

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Labrador Inuit and Kavisilik</i></p>	<p>CNL(23)63</p> <p>Agenda item: 7b)</p>
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Labrador Inuit and Kavisilik

Todd Broomfield, Nunatsiavut Government, Canada

Labrador Inuit have a long and rich history of interaction with the natural environment and using its resources in a sustainable manner. Atlantic Salmon (Kavisilik) are part of that history.

The Nunatsiavut Government represent the interests of approx. 7200 Labrador Inuit (beneficiaries) and co-manage two Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) licenses in co-operation with DFO. One license within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) and one license for the tidal waters of Lake Melville, outside of LISA. The Nunatsiavut Government under a Ministerial Directive manages both FSC licenses. The Ministerial Directive provides the Department with the terms and conditions of how the licenses are to be provided to beneficiaries.

Bycatch of Atlantic Salmon is managed through FSC license conditions and an allocation of tags, both of which are negotiated annually. Conservation measures include season, limit on net length, limit on beneficiary household licenses, and a 10-day take-up in the tidal waters of Lake Melville in order to allow the peak run of large salmon to return to rivers, etc.

Catch logs are provided to each household that receives a FSC license and the Nunatsiavut Government provide a prize draw in each community as an incentive to return completed catch logs.

Given the reduced presence of DFO within Nunatsiavut, our Conservation Officers regularly monitor the FSC fisheries and report any observed violations to DFO or address them directly themselves. In addition to monitoring the fisheries, the Conservation Officers also conduct patrols with DFO when necessary. They also collect biological samples (scale and fin-clip) for DFO science.

To date, the sampling program indicates that at least 96% of salmon caught in the FSC fisheries originated in Labrador Rivers.

Labrador Inuit now carry out the FSC fisheries within coastal bays and Estuaries in relative proximity to their community. Labrador Inuit abandoned most traditional salmon fishing stations on the outside islands, with the closure of the commercial salmon fishery.