

DFO – Great Slave Lake Fisheries Management

Prepared by:

George Low

Taiga Borealis

13 Riverview Drive

Hay River, NWT, X0E 0R7

Ph. 867 874 5531

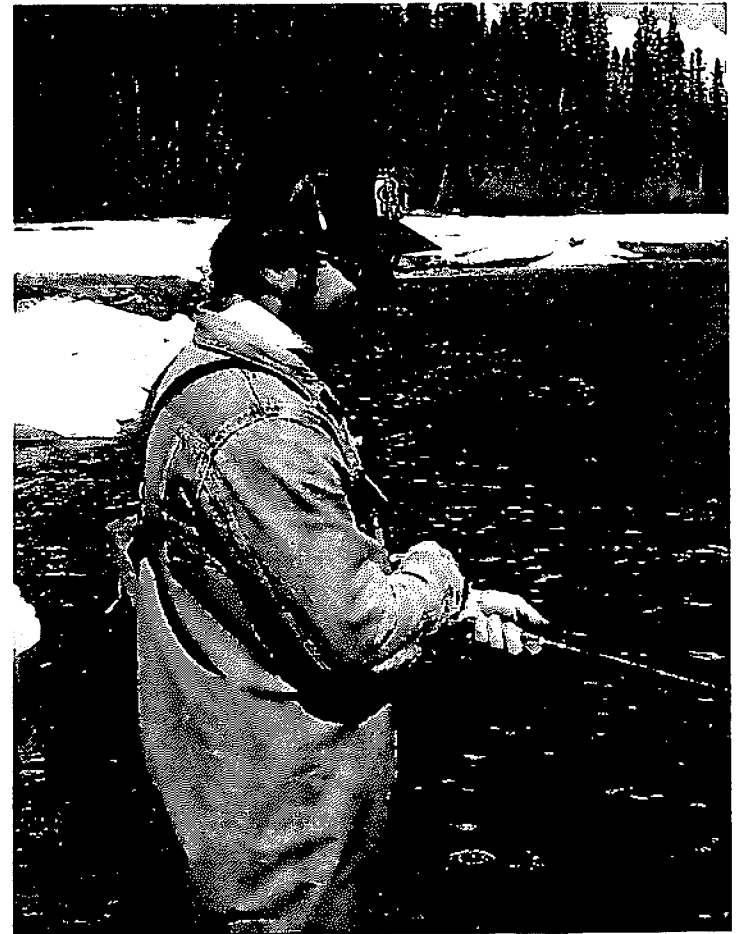
Great Slave Lake Fisheries

- Sports Fisheries
- First Nation Fisheries
- Non-aboriginal Domestic
- Commercial Gillnet
- Exploratory Fisheries



Sports Fishery Management

- Licencing and regulation
- Enforcement
- Management
- The recreational Fishery
- Lodges and Outfitters



