

Minister of  
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des  
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

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MAY 16 1996

Mr. Ben Kovic  
Chairman  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
P.O. Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NWT

Dear Mr. Kovic:

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 1996, concerning groundfish in waters adjacent to Nunavut. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I understand the importance of marine fisheries to the people of Nunavut. Special consideration has been and will continue to be given to the people of Nunavut for marine fisheries allocation in NAFO Subarea 0. For example, allocation of Subarea 0 turbot for Nunavut has increased from 1 tonne in 1986 to 1,500 tonnes in 1996. During this same period, the total Subarea 0 turbot quota was reduced from 12,500 tonnes to 5,500 tonnes.

In response to your specific recommendations:

1. Area 0 Inshore Turbot

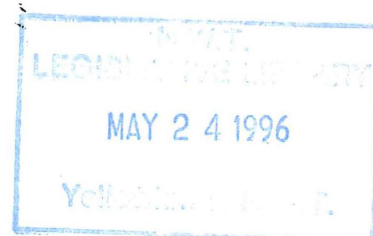
An allocation of 1000 tonnes for Nunavut inshore turbot remains unchanged.

2. Area 0B Offshore Turbot

An allocation of 500 tonnes offshore for Nunavut in 1996 has been set aside in the same manner as the Nunavut inshore allocation. Sub-allocation to Nunavut applications will be at the NWMB's recommendation. Since weather has devastated

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Canada



the 1996 winter fishing for inshore turbot, I am prepared to accept similar arrangements as in 1995 of allowing unfished inshore quotas to be transferred to offshore fishing for Nunavut. The 1996 unfished inshore quota is at 970 tonnes.

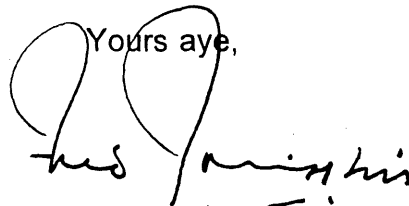
3. Area 0A Offshore Turbot

Your recommendation for a test fishery in Sub-area 0A has merit. There is little scientific information on the marine resources and a well-designed exploratory fishery can provide fundamental knowledge for fisheries management in this area. I suggest that DFO and NWMB scientists work together to develop an acceptable exploratory fishery proposal.

4. Area 2+3 Turbot

In 1995, Pagnirtung Fisheries was successful in chartering a Newfoundland vessel (with its own groundfish licence) to fish for turbot in Subarea 0. If similar arrangements can be made, a Canadian charter (with its own groundfish licence) can access the competitive quota in 2+3K.

The Department recognizes and appreciates the NWMB's interest in the sustainable harvest of groundfish stocks in these areas, and I believe our management approach is based on the principles of fairness, equity, and conservation. Thank you, again, for providing me with the Board's views.

Yours aye,  


Fred J. Mifflin  
Rear-Admiral

FJM/bw

Minister of  
Fisheries and Oceans



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MAY 22 1996

Copy to Baffin M.L.A.'s

MAY 16 1996  
MAY 16 1996

The Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, M.L.A. et al  
Government of Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 2L9

Dear Minister Arlooktoo et al:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 1996, regarding the 1996 Sub-area "0" turbot fishery. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

I have enclosed a copy of my press release and my response to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, with regard to the 1996 turbot fishery in Davis Strait. I trust this is satisfactory.

Thank you, again, for your interest in this matter.

Yours aye,

Fred J. Mifflin  
Rear-Admiral

Enclosures: (2)

FJM/bw

Canada

## MIFFLIN ANNOUNCES NORTHERN TURBOT QUOTAS FOR DAVIS STRAIT

**OTTAWA** -- Fred Mifflin, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, today announced allocations for the Greenland halibut (turbot) fishery in the Davis Strait, off the east coast of Baffin Island.

"I am happy to announce that Canadianization of the northern turbot fishery is progressing well," Mr. Mifflin said. "Canadian effort in this fishery is expected to be greater than ever in 1996. As a step to move towards Canadianization, we are decreasing the amount of quota available for harvest by foreign charters."

Turbot in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Sub-area 0, located in Davis Strait, is part of a stock in NAFO Sub-areas 0 + 1, shared between Canada and Greenland. Bilateral discussions with Greenland have resulted in a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 11,000 tonnes for 1996. The Canadian quota for Sub-area 0 for 1996 is set at 5,500 tonnes or 50 per cent of the TAC.

In dividing the Canadian quota, the traditional inshore allocation to the Nunavut region has been maintained at 1,000 tonnes. For 1996, another 500 tonnes has been allocated to Nunavut, to be fished offshore. This additional allocation has been made to respect the principle of use and occupancy of marine areas by the Inuit of Nunavut. The allocation for Canadian groundfish vessels has been increased to 1,500 tonnes, and 2,500 tonnes has been made available for Canadian companies wishing to use foreign charters.

The allocation for Canadian groundfish vessels will be subdivided between the fixed and mobile gear sectors. The quota sharing, and other measures to reduce gear conflicts, will be discussed with industry before the fishery opens.

"I have decided that this is the time to begin phasing out the use of foreign charters in this fishery," Mr. Mifflin added. "This approach will allow those presently dependent on foreign vessels to adjust their operations, while increasing the quota available to Canadian groundfish vessels. The allocation to Canadian vessels will be increased in future years as Canadians demonstrate their ability to harvest larger quantities of northern turbot."

"Canadian companies intending to charter foreign vessels will be required to meet the same stringent landing criteria as in 1995. All catches must be landed at Canadian ports and 90 per cent of them must be processed in Canadian plants."

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