

## **B11-O08**

### **FISHING INDUSTRY IN NUNAVUT: POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

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Fishing industry is an emerging sector of the Nunavut economy. As one of three sectors offering excellent prospects for economic growth, fishing was identified to need a special strategy in the first Nunavut Economic Development Strategy (2003). The GN (Government of Nunavut) and NTI (Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated) began developing a Nunavut Fisheries Strategy next fall. In 2005, Nunavut Fisheries Strategy came out. The fishery has seen strong growth over the past decade as the territory acquired a greater share of the turbot and shrimp fisheries in its adjacent waters. Moreover, Inuit employment has improved in recent years, with as many as 200 Nunavummiut now working in the industry. The management of fishing in Nunavut is complicated. The NLCA divides Canada's 200-mile limits into two areas: the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA), which takes in the area of Canada's 12-mile territorial sea next to Nunavut's coastline; areas within Canada's 200-mile limit, but not including the 12-mile NSA. The nine-member Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) is the main instrument of wildlife management in the NSA and the main regulator of access to wildlife. The latter fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Licensing is a management tool to manage and conserve the resource in the public interest. The Fisheries Act bestows on the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans absolute discretion to issue or authorize to be issued leases and licenses for fisheries or fishing.