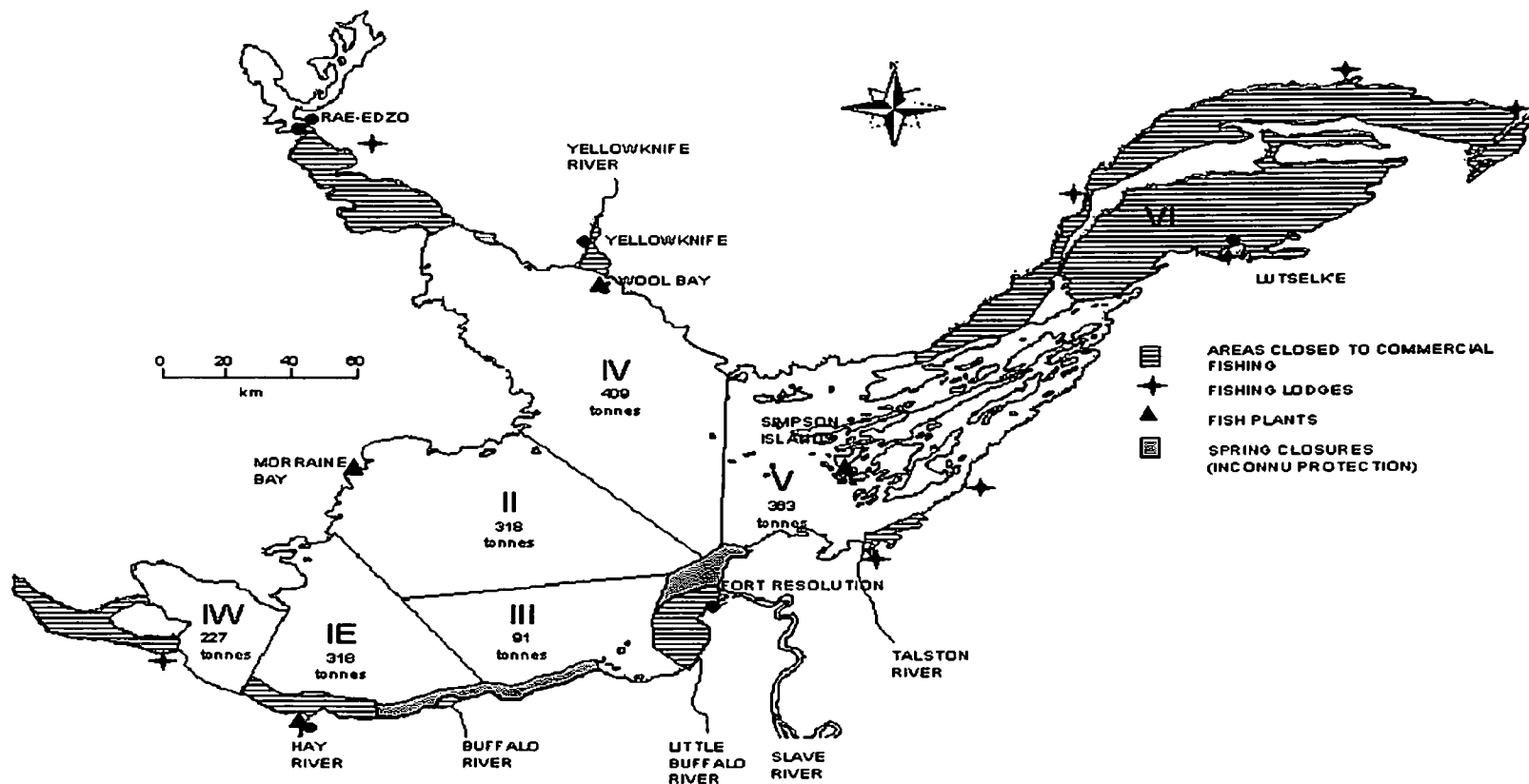
First Nation Food Fisheries

- Priority
- Enforcement & Regulation
- Stock Protection
- AFS & AAROM



Great Slave Lake

Areas Closed to Commercial Gillnet Fishing



Non-Aboriginal Domestic Fishery

- Surplus Resource
- Mainly Hay River and Yellowknife
- Licence quota and area
- Limited harvest
- Avoids heavy use areas



