

Arctic Fishery Alliance

Comments on 2D Seismic Survey Environmental Mitigation Measures

Presented To:

National Energy Board:
Team Leader, Conservation of
Resources



Updated April 16th, 2013

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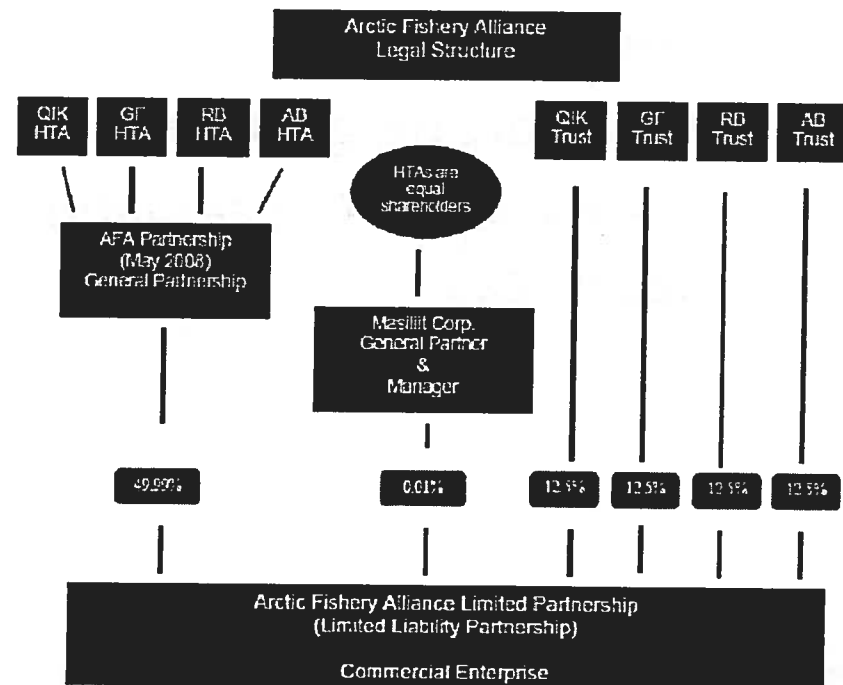


- **Partnership of four HTAs and community trusts**
 - Ikajutit HTA of Arctic Bay
 - Iviq HTA of Grise Fiord
 - Resolute Bay HTA of Resolute Bay
 - Nattivak HTA of Qikiqtarjuaq

- **Formed in May of 2008**

- **100% Inuit-owned organization**

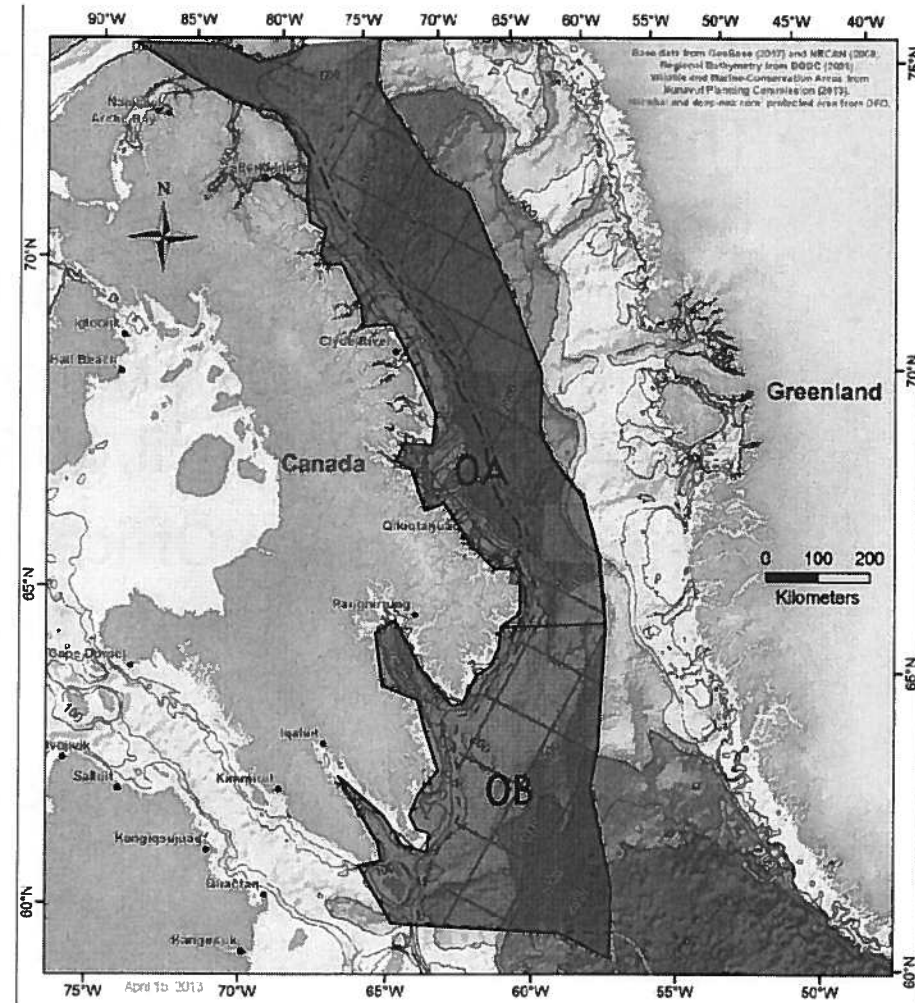
- **Manages all its harvesting capacity**



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- In 2010, acquired the F.V. “Suvak” – a 100’ factory-freezer fixed gear vessel
- In 2013, acquired sister ship F.V “Atlantic Prospect”
- Harvests Greenland halibut (turbot) in NAFO divisions 0A and 0B



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Mitigation measures in section 5.2 include:

- The seismic activity will not take place near any native harvest area.
- The Community Liaison Officer will maintain communication with the company to provide updates to the Hamlet Council, HTAs and the community.
- A Fisheries Liaison Officer will maintain communication with all fishing vessels near the vicinity of the seismic survey.
- The seismic vessel will avoid all active fixed gear fishing areas.

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The seismic activity will not take place near any native harvest area.

- AFA requests that the phrase “near any native harvest area” be clarified:
 - How will these native harvest areas be identified?
 - What will the defined minimum safe distance be?

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A Fisheries Liaison Officer will maintain communication with all fishing vessels near the vicinity of the seismic survey.

- The statement “near the vicinity” lacks a specific definition. AFA suggests this be better defined.
- AFA insists that this measure be expanded to include wording to the effect:

“The Fisheries Liaison Officer will send a daily email to the four turbot quota holders of daily vessel location and planned tracks”

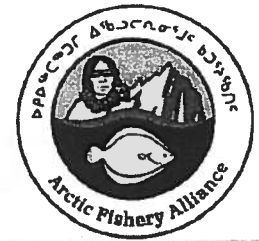
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The seismic vessel will avoid all active fixed gear fishing areas.

- At what distance will the seismic vessel circumvent active fixed fishing gear?
- AFA insists that a minimum safe distance (MSD) between the seismic vessel, its towed array and the fishing gear be established and noted in the mitigation measures.
- To ensure the MSD, the Fisheries Liaison Officer should communicate fixed fishing gear areas with the seismic vessel.
- If catch rates are determined to have reduced as a result of the testing, how will we be compensated?

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Thank you for your time.

Questions?