



TORNGAT  
**WILDLIFE  
PLANTS &  
FISHERIES**  
SECRETARIAT

## **Nunatsiavut Snow Crab Workshop 2011**

Beale, J., Dale, A., Snook, J., and J. Whalen

Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat,  
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2011

**Torngat Joint Fisheries Board**  
**Torngat Wildlife, Plants & Fisheries Secretariat Series 2011/03**



## **Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat**

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The primary responsibilities of the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board are to establish total allowable harvests for non-migratory species of wildlife and for plants, recommend conservation and management measures for wildlife, plants, and habitat in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) and to make recommendations in relation to the conservation of species, stocks of fish, aquatic plants, fish habitat, and the management of fisheries in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

The Secretariat is the implementation agent of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. The Secretariat is a team of professionals based in Happy Valley-Goose Bay that provide financial management, logistical, project management and analytical support to both boards.

## **Torngat Omajunik, Piguttunik Oganniaganillu Suliangit**

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Tornгат Wildlife, Plants & Fisheries Secretariat Series

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## Executive Summary

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The Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB) Snow-Crab Workshop represents the third workshop since March 2010 hosted by the TJFB and the Torngat Secretariat focused on the management of snow crab stocks off the coast of Labrador. The year, the workshop was also partially funded by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Each year the workshop brings together a variety of stakeholders in the snow crab fishery to discuss management practices and policy options, to brainstorm new ideas, and to explore ways forward for the fishery. The Nain 2011 workshop continued with this tradition, with high attendance rates by many stakeholder groups and a wide diversity of perspectives contributing to the discussions. Groups represented at the workshop included Provincial, Federal and Nunatsiavut Government representatives, snow crab fishers, processing and marketing interests, and academic experts, among others.

Multiple stakeholder presentations were presented to workshop participants, ranging in topics, including:

- Follow-up on action items from previous snow-crab workshops and communicating how information from workshops reaches the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans;
- A socio-economic analysis of the current snow-crab fishery in Nunatsiavut;
- An overview of best-practice handling conditions for snow-crab, and highlighting training opportunities;
- A discussion on proposed plans for scientific surveying of snow-crab for the 2012 fishing season.

Much discussion followed each presentation, as well as in organized small group discussions on various topics. As a whole, workshop participants were very engaged in these discussions, and expressed many great ideas for a healthy snow-crab fishery. Researching various aspects of the snow-crab fishery (scientific and case studies) remains one of a series of challenges where participants would like to see more attention given. Increasing communication among all stakeholders through a Nunatsiavut Fisheries radio broadcast was identified as one, of many, opportunities for the fishery.

Many recommendations for action were proposed by workshop participants. They include:

- Collaborative research for 2012 snow crab surveys between fishers and the Torngat Secretariat.
- Compile different research and case studies that would teach Nunatsiavut how to build a fishing fleet.
  - The Nunatsiavut Government's Fisheries Policy is anticipated to continue the discussion on building the commercial fishery.

- Follow-up on handling/training material and workshop creation with Ray Hayter and the Marine Institute.
  - Purchase and distribute humidity/temperature gauges for on-boat storage hold measurements.
- Research the diversification of the fishery to other species.
  - Seals, shrimp, turbot, scallops, other species of crab.
  - Particular concern was voiced to know what science is available on the commercial salmon fishery, and if it would be a viable fishery again.
- TJFB to recommend that DFO conduct their trawl survey annually in an effort to learn more about the stock status.
- Research the effects that industries that rely on the ocean have on the fishery
  - Including the mining, seismic, and shipping industries.
- TJFB to contact a representative of the OK Society about the possibility of a regular fisheries program (*completed, and OK Society representatives attended the workshop*).
  - It was requested that S. Leo, OK Society, present the idea of a fisheries radio show to the OK Society Board at its scheduled meeting on November 16, 2011.
  - It was requested that J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, contact S. Leo, OK Society on November 17, 2011 to get an update on the radio show idea from the previous evening's meeting of the OK Society Board.
- Rebecca Wilcott, Nunatsiavut Government, will do research on the impacts of removing fishing zone lines, as well as attend DFO meetings in the spring of 2012.

Recommendations were also made by the Facilitator/Consultant, and are based on discussions and ideas expressed by participants throughout the workshop:

- TJFB to recommend to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to keep quota levels at status quo.
- Torngat Secretariat to continue communication efforts to disseminate information and follow-up discussions with fishers.
  - OK Society radio show is a great first step.
  - Social media channels.
- Torngat Secretariat to continue to arrange for annual workshops to engage stakeholders in the fishery.
  - Prioritize presentations and agenda items that have practical ideas and easy to understand language.



- Presentations can also have a training component for an issue that fishers have expressed interest in learning about (i.e. Ray Hayter’s presentation engaged fishers to start thinking about humidity levels and crab health in their holds while fishing, as well as ice-crab ratios, and other strategies to promote crab health while fishing).