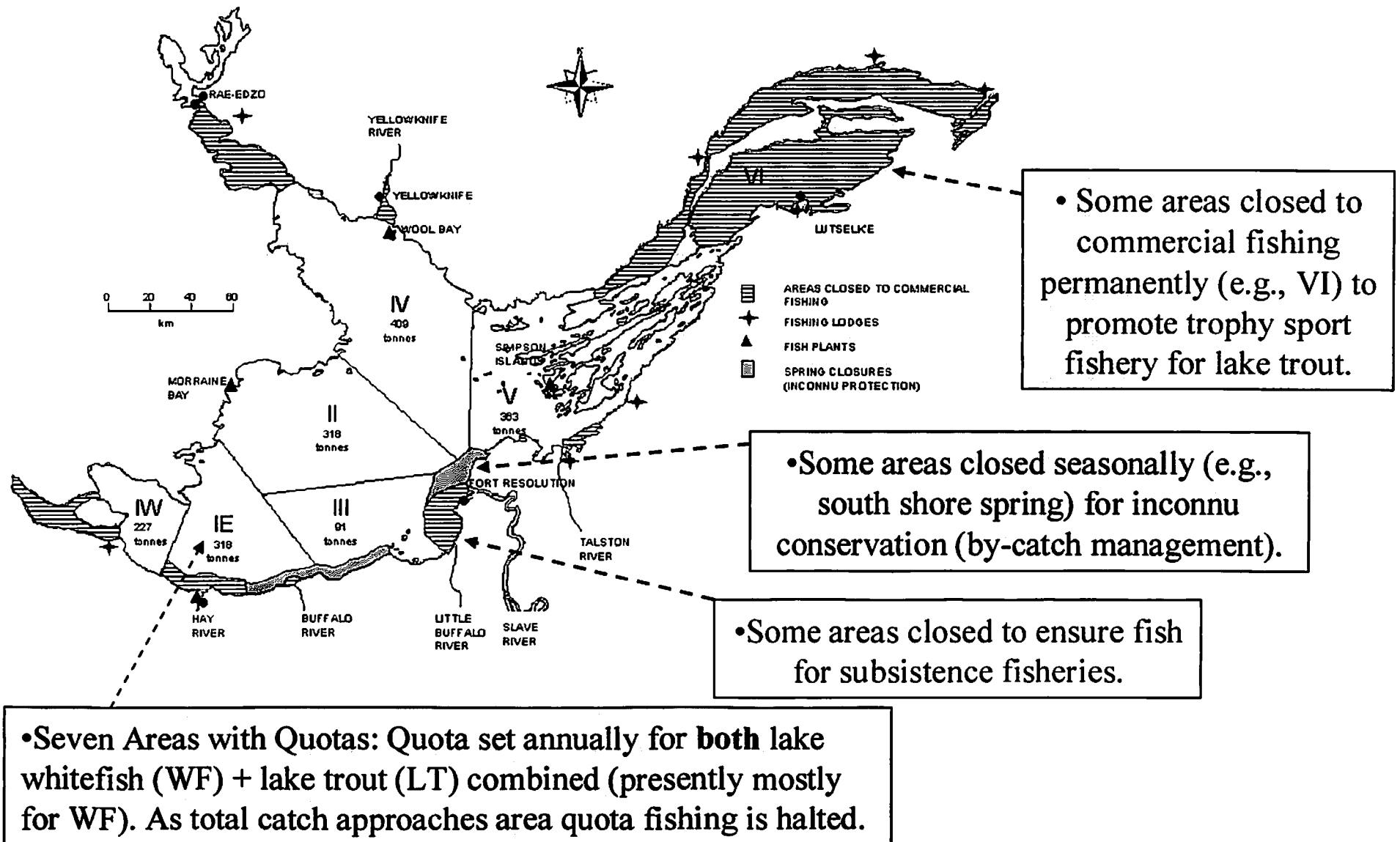
Commercial Gillnet Fishery

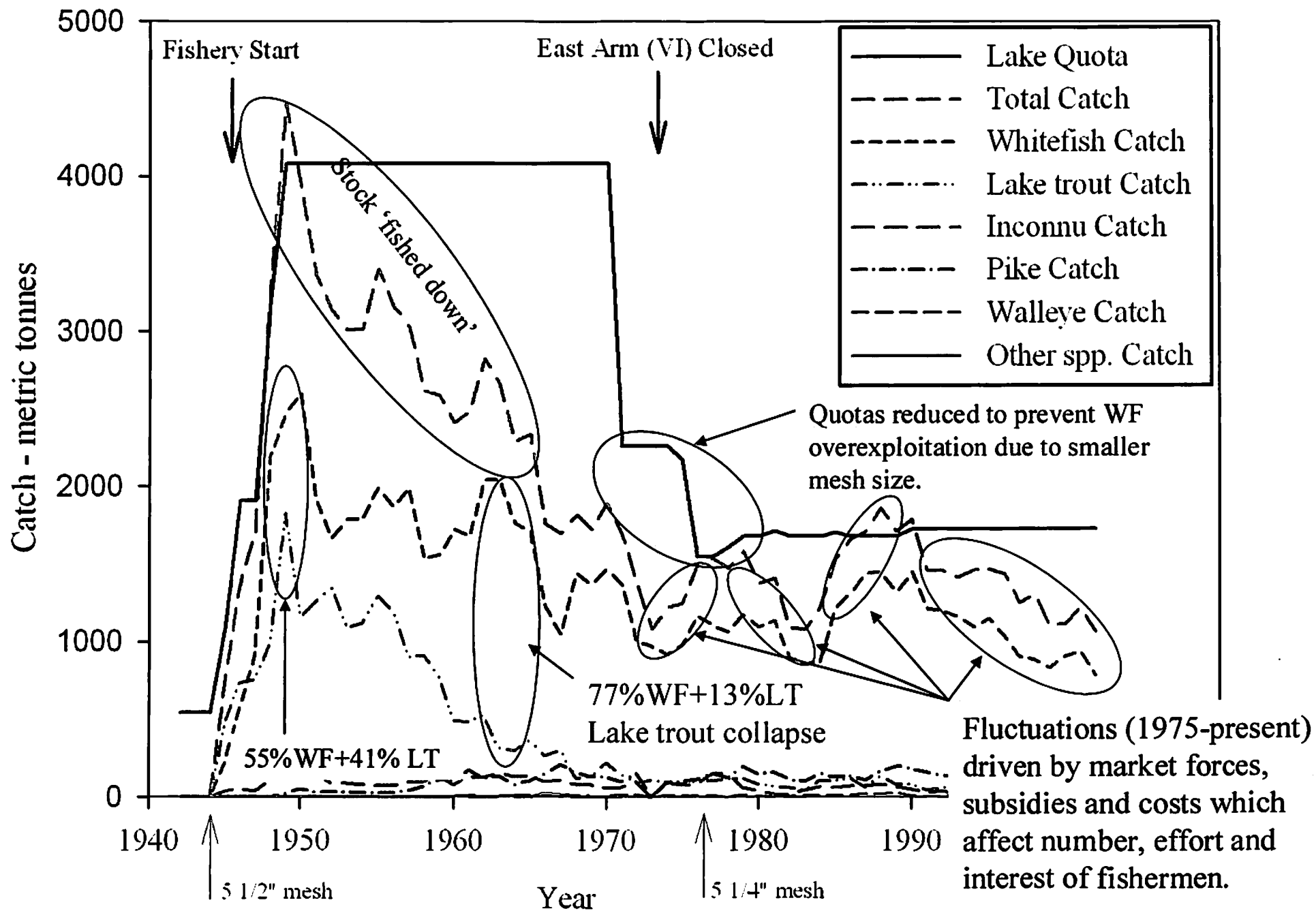
- Regulation and Enforcement
- Quotas and Areas
