

OPPORTUNITIES • NORTH

COMMERCIAL FISHING & COUNTRY FOODS

Nunavut turbot harvest worth \$37.4 million

Shrimp quota value up to \$26.7 million

Consortium training Inuit in fishing industry

by Guy Quenneville

Northern News Services

Nunavut

The estimated value of turbot caught in Nunavut in 2010 was \$37.4 million, compared to \$41 million in 2009 and just under \$42 million in 2008 and 2007. In 2006, the turbot harvest was worth \$35 million.

The total turbot quota in Nunavut waters was 13,500 metric tonnes, with 9,080 metric tonnes going to Nunavut fishers.

Nunavut's share of the quota for fish in the marine area adjacent to Baffin Island is 41 per cent, or 2,850 metric tonnes, of the 7,000-metric tonne total.

Last year, Arctic Fisheries Alliance (AFA) purchased a mid-shore groundfish license which includes access to the 0B competitive turbot fishery (southern Davis Strait) for 65 to 100 vessels and some halibut and cod quota in southern waters, which AFA will fish during the off season.

The estimated value of shrimp caught in Nunavut increased substantially to

\$26.7 million in 2010, compared to \$6 million in 2009, \$15.4 million in 2008 and \$22 million in 2007.

The total 2010 offshore quota for shrimp was 34,147 metric tonnes, of which Nunavut got 31.3 per cent, or 10,681 tonnes.

Currently four companies are active in the fishing industry: Baffin Fisheries Coalition (BFC), Arctic Fisheries Alliance, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. and Cumberland Sound Fisheries.

Between them, they employ approximately 200 Nunavummiut, though some of them work only on a seasonal basis, the GN estimates.

The Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium (NFTC), which began in 2005 with a budget of \$5.4 million, aims to boost the number of Inuit working in the industry.

The consortium, created by the Baffin Fisheries Coalition and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), provides skills training for Nunavum-

miut interested in high-paying careers in the offshore turbot and shrimp fishery.

For example, a marine diesel mechanic can earn between \$52,000 and \$60,000 for half a year's work.

This past spring, 12 Nunavummiut were completing the consortium's Pre-Sea Trial Worker course, a four-week course.

"We hold it in Iqaluit," said project officer Mike Walsh. "It covers all the basics that you'd need to get started in offshore shrimp and turbot: a bit of basic training, some seamanship, a kind of career orientation, your basic certification and your medical."

NFTC is funded primarily through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP), and also receives funding from the Government of Nunavut, Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Kakivak Association, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

In 2009, NFTC received an additional \$6 million in funding that will extend its life to 2012.



photo courtesy of Mike Walsh

The Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium offered a small engine repair course in Clyde River earlier this year.

Nunavut's share compared to overall quotas in Nunavut's offshore waters (2010)

| SPECIES | AREA | TOTAL QUOTA (IN METRIC TONNES) | NUNAVUT'S SHARE OF TOTAL QUOTA (IN METRIC TONNES) | PERCENTAGE OF NUNAVUT'S SHARE |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Turbot | OA | 6,500 | 6,500 | 100% |
| | OB | 7,000 | 2,850 | 41% |
| Subtotal Turbot | | 13,500 | 9,080 | 67.3% |
| Shrimp | | | | |
| <i>P. borealis</i> | SFA 0 | 500 | 44 | 8.8% |
| | SFA 1 | 18,597 | 4,979 | 27% |
| | SFA 2&3 | 15,050 | 5,658 | 38% |
| Subtotal Shrimp | | 34,147 | 10,681 | 31.3 |
| Overall Turbot and Shrimp | | 47,647 | 19,761 | |

Source: Government of Nunavut

The total quota for Nunavut turbot in 2010 was 13,500 metric tonnes.

Meat and fish plant profits down



Guy Quenneville/NNSL photo

Kitikmeot Foods in Cambridge Bay posted losses of more than \$14,000 in 2010.

Nunavut country food plants by the numbers (loss)

| OPERATION | SALES | | PROFIT AFTER SUBSIDY | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Pangnirtung Fisheries | \$2,297,872 | \$2,811,416 | (\$41,189) | (\$127,094) |
| Papirug Fisheries | \$11,251 | \$7,580 | (\$7,395) | \$175 |
| Kivalliq Arctic Foods | \$470,821 | \$707,927 | (\$177,334) | (\$72,055) |
| Kitikmeot Foods | \$592,860 | \$670,000 | (\$38,980) | (\$14,834) |
| Total | \$4,048,804 | \$4,196,926 | (\$264,898) | (\$213,808) |

Source: Nunavut Development Corporation

Nunavut Development Corporation's four country foods plants posted a combined net loss of almost \$213,808 in 2010.

Plants post combined net loss of \$214,000

Kivalliq Arctic Foods sales increase

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Nunavut's country food plants had a tough time of it in 2010.

Even with \$148,122 in additional sales in 2010, Kitikmeot Foods Ltd., Kivalliq Arctic Foods, Pangnirtung Fisheries and Papirug Fisheries – the country foods subsidiaries of the Nunavut Development Corporation – had combined net losses totalling almost \$214,000.

Only one plant, Papirug Fisheries, posted a net profit – of \$175.

On the other hand, the plants did not lose as much money as in 2009, when all the plants posted a net loss totalling \$265,000.

The year before, in 2008,

two of the plants earned about \$207,000 in net profit, while two other plants posted net losses totalling \$339,000, resulting in an overall loss of \$132,000.

In 2007, three plants earned \$741,000 in net profit, while one reported a net loss of \$238,500.

Individual plants

In 2010, Kitikmeot Foods posted a net loss of \$14,834 compared to a net loss of \$38,980 in 2009.

The plant, located in Cambridge Bay, created 12 jobs, on par with the previous year.

The plant processes meat and fish, including arctic char and muskox. The muskox harvest was successfully completed in early April for the fifth consecutive year.

Kivalliq Arctic Foods in Rankin Inlet reported a net loss of \$72,055, not as much as the \$177,334 net loss in 2009. Sales increased to \$707,927 from \$470,821.

The plant processes meat and fish, including arctic char and caribou, and decreased its total number of employees to eight from 14.

Pangnirtung Fisheries experienced a net loss of \$127,094, a considerably higher net loss than the previous year, \$41,189.

Sales decreased by \$162,456.

That plant also increased its employment to 32 from 28.

Arctic char processing plant Papirug Fisheries in Whale Cove took in a negligible profit of \$175 after posting net losses of \$7,395 in 2009.

