**Northern prawn Western Greenland**

**Fishery**  
Western Greenland  
Canada SFA 1.  
Canada  
Single boat bottom otter tows

### IDENTIFICATION

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
Pandalus borealis

**SPECIES NAMES**  
Northern prawn, northern shrimp

**COMMON NAMES**  
Northern prawn; Pink shrimp

**IDENTIFICATION**

According with the latest research, there are seven genetically distinct populations of *P. borealis* in the North Atlantic. Greenland was found to be genetically similar to other western populations (Jorde et al. 2015).

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

Separate stocks of Northern prawn (*P. borealis*) have not been clearly defined and may represent a single metapopulation within the Northwest Atlantic. However, there are some differences that provide basis for delineating assessment and management units into Shrimp Fishery Areas (SFAs). This profile corresponds to the assessment and management units into Shrimp Fishery Areas (SFAs). The profile corresponds to the SFA 1.

This fishery was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council system in June 2011. Click here to link to the MSC fishery page and to learn more about the MSC certification of the fishery. The Northern prawn – Atlantic Canada SFAs 2-7 Northern prawn – Atlantic Canada SFAs 4-5, and Northern prawn – Atlantic Canada SFA 7 share the same MSC certification.

In the NW Atlantic, were considered other stocks separately: Northern prawn – W Greenland, Northern prawn – Flemish Cap, and Northern prawn – Gulf of Maine.

### ASSESSMENT

**Strengths**

1. Birth biomass and mortality are thought to be at safe levels in terms of MSY reference points. 2. Bycatch rates are low, although they may be under-reported. 3. There is detailed monitoring and research that backs up quotas and the harvest strategy.

1. Birth biomass and mortality are thought to be at safe levels in terms of MSY reference points. 2. The Canadian catch in SFA 1 is well under the TAC throughout the last decade.

**Weaknesses**

1. The Canadian and Greenlandic catch limits for this stock have exceeded the recommended NAFO/ICES catch limits by approximately 20% in most years of the last decade. 2. There is no bilateral agreement between Greenland and Canada establishing a stock-wide harvest strategy. 3. The Canadian harvest strategy for this stock is not included in an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.

There is a limited knowledge of the effects of the fishery on the ecosystem.

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**SCORES**

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**FIPS**

No related FIPs

**MSC**

- Canada northern and striped shrimp: MSC Recertified

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**CATCHERS & REGULATORS**

1. Conduct an evaluation of Greenland’s fishery management plan to determine if it is precautious, and develop a Canadian fishery management plan including an explicit harvest strategy.

2. Establish a bilateral fisheries agreement between Greenland and Canada.

3. Set total allowable catches in line with scientific advice.

4. Work actively to address and close out conditions placed upon the certification of the fishery in the agreed timeframe.

5. Report achievements publicly to share progress with buyers.

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

1. Monitor the progress in closing out conditions placed upon the MSC certification of the fishery and if agreed timelines are met. Offer assistance in closing conditions where possible.

2. Contact the Greenland fisheries administration and request that they evaluate the management plan to determine if it is precautionary, and establish a bilateral fisheries agreement with Canada, and set total allowable catches in line with scientific advice.

3. Contact the Canadian fisheries administration and request that they develop a fishery management plan with an explicit harvest strategy, establish a bilateral fisheries agreement with Greenland, and set total allowable catches in line with scientific advice.

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5. Express your support to help meet conditions that may be at a government/regulatory level (where applicable).

**NOFPEC**

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**GAPs**

- Implementation of an explicit harvest strategy.

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