- Certificates and Licences
- Mesh size
- Closed areas
- Exploratory Fisheries



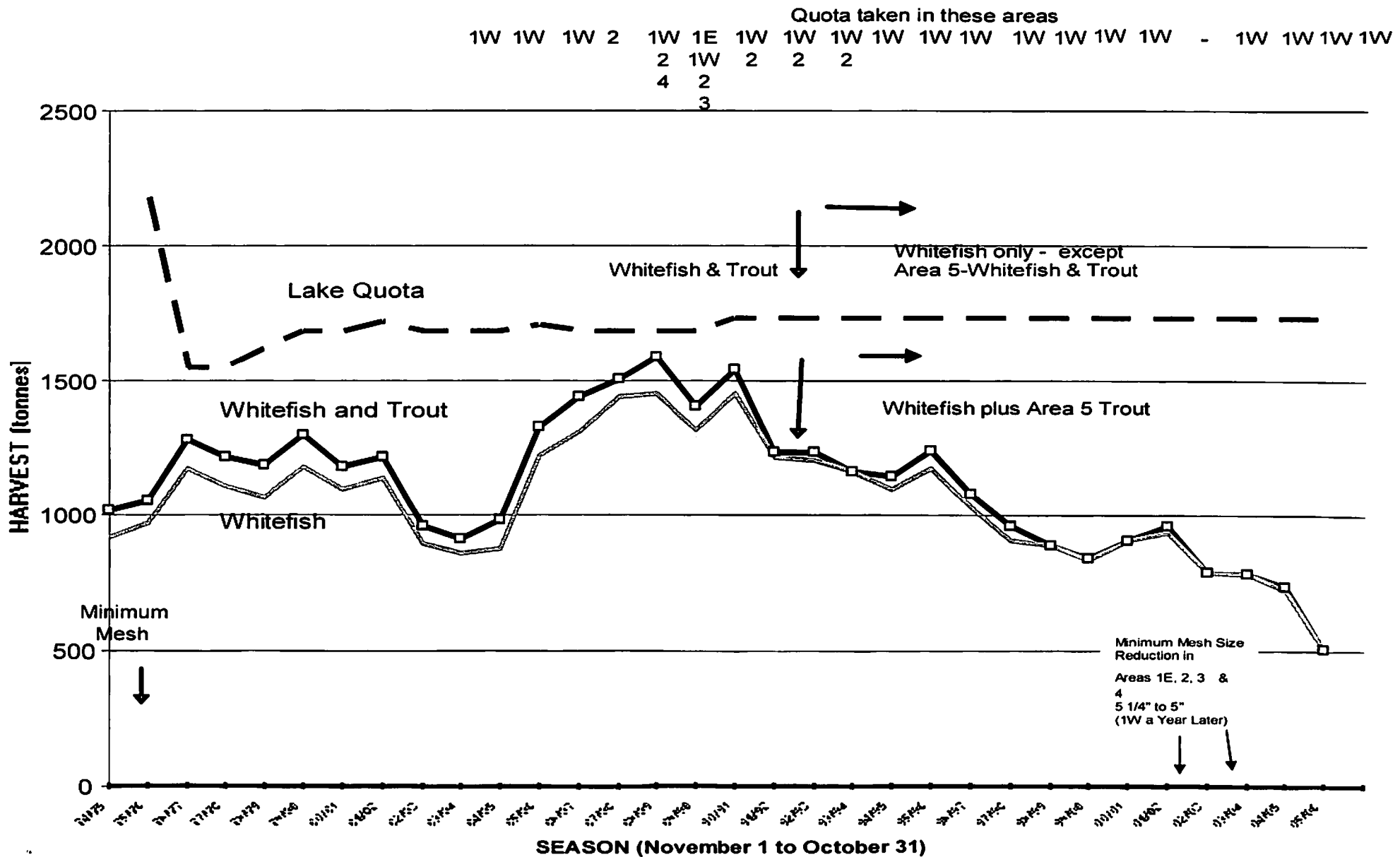
Commercial Fishery Management Areas – 1975 to present