The Torngat Joint Fisheries Board will now consider these action items in making their recommendations to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.



**Figure 1. TJFB Snow Crab Workshop – Nain 2011**

*TJFB Snow Crab Workshop – Nain 2011*

## **Introduction**

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The following report summarizes and highlights discussion from the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB) and the Torngat Secretariat’s annual Snow Crab Workshop. The workshop was hosted in Nain on Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The workshop represents the third workshop since March 2010 hosted by the TJFB and the Torngat Secretariat focused on the management of snow crab stocks off the coast of Labrador. Each year the workshop brings together a variety of stakeholders in the snow crab fishery to discuss management practices and policy options, to brainstorm new ideas, and to explore ways forward for the fishery. The Nain 2011 workshop continued with this tradition, with high attendance rates by many stakeholder groups and a wide diversity of perspectives contributing to the discussions. Groups represented at the workshop included Provincial, Federal and Nunatsiavut Government representatives, snow crab fishers, processing and marketing interests, and academic experts, among others. *For a complete list of those in attendance please see the Meeting Minutes in the Appendix.*

Many different facilitation techniques were used during the course of the workshop. Section 2 will outline the series of presentations that were made to workshop participants by different industry stakeholders, while also documenting the discussion that ensued after each presentation. Section 3 will explore the outcomes of small group discussions that aimed to encourage feedback on the current-state of the industry from each participant, as well as contribute to the generation of new ideas. A summary of where general agreement and disagreement lay will be included in this section. Section 4 will highlight action items that were requested from the group. Recommendations will also be highlighted by the consultant on possible next steps. Section 5 will outline some of the key successes and learning opportunities from which to build on from the Nain 2011 Workshop. Section 6 will conclude.

All source material for this report, including presentations, the agenda, meeting minutes, and small group discussion brainstorming lists can be found in the accompanying file folders and Appendix submitted with this report.

#### *Workshop Goals*

- Have a healthy, constructive, and respectful discussion
- Reach consensus on various issues
  - If not, understand why
- Create action items for the future
- Establish a process of consultation that everyone supports

*Note: A review of participant workshop goals can be found in the Meeting Minutes*

## **Stakeholder Presentations**

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Four industry stakeholders delivered presentations to the workshop participants. The following is an overview of the main messages the speakers covered along with the accompanying discussions afterwards. *For full presentation and discussion details, please refer to the specific presentations and the Meeting Minutes found in the Appendix.*

### ***“Re-Cap of February 2011’s Workshop & Recommendations” - Jamie Snook, Executive Director, Torngat Secretariat***

Jamie Snook presented an overview of the management and recommendation process since the previous Snow-Crab Workshop held in Makkovik, Nunatsiavut in February of 2011. Jamie highlighted each of the steps taken since the Makkovik workshop, and how information discussed then was incorporated into the TJFB recommendations to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Ideas from the Makkovik workshop also informed the Torngat Secretariat staffs’ working plan for the year, with various reports being commissioned by the Secretariat to address areas for further research. These reports included a socio-economic

analysis of the snow-crab fishery in Nunatsiavut, a report on seismic activities off the coast of Nunatsiavut, and a report on handling and processing procedures in the Makkovik fish plant.

Jamie also highlighted the specific recommendations the TJFB made to the Federal Minister and which of the recommendations were adopted and not. Jamie stressed that regular workshops like that in Makkovik and Nain are important pieces of the larger process towards having stakeholders' voices heard at a Federal level, and continuing to work for a healthy, properly managed snow-crab fishery.

Discussion for Jamie's presentation focused on clarifying how the TJFB made its' recommendations, and a re-iteration of the importance for people to contribute during the discussions to ensure their voice is heard.

- One participant asked if the TJFB bases its recommendations on science data or information from the fishermen.
  - The recommendations the TJFB made this past year were made based on information taken from the minutes of the last workshop. At the same time, the Board ensures it has clear back up and rationale from the available science, among other sources.
- All participants were reminded of the importance of taking this opportunity to have all their concerns voiced.
  - After the February 2011 Snow Crab Workshop in Makkovik, some participants contacted Rebecca Wilcott, Nunatsiavut Government, with issues they had with some recommendations the TJFB got consensus on. Even though everyone had the opportunity to speak on their own opinion of the recommendations, the consensus-building model of the Makkovik 2011 workshop didn't achieve true consensus.
  - Rebecca wanted to be sure everyone understood that anyone who has concerns or disagrees with the consensus or a recommendation to voice their disagreement. It's much more difficult to make changes or argue points that the Board previously had consensus on.

