gillnetting does not interfere with jigging
- August 15 to October 15: to protect Lake Trout spawning

#### OTHER AREAS: Year-round gillnetting and dip net closures

- No gillnetting or dip nets within 5 km of the ITH, and from the ITH to the border of Husky Lakes
- No netting in Jimmy and Noell Lakes

