



TORNGAT
**WILDLIFE
PLANTS &
FISHERIES**
SECRETARIAT

Fisheries Workshops Feedback Report

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2013

Torngat Joint Fisheries Board
Torngat Wildlife, Plants & Fisheries Secretariat Series 2013/03



Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat

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

Suliagigumajangit Torngat Omajunik, Piguttunillu AulatsiKatigengita AngajukKauKatigengit ammalu Torngat Ikajuttiget Oganniatuligijingita AngajukKauKatigengit sakKititsigiamut pijaugunnatunik katillugit aullaigatsatagiamut nokataKattangitunik omajunik ammalu piguttunik, uKautjigiajut asikKitailigiamut ammalu aulatsigiamut omajunik, piguttunik, ammalu inigiKattajanginnik Labradorimi Inuit Satusasimajanginni Nunani (LISA) ammalu uKautjigiagutunik ilingajunik asikKitailigiamut omajunik, oganniaganik, piguttunik, oganik, ammalu aulatsigiamut oganniaganik Labradorimi Inuit Satusasimajanginni Nunani.

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Executive Summary

The feedback that was received was very useful for compiling this report. The most frequent topics brought up by participants included those of the late start date to the crab fishery and the need for a shrimp plant in Makkovik. Participants also felt that it would be good to invite youth from the community as well as DFO to the workshop. It was mentioned that at the previous workshop recommendations were made and noted but they did not see any follow through on those. The workshops were very informative and helped to build better communication to multiple groups of attendees.

Introduction

The following report summarizes and highlights the discussions between the Marine Research Assistant and various interviewees about the workshops hosted by the Torngat Secretariat. The interviews took place during the summer of 2013.

A lot of the feedback that was received was very similar to others. There was a lot of feedback received altogether. Everyone involved in the interviews were very cooperative, however, most of them wanted to stay anonymous – due to this, no names will be mentioned in this document.

Workshop Feedback

Q1: Can you tell me about the annual snow crab workshop?

All interviewees agreed that the annual Snow Crab workshop was very informative to them as a person and a representative. There are a lot of different views from different professionals, and it was great to see everyone's perspective.

I did interview three elders from Makkovik who did not attend any of the workshops because they were just unaware of them.

Q2: Have many have you attended? If you attended, why did you do so or why not?

Every participant has attended the work shop before and they all concluded with the same reason. The snow crab population is a very important resource to the people of Nunatsiavut, the Nunatsiavut Government, the Designates and the Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society. Without this work shop a lot of information would be unknown and there would be no strong communication among each group.

Q3: Have you attended other fisheries workshops (in the past or other areas)? How are they similar to or different from the Annual Snow Crab workshops?

Q4: What is the purpose of the fisheries workshops?

One participant has attended other workshops both federally and provincially. They said that they were not similar as the workshops were not as interactive as the Torngat Secretariat workshops. They also noted that these provincial and federal workshops talked about the fisheries of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador. They noted that he was very impressed with the relevance the Torngat Secretariat uses to be geographically correct. One participant did not attend other workshops so to say, but he did travel internationally for work meetings. He mentioned that using the information he learned from his business meetings allowed him to have a greater understanding of the science and research that goes into the Torngat Secretariat's workshops.

Q5: Are the fisheries workshops successful in accomplishing the purpose of the workshop?

Both participants felt as though they were successful, although there was not a lot of opportunity to let their voice be heard.

Q6: How can the workshops be more effective in accomplishing their purpose?

- **Scheduling (When should it be/Where should it be)**
- **Attendance (Who should be there)**
- **Topics (What topics should be covered)**

Most participants felt as though the workshop should be held in Makkovik, Nunatsiavut – whereas the rest of the participants felt as though the workshop would be the most beneficial on the north coast. The workshop should be held in the Fall, as soon as the fishing season closes. Reasons for this include that the season would still be fresh in everyone’s minds, the fish plant is located in Makkovik so it just makes sense to have the workshop in Makkovik and it’s the best time for each participant to attend the workshop.

Every participant felt as though the workshop should be open to the general public. Everyone also said that the more fishermen (crew members & designates) there are the more beneficial the workshop will be.

Participants also felt that it would be good to invite youth to the workshop as this would be a good place for them to learn about the MED training, the Class 4 ticket to become a Skipper (Captain’s Ticket). They felt as though there are a lot of youth that is interested in the fishing industry, but are not informed about the training that has to take place before hand.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans should also attend the workshop so the relationship can be maintained between the fishermen and the DFO.

Recommended topics included:

There was a wide range of topics, however there were two topics that every participant mentioned.

Shrimp Plant

There should be a discussion about a shrimp plant put on the North Coast of Labrador. Everyone felt as though the best place would be Makkovik as there is already a fish plant and the plant can be upgraded.

“We fish for the Nunatsiavut Government, it should be processed by the Nunatsiavut Government”

“There is no reason as to why a shrimp plant cannot be here – it’s beneficial to the fishermen and it gives the people of Nunatsiavut more employment”

Fishery Start Date 2013

Everyone mentioned the start date of the snow crab season the summer of 2013 (July 12, 2013).

“There was no reason as to why the fish plant was not opened in June – when it is supposed to be. What’s the problem?”

“What was the issue? The ice conditions is not an excuse”

More Science

Seeing the research and the science in the workshop was beneficial to all participants. The science gives them more of an understanding of what is happening to the snow crab population. Research should be continued on in the future.

Send out a survey in June and then survey the crab again in September or October, figure out what is happening with the snow crab. This year’s season was not a good one, we need to figure out why that is.

Closed Zones

One participant mentioned the use of closed zones. The closed zones should be put in right away then there will be no damage to the soft shelled crab. The zones should be closed for several years to let the snow crab grow.

Nunatsiavut Government Relationship

One participant felt that there was a lack of trust with the Nunatsiavut Government and the Designates. Due to the past and some Designates losing their quota, this participant felt as though there needed to be some action which will take time to build the trust and maintain the relationship with the Designates.

Q7: Is there anything else you would like to add about the workshops?

One participant mentioned that in the last workshop there were recommendations made, but there was no follow up. They were unaware of anything was acted upon and that there needs to be a change made to ensure the communication between the Torngat Secretariat and the Designates.

Conclusion

In conclusion the workshop was well received by all those who attended but there are a few recommendations that interviewees have made which can be used to improve these workshops. Recommendations such as the trust between the Nunatsiavut government and designates, as well as the people who are invited to the workshop. It was mentioned that it would be important for youth and the general public to be invited for information sessions or training.