***“Social Economic Analysis of Nunatsiavut Participation in Snow Crab Fishery” – Aaron Dale, Policy Analyst, Torngat Secretariat***

Aaron Dale presented a report on the socio-economic state of the snow-crab fishery in Nunatsiavut that the Torngat Secretariat recently commissioned to the Marine and Fisheries Institute of Memorial University. Further examination of a social-economic analysis of the snow-crab fishery in Nunatsiavut was a key discussion piece by fishers during the Snow-Crab Fishery Workshop in Makkovik in 2011.



**Figure 2. Small Group discussions**

Aaron began his presentation with a thorough overview of the demographics and employment statistics in Nunatsiavut. From these numbers, Aaron highlighted that fisheries of all sorts are important sources of employment income and insurable employment hours (for EI) throughout Nunatsiavut.

Understanding that fisheries are important to the livelihoods of Nunatsiavut residents, Aaron highlighted the key finding from the report: 80-90% of gross revenue from the snow-crab fishery was leaking out of Nunatsiavut and going to 'Southern' fishers that lease their boats to Nunatsiavut snow-crab quota holders. From 1999-2011, roughly \$22 million were grossed in the snow-crab fishery. \$2-4 million were made by Nunatsiavut quota holders. These findings lend more light on the claims by Nunatsiavut fishers that they need to own their own boats in order for this fishery to benefit them.

The presentation made clear that there does exist opportunities to increase the harvester capacity of Nunatsiavut harvesters in order for more revenue from the snow-crab fishery to stay in Nunatsiavut communities.

Discussion for Aaron's presentation focused on different case studies participants were interested in learning more about, as well as plans by the Nunatsiavut Government to move forward with the findings from the socio-economic report that Aaron presented.

- How would the socio-economic analysis be different comparing leasing and owning your own boat?
  - This wasn't explored in the report. The report wasn't a case study, but rather intended to document how things are now and what could be the total value of the fishery in an effort to let the policy makers know the value.
  - There are many different scenarios for having your own boat, and case studies could be done.
- Conne River, on the island of Newfoundland, had their fishery up and running in 10 years. They found a way to make it work faster than we did in Labrador. How did they do it, and why can't we do it?
  - They took advantage of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy which was funded by the Federal Government. They used the money to purchase vessels. The funding would've been available to the people of Northern Labrador before the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA) was signed, but once it was signed they no longer qualified for the funding.
  - Why didn't the LIA (Labrador Inuit Association) get to do it?
    - In the mid-late 1990s there was no money available to us. It was taken advantage of about 3 times by the old Labrador Inuit Association (LIA), but the funding was available to all aboriginal groups so each group that applied would have to wait for their turn to access the funding.
- The Nunatsiavut Government is currently developing its own policy that will apply to the development of the fishery in Nunatsiavut. Public consultations will be held within

the next month and it will give everyone a chance to express their interests and concerns.

- The Nunatsiavut Government would like to see Inuit go in their own vessels and have successful enterprises but cannot move forward on its own without the help of the people fishing the resource.
- It's going to be a difficult process that's restricted by DFO's rules and regulations. It's good to recognize that there is a problem that needs to be fixed.
- The socio-economic report that Aaron presented shows that the majority of the money made from the Nunatsiavut fishery goes to people on the south coast of Labrador. Things need to change, so that the money stays in northern Labrador. There are no government officials here to hear our concerns, to hear about the money that's going to fishermen in southern Labrador instead of staying in Nunatsiavut, where the fishermen are living paycheque to paycheque, just getting enough to qualify for EI benefits.
  - Rebecca Willcott, Nunatsiavut Government, spoke to the statement, advising everyone that it's her job to be the link between the fishers and the elected officials. She's working to take the fisher's concerns and come up with ways to make things better for all involved.
  - The Nunatsiavut Government wants to provide the opportunity for fishermen to be prosperous and also wants to provide economic growth in all of Nunatsiavut. There's a lot of money lost to southern vessels and the government is working on resolving these issues.
  - Money going south has a lot to do with lack of harvesting capacity. If you are a fisher, you need to be involved in the process of developing the policies. In order to develop the fishery we need to go through this process.
  - At the last Snow Crab workshop in Makkovik, a group of fisher people met and agreed to form a Fishermen's Committee. It was suggested that this committee meet with the Nunatsiavut Government to discuss the fishers' issues and concerns with developing a commercial fishery.

***“Handling Procedures” – Ray Hayter, Fish & Seafood post-harvest specialist, Marine Institute at Memorial University***

Ray Hayter presented two power point presentations on different aspects of snow-crab: the physiological habits of the crab, and a handling survey conducted in Makkovik this past season.

Ray highlighted in his first presentation that snow crab are actually a very delicate animal to fish. He explained various physiological traits that snow-crab undergo, including moulting and shedding limbs when under stress. Ray also shared data on survival rates of snow crab based on handling procedures of harvesters, including statistics on crab survival rates when dropped from different distances into the hold, as well as ice-crab ratios to ensure healthy crab when off-loading days later at the plant. If these factors, among others, aren't done well, it translates into a poorer quality crab at point of sale, resulting in less money for harvesters. Ray stressed that

the industry is all about the consumers' experience with the crab, and that stressed or dead crab does not contribute to a good experience for consumers.

