



Wednesday, March 27, 2013

The Honourable Keith Ashfield, M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6

**Re: Northern Shrimp Total Allowable Catch in Shrimp Fishing Area 5**

Dear Minister Ashfield:

The Torngat Joint Fisheries Board (TJFB or 'the Board') was established by the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA) as the primary body advising the Minister on matters relating to the conservation and management of fish, fish habitat, and fisheries in Nunatsiavut, with advisory powers in waters adjacent to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

The Precautionary Approach Framework of the Northern Shrimp Integrated Fisheries Management Plan targets an exploitation rate of 15% for stocks assessed to be within the Healthy Zone. The Northern Shrimp resource in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 5 is assessed to be within the Healthy Zone, and the Spawning Stock Biomass, the Fishable Biomass, and the Recruitment Index are all at or above the long-term mean. The exploitation rate has varied without trend between 15-20% for most of the time series, and the exploitation rate in 2013 is projected to be 16%, if the TAC of 23,300MT is maintained. Accordingly, and as per the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, the Board recommends that:

1. the TAC of 23,300MT in SFA 5 be maintained through 2013/14.

The resource, and the industry built around it, has been relatively stable in SFA 5. This alone advocates for the continued application of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan here, and in all areas.

Yours truly,

John Mercer  
Chairperson  
Torngat Joint Fisheries Board