

Fisheries Governance in Nunavut: Understanding challenges and seizing opportunities within an existing legislative co-management framework

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Fisheries-Western and Indigenous
Knowledge Systems (Fish-WIKS)

Fish-WIKS



- **Fisheries – Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems**
- Knowledge Systems: the process of how we know what we know (acquire, value, control, share)

“Understanding how Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems can improve the sustainability of Canadian fisheries”

Knowledge System(s)



Western Knowledge System

science-based (reductionist, objective) =
scientific method

Indigenous Knowledge System

on the land, past, present, future
(observational, adaptive) =
Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ)

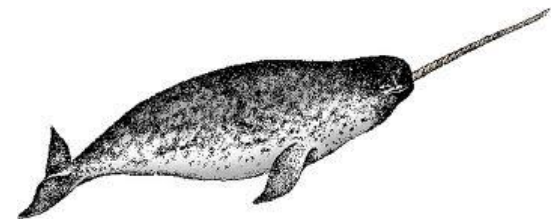
Question: How are fisheries managed Federally?

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Minister of Fisheries
- 3 key pieces of Federal legislation
 - *Fisheries Act* (1985)- fisheries regulation
 - *Oceans Act* (1996)- framework for modern ocean management
 - *Species at Risk Act* (2002)- protect threatened/endangered organisms and habitat
- National Sectors > 6 Regions > Branches

Arctic/Northern: Nunavut



- *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* in 1993
- Territory of Nunavut in 1999
- *NLCA* created the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
 - Co-management framework
 - Decision making body
- Proposals to modify must contain best science, Inuit and community knowledge, consultations
- Goes to a hearing
- NWMB makes decision based on best available information, submits it to the Fisheries Minister
- Minister accepts, rejects, modifies
- Char and marine mammals



Fisheries

Within the Nunavut Settlement Area

- NWMB decision-making with co-management partners
 - Char, turbot, marine mammals
 - Total Allowable Harvest, Basic Needs Level

Outside the Nunavut Settlement Area

- NWMB recommendations to DFO
- Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries
 - Turbot (shared with Greenland)
 - Shrimp



DFO (Federal)

- Aboriginal: Food, Social, Ceremonial
- Commercial
 - Exploratory
- Recreational

Challenges and Strengths

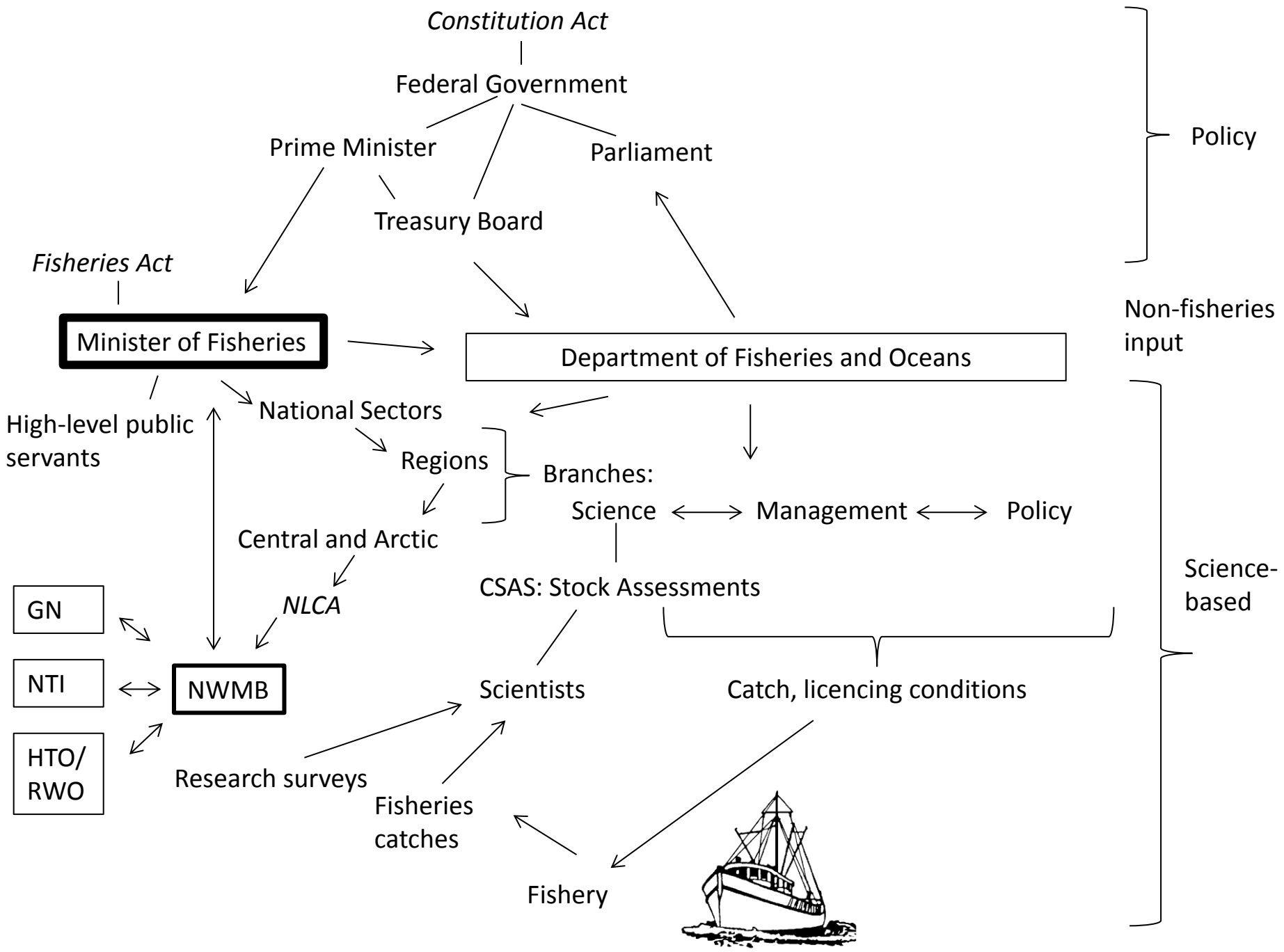
Challenges

- No NU-specific fisheries regulations
- BNL = includes commercial?
Some not settled
- Recreational = not an Inuit practice
- Emerging species not represented in *NLCA*
- Gaining access to commercial fisheries
- Capacity
 - Enforcement
 - Infrastructure
- Ministerial discretion: lack of transparency

Strengths

- *NLCA* mandated co-management
- Driven by Nunavummiut
- Basic Needs Level
- Best available info, can be from people
- Institution of public gov
 - Transparent, part of the public record
- *NLCA* supersedes Integrated Fisheries Management Plans when in conflict within NSA

No TAH, no harvest limit



Lessons learned

- Fish-WIKS: looking at enhancing decision-making across (4 partner) regions, opportunities
- 3 key pieces of legislation, common National policies/strategies (equality)
- Nunavut specific legislation: *NLCA* (reality, context)
- Context specificity but lessons learned
 - BNL, could be best applied to other groups (e.g. First Nations)
 - Opportunities and mechanisms for harvesters to provide input, valued by policy makers?
- Up to the IKS to decide if WKS fits, if yes, work to create local protocols for knowledge sharing.

Thank You!

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- **SSHRC**

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