Ray continued into his second power point presenting findings from a handling report created the previous season at the Makkovik fish plant. The report highlighted that the majority of crab coming off the harvesters boats registered as weak or critically weak, all signs for opportunities to improve handling of the crab.

Ray was adamant in saying that he knew he wasn't presenting something very positive, but he felt it important to work with harvesters to better the handling procedures so that harvesters could benefit the most from the fishery. Ray showcased different devices that could be used to check on crab health that would be affordable and easy to put on each boat. He also suggested that a partnership be created between the Marine Institute and the other stakeholders at the workshop to run harvester handling workshops, and to distribute information materials and share video resources.

Discussion for Ray's presentation focused around some of the particular features that consumers would experience if handling wasn't a focus for harvesters.

- Ray stressed that if the crab is processed dead, the end product will be severely compromised
  - Harder to get out of shell
  - Bitter, off taste
  - Crumbled texture
- Fishers and other stakeholders thought that training and workshops are good ideas but encouraged that they need to be extended to vessel owners and skippers as well.

### *“Snow Crab Science” – Julie Whalen, Fisheries Research Program Manager, Torngat Secretariat*

Julie Whalen presented on upcoming plans to survey snow-crab stocks during the 2012 season. The survey method proposed would target terminally molted snow-crab for tagging, and requires that a few harvesters put out extra pots during the commercial fishery for recruitment. Significant 'buy-in' from a couple of boats is needed, so Julie encouraged the workshop participants to give feedback on the survey process to see if that is something fishers would be interested in contributing towards.

Discussion for Julie's presentation focused on clarifying questions about the survey plans, as well as new ideas to expand data collection past this survey.

- Julie highlighted that the significance of the current research plans are to better understand the distribution of the snow-crab stock. The



**Figure 3. Science & Research**

distribution is currently unknown and there have been instances in the past where fishing areas were changed when distribution changed.

- The TJFB brought up the idea of encouraging DFO to do their surveys annually (rather than every two years). That may be difficult to implement with all of the budget cuts DFO is facing.
- Concerns were raised about the difficulty of having science completed outside of DFO recognized, such as the surveys proposed by Julie.
  - Julie was quick to point out that the survey plans she presented have been developed in partnership with DFO. The scientists will recognize it and have offered to analyze the data.
  - Concerns were then raised as to who will own the data collected if it's done in partnership with DFO
    - All of the information that the TJFB funds will be owned by the TJFB. It's a bit of transition as we start to build our own database of information that we and NG could use to base our own management decisions on, whether DFO recommends it or not.
- An idea was proposed to partner with companies doing seismic work off the coast of Nunatsiavut to access the data they are collecting.
  - Create arrangement that in order for the vessels to be working off of Nunatsiavut shores, they have to share the information that's retrieved.
  - The Nunatsiavut Government does have MOUs with the Petroleum Board for data but the Petroleum Board doesn't have bottom type data. It may be something that can be worked on.
- Fishers raised the idea that if the snow-crab stocks are declining, maybe they should consider a new line of pots that will help catch a different type of crab. Fishers were also interested in surveying 2H for crab.
  - The Secretariat has done some survey work in 2H, and didn't find much crab.
  - The TJFB highlighted that their mandate focuses on fisheries management and not fisheries development. But maybe there are ways to move forward on this idea.
- The fishers attending the Snow Crab Workshop indicated that they would participate in the upcoming survey plans Julie presented.

## Small Group Discussions

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Small group discussions played an important role for the Nain Snow Crab Workshop. While discussions were frequent as a large group, the small group discussions provided an opportunity for quieter participants to share their perspectives and ideas more easily.

Two types of small group discussion were used:

- World Café
- Open Space

## *World Café*

The World Café is a small group discussion technique used to generate ideas and discussion on a wide-range of topics. Participants were informed that four round-tables were being set-up at different ends of the workshop space, with each table having its' own discussion topic. These discussion topics were pre-determined by the Torngat Secretariat staff. The topics discussed were:

- Quota
- Scientific Research
- Process
- Handling and Training

Participants were initially divided into evenly distributed groups and assigned a table to begin their conversation. After 20 minutes of discussion, participants were asked to close-down their conversations and move to a new table (*after the initial division into groups, participants were told they could mingle at any table, with any group they wanted, as long as they switched at each 20 minute interval*).

After 80 minutes, participants had visited and discussed all four discussion topics, and their ideas and discussions were recorded on flip-chart paper by the sub-facilitators at each table. The sub-facilitators later synthesized all the information they recorded and reported-back to all workshop participants, highlighting where general agreement lay in the conversations they hosted.



**Figure 4. Discussing the “Co-Management Process”**

## *World Café Report-Back by Sub-Facilitators*

Many ideas were discussed during the break-out table discussions. Below is a summary of some of the main points of agreement or disagreement. For a complete list of the ideas recorded on the flipcharts, please see the *World Café Discussion* accompanying folder.



### **Quota – Aaron Dale (Torngat Secretariat)**

The discussions on quota highlighted that fishing effort was higher and catch rates were lower during the 2011 snow-crab fishing season, especially in the 2H South region (2J North quota was fulfilled, but with increased effort).

Participants as a whole agreed that it is important to keep the quota levels status quo for the 2012 fishing season. Even though the snow-crab stock numbers don't seem to be very positive, participants are concerned that if they recommend a decrease in quota it will be very difficult to get DFO to increase the quota in the future if stocks get better. Participants would like to see more science conducted to base future decisions-on.

Rebecca Wilcott, of the Nunatsiavut Government, stressed the importance that all those invested in the fishery should be able to make a sustainable living. She sees the issue that there are more fishers for the same amount of resource, which isn't performing well. Rebecca suggested to have an Open Space dialogue with the fishers directly to hear their thoughts about specific questions about quota (see Open Space discussion on 'Quota Negotiations for 2H', below).

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### **Scientific Research – Julie Whalen (Torngat Secretariat)**

Fishers reiterated that they agree with and would participate in the planned scientific surveys proposed by Julie and the Torngat Secretariat. Fishers see no problem with participating in the surveying during their regular commercial operations in 2012, as long as the research has a minimum effect on fishing.

Participants also proposed exploring alternative fisheries to snow-crab as well as alternative ways of collecting information. With snow-crab stocks not showing strong signs of regeneration, fishers in particular expressed interest in exploring a diversified fishery with other species, such as whelk, scallops, and porcupine crab.

Stakeholders were also interested in identifying the effects that other industry's based on the ocean, such as mining, seismic, and shipping, have on the fishery. The possibilities of conducting a risk assessment were proposed. Ideas for partnership between organisations already collecting data, such as seismic vessels, was also proposed as a way to ensure the most accurate and broad range of information was being collected and was accessible.

Agreement was also made that DFO trawling surveys should be conducted annually rather than bi-annually.

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### **Process – Eva Jenkins (Torngat Secretariat)**

Overall, workshop participants found the process of the TJFB workshops to be good. Participants, especially the fishers, expressed that presentations were mostly practical and informative and that they appreciate the effort the TJFB makes to bring them all together to voice their concerns.

A major concern voiced by many about the fisheries management process remains a lack of effective communication between all the stakeholders. The fishers in particular find it challenging to communicate among themselves through their self-organized Fisherman's Committee, as well as communication to the fishers on policy decisions related to the snow-crab fishery, the results of meetings between the TJFB and the Federal Minister, as well as other information dissemination from higher levels of government within Nunatsiavut. Regular, transparent updates would be welcome by the fishers.

In response, Rebecca Wilcott expressed the Nunatsiavut Government's willingness to subsidize conference calls and other administrative aspects of the Fisherman's Committee.

Also, during the break, Jamie Snook initiated contact and invited to the workshop the Executive Director of the OK Society, the Labrador Inuit television and radio institution based in Nain. The Executive Director later attended the workshop with one other representative for discussions on creating a Labrador Inuit Fisheries Broadcast, focused on the waters of Nunatsiavut and the lives of Nunatsiavut fishers (see Open Space discussion on 'Communication' below). The result of these discussions was a serious interest by the OK Society in creating the programming. Confirmation has since come back that the OK Society Board has approved the broadcast and that it should be airing in the New Year.

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### **Handling & Training – Ray Hayter (Marine Institute, MUN)**

Much discussion focused on the possibilities of increasing training and workshop opportunities for harvesters, designates, and unloading crews, to learn more effective handling procedures. Various options were discussed, with the most popular being resources that are visual in nature, such as a handbook and/or DVD. These resources already exist at the Marine Institute of Memorial University. There was also talk of creating supervisory/management training material for the Torngat Secretariat staff and Torngat Fish Producers Cooperative staff. Many wondered who would pay for these trainings.

Workshop participants also discussed the option of increasing the inspection levels of snow-crab while it's being off-loaded. The Torngat Fish Producers Cooperative agreed that they could increase the inspection levels at the Makkovik fish plant from 3% to 6%.

## *Open Space*

Open Space is a small group discussion technique very similar in nature to the World Café, but allows participants more autonomy in choosing which tables and topics are most appealing to them.

At the beginning of the workshop, while welcoming all the participants, the facilitator introduced a flip chart concept called the “Deep Freeze”. The Deep Freeze represented an area where important ideas from participants that were a bit too far off the current topic of discussion could be written-down and revisited at a later time. As a result, concerns brought into the workshop by participants as well as off-topic ideas generated from presentations and discussions were recorded and valued, without diverting attention away from the current conversation.

A list of roughly 15 Deep Freeze topics were recorded (see “Deep Freeze” accompanying folder). Participants were asked to vote (three votes) for the ideas they would like to further discuss in small groups. A short-list of four topics received the most votes. Each of these four topics were assigned a table in different areas of the room. Participants were again instructed to go to any table they liked to discuss the topic in a small group setting. The four topics selected were:

- Communication
- Diversifying the Fishery
- Increasing Harvester Capacity/Building a Fleet
- Quota negotiations for 2H

Participants, however, were this time told that there was no need to switch tables after 20 minutes. They are free to roam to any table they like, leaving and entering the conversations whenever they like. This open technique, known as the “Law of Two Feet” (because you use your own two feet to stand up for what you believe in and move to a place where you can best contribute and learn), allows participants to focus on those discussions they feel most passionate about.

The Open Space session was roughly 50 minutes long.

### *Open Space Report-Back by Sub-Facilitators*

Many ideas were discussed during the break-out table discussions. Below is a summary of some of the main points of agreement or disagreement. For a complete list of the ideas recorded on the flipcharts, please see the *Open Space Discussion* accompanying folder.

### **Communication – Jamie Snook (Torngat Secretariat)**

Participants focused their discussion on the creation of a Fisherman’s Broadcast type call-in radio show, hosted by the OK Society. The focus of the show would be to share information and connect fishers in Nunatsiavut.

Different details were discussed, such as what slot to fill, topic ideas, and who would host the show. OK Society representatives participated in the discussions and were supportive of the idea. They promised to take the idea to their Board meeting later that day to get approval. At time of writing this report, approval has been given for the radio show. It is expected to air sometime in the New Year.

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### **Diversifying the Fishery – Julie Whalen (Torngat Secretariat)**

Many participants expressed the need to focus on the current snow-crab fishery to ensure its viability for all fishers. But given this focus, participants were interested in exploring the feasibility of other fisheries to diversify their holdings away from snow-crab. Request for studies and more information were made, especially as it relates to a commercial salmon fishery.

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### **Increasing Harvester Capacity/Building a Fleet – Aaron Dale (Torngat Secretariat)**

Fishers are very interested in owning their own boats. It’s clear from the socio-economic study (presented by Aaron, above), that the majority of revenue from the snow-crab fishery is leaving Nunatsiavut because of the leasing arrangements between Nunatsiavut designates and Southern boat-owners. Building a Nunatsiavut fleet of boats is one option aimed at keeping revenues within the North Coast communities.

Discussions focused on financing as a major barrier to buying a boat. Suggestions were made to upgrade vessel sizes of Nunatsiavut fishers, while also assigning long-term, secure designations to fishers. Encouraging registration and assignment of ground-fish licenses were also discussed. These options would allow fishers to diversify their operations, and to use their licenses as collateral.

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### **Quota Negotiations for 2H – Rebecca Wilcott (Nunatsiavut Government)**

Discussions on quota negotiations focused on the idea of combining the 2H fishing zone with the 2J North zone.

Wayne King, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), expressed that the experience of DFO has been that the removal of lines would be good for the benefit of fishermen and the management of fishermen because it encourages fishers to self-police and move with the stocks.

Other participants didn't want to remove lines fearing that if lines were removed, they would never come back, thereby losing the quota for 2H for good.

It's worth noting that combining the 2H and 2J North zones was recommended by the TJFB last year, but was not adopted by the Federal Minister.

Participants expressed the need for more research before recommending line removal.



**Figure 5. Large Group discussions**

## **Action Items**

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Many different kinds of action were proposed by workshop participants during the course of the workshop. The following section divides these action items into two categories:

- Requests for Action
- Recommendations by the Facilitator/Consultant

### ***Requests for Action***

The following Requests for Action were made by participants throughout the workshop:

- Collaborative research for 2012 snow crab surveys between fishers and the Torngat Secretariat.
- Compile different research and case studies that would teach Nunatsiavut how to build a fishing fleet.
  - Conne River, on the island of Newfoundland is an example many fishers would like to learn more about.
- Follow-up on handling/training material and workshop creation with Ray Hayter and the Marine Institute.
  - Purchase and distribute humidity/temperature gauges for on-boat storage hold measurements.
- Research the diversification of the fishery to other species.
  - Seals, shrimp, turbot, scallops, other species of crab.

- Particular concern was voiced to know what science is available on the commercial salmon fishery, and if it would be a viable fishery again.
- TJFB to recommend that DFO conduct their trawl survey annually in an effort to learn more about the stock status.
- Research the effects that industries that rely on the ocean have on the fishery
  - Including the mining, seismic, and shipping industries.
- TJFB to contact a representative of the OK Society about the possibility of a regular fisheries program (*completed, and OK Society representatives attended the workshop*).
  - It was requested that S. Leo, OK Society, present the idea of a fisheries radio show to the OK Society Board at its scheduled meeting on November 16, 2011.
  - It was requested that J. Snook, Torngat Secretariat, contact S. Leo, OK Society on November 17, 2011 to get an update on the radio show idea from the previous evening's meeting of the OK Society Board.
- Rebecca Wilcott, Nunatsiavut Government, will do research on the impacts of removing fishing zone lines, as well as attend DFO meetings in the spring of 2012.

### ***Recommendations by the Facilitator/Consultant***

The following recommendations are made by the Facilitator/Consultant, and are based on discussions and ideas expressed by participants throughout the workshop:

- TJFB to recommend to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to keep quota levels at status quo.
- Torngat Secretariat to develop a communication strategy to disseminate information and follow-up discussions with fishers.
  - OK Society radio show is a great first step.
  - Social media channels.
- Torngat Secretariat to continue to arrange for annual workshops to engage stakeholders in the fishery.
  - Prioritize presentations and agenda items that have practical ideas and easy to understand language.
  - Presentations can also have a training component for an issue that fishers have expressed interest in learning about (i.e. Ray Hayter's presentation engaged fishers to start thinking about humidity levels and crab health in their holds while fishing, as well as ice-crab ratios, and other strategies to promote crab health while fishing).

### **Successes and Learning Opportunities**

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The workshop had many successes and learning opportunities. The following points all represent areas to build from for future stakeholder workshops hosted by the TJFB.

## **Successes of the workshop**

The workshop had many successes that contributed to participants feeling the workshop was effective and worthwhile. These successes include:

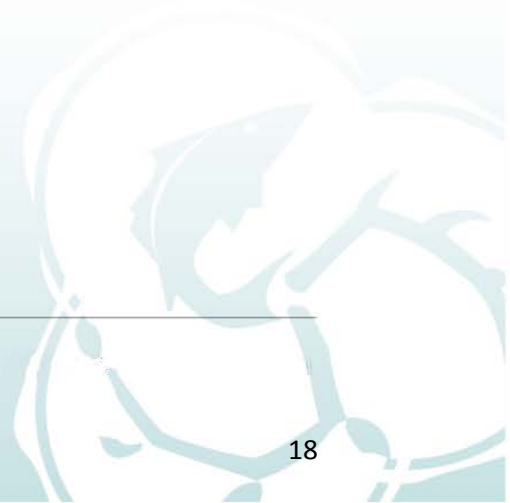
- Gathering a variety of stakeholders together to include diverse perspectives.
- An agenda that mixed policy information and reporting-back, with practical ideas to improve snow-crab health when fishing.
- Emphasis on small group discussions to ensure stakeholder voices were heard and a broad array of ideas were recorded. Devoting a full day to small group discussions worked really well in keeping people motivated and talking.
- A very professional logistical set-up and room layout. Food was excellent and breaks were frequent to encourage morale to stay high.
- An emphasis that ideas from previous workshops would be followed-up on, and presented back to the group
  - The immediate follow-up on the Fisheries Broadcast idea demonstrated that an idea on paper could be transformed into something tangible. This follow-up reinforced that the workshop was focused on hearing people and taking next-steps.
- Goals, as stated by participants and the facilitator, were addressed.
- All participants engaged in respectful discussion.

## ***Learning Opportunities***

A few learning opportunities stand-out for consideration in the planning of future workshops. These include:

- There was very little free time for excursions or community discovery. Engaging participants in an activity un-related to the workshop could contribute to positive spin-offs between stakeholders.
  - Given the time of year, it was challenging to be finished sessions before dark.
- More agenda time needed for consensus building and next steps. One and a half hours would be more appropriate for this session when planning the next workshop. Having more time allows for discussion to flow while also encouraging the conversation towards tangible action items.
- Some reports distributed to participants (i.e. seismic and socio-economic) were dense and difficult to understand. Encouraging authors to create an executive summary or brief overview of their findings would likely be more easily understood and valuable to participants.
- Knowing who the sub-facilitators for small group discussions are well in advance would encourage more time for briefing on some of the skills to bring as a facilitator to the groups.
  - This would allow more consistency in the amount and type of information recorded, while also giving sub-facilitators more time to think of prompting

questions to ask participants, ensuring that participants were leading the discussions.





## Conclusions

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Overall, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Torngat Joint Fisheries Board Snow-Crab Workshop hosted in Nain was a resounding success. Participants expressed positive feedback about the process, and thought that presentations and the information presented were very relevant and interesting. There were also multiple opportunities for participants to have their voices heard, and discussions were respectful.

A variety of action items were proposed throughout the meeting, all of which will now be considered by the TJFB in their recommendations to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

# Appendix

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Note: Double-click the images below to access the full document.

## Meeting Minutes

**Draft**

### TORNGAT JOINT FISHERIES BOARD NUNATSIAVUT SNOW CRAB WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 15 - 16, 2011

Minutes of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board Snow Crab Workshop: scheduled November 15 – 16, 2011 in the Community Hall, Nain, Nunatsiavut.

#### DAY 1: NOVEMBER 15, 2011

##### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joey Angnatok, Torngat Joint Fisheries Board  
Dave Bonnell, Government of Canada Appointee,  
Interim Chairperson  
Alphonsus Pittman, Government of Canada  
Appointee

Alex Saunders, Nunatsiavut Government Appointee  
Craig Taylor, Government of Newfoundland and  
Labrador Appointee  
Keith Watts, Nunatsiavut Government Appointee

##### ALSO PRESENT:

John Andersen, Torngat Fish Co-op Board Member  
Junior Andersen, Torngat Fish Co-op Plant Manager  
Rosamond Andersen, Torngat Secretariat  
Jon Beale, Facilitator  
Todd Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government  
Aaron Dale, Torngat Secretariat  
Hans Flowers, Designate  
Morris Jacque, Designate  
Eva Jenkins, Torngat Secretariat  
Ray Hayter, Marine Institute  
John Ikkusek, Torngat Fish Co-op Board Member

Gerald Mitchell, Designate  
Fraser Rich, Designate  
Jamie Snook, Torngat Secretariat  
John Tooktoshina, Designate  
Ralph Tooktoshina, Designate  
George Voisey, Designate  
Julie Whalen, Torngat Secretariat  
Bev White, Torngat Secretariat  
Rebecca Willcott, Nunatsiavut Government

**PREPARATION OF MINUTES:** Beverly White, Torngat Secretariat

D. Bonnell, Interim Chairperson, called the workshop to order at 1:25 p.m. welcoming all attendees.

##### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

##### REVIEW OF AGENDA AND WORKSHOP GOALS

J. Beale, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda and workshop goals, and then initiated introductions.

J. Beale, Facilitator has been living in Goose Bay for about a year, and is originally from Ontario. He has facilitated workshops in different parts of Canada and Southern Africa. He's excited to be in Nain and be a part of the workshop. Some working assumptions he asks everyone who's participating to recognize and follow:

- Everyone has wisdom
- We need everyone's wisdom for the wisest results
- There are no wrong answers
- The whole is greater than the sum of its parts
- Everyone will hear others and be heard

Some goals the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB) has for a successful workshop are:

- Healthy, constructive and respectful discussion
- Reach consensus on various issues. If we can't reach consensus we want to understand why
- Create action items for the future
- Review and understand the process of the workshops

J. Beale, Facilitator, updated the workshop agenda, adding T. Sheldon, Nunatsiavut Government, discussing a Seismic Workshop that the Nunatsiavut Government plans to host.

J. Beale, Facilitator, initiated introductions, asking participants to say their name, their relationship to the fishery and one thing they'd like to get out of the workshop:

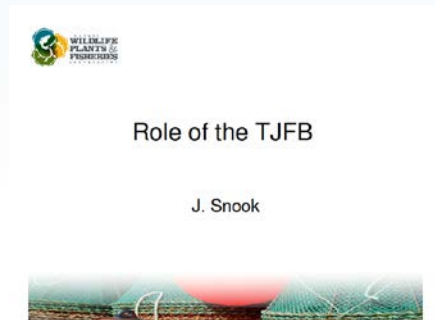
Aaron Dale, Policy Analyst, Torngat Secretariat. I hope to get specific feedback on my Social Economic

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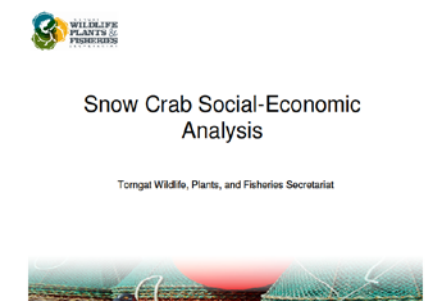
## Workshop Presentations

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*“Re-Cap of February 2011’s Workshop & Recommendations” - Jamie Snook, Executive Director, Torngat Secretariat*



*“Social Economic Analysis of Nunatsiavut Participation in Snow Crab Fishery” – Aaron Dale, Policy Analyst, Torngat Secretariat*



*“Handling Procedures” – Ray Hayter, Fish & Seafood post-harvest specialist, Marine Institute at Memorial University*



Snow Crab



## Snow Crab Scientific Research

Tongat Joint Fisheries Board  
Fisheries Research Program Manager  
Snow Crab Workshop  
November 15, 2011