- Areas with quotas used to limit exploitation and distribute effort; managed for whitefish offshore.
- Boundaries variable from 1945-1974; stabilized in 1975.
- Quota management is primarily for whitefish in West Basin; other species managed by area closures.





The Economic Decline of the Fishery



Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee

- Purpose; ensure long-term conservation, wise use & health of fish and fish habitat
- Advises DFO on Fishery Mgmt. Issues
- Membership
- Terms of Reference; (under review)
- Meetings (twice annually)
- DFO consultation; (Does NOT preclude direct consultation with FN's or other groups)



GSLAC Membership

•**Membership:** Chairperson, 12 Voting & 4 Non-voting Members

•**Voting Members;** groups nominate their member(s) and alternate(s)

- Akaitcho Territory Government..... 1 Member
- Dehcho First Nations..... 1 Member
- Tlicho Government..... 1 Member
- NWT Métis Nation..... 3 Members
- NWT Fishermen's Federation..... 4 Members
- Sports Fishing-Public at Large..... 1 Member
- Sports Fishing-GSL Lodges and Outfitters... 1 Member

•**Non-Voting Members;** groups nominate their members

- DFO-Fisheries Management..... 1 Member
- Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation..... 1 Member
- GNWT-Environment & Natural Resources... 1 Member
- GNWT-Industry, Tourism & Investment..... 1 Member

GSL Commercial Fishery

A Restricted Entry Fishery

- Objective: To ensure the fishery does not become over-subscribed (“too many fishermen chasing too few fish”)
- NWT Fishery Regulations – Certificate required to operate a fishing enterprise on GSL
- GSLAC recommends issuance of Commercial Certificates
- GSLAC uses guidelines and a point system to prioritize applicants

Certificate Pool

Season	Class	Number
Summer	Class A-Vessels 9.23 meters and longer	28
	Class B-Vessels less than 9.23 meters	61
Winter	Class A-Vehicles greater than 2000KG GVW	32
	Class B-Vehicles other than Class A	49

Effective January 1, 1981*, no person shall hold more than;

One Summer Class A Certificate

One Summer Class B Certificate

One Winter Class A Certificate

One Winter Class B Certificate

* Grandfathered

New Entry Category

- Application to DFO in Hay R. or YK;
 - complete application with supporting docs.
 - at least 3 working days before meeting
- DFO presents the applications to GSLAC
- Criteria; Residency Criteria & Point Criteria
- Residency Criteria;
 - Canadian citizen
 - 2 year full time resident of the NWT

New Entrant Point Criteria

- a) One point – each year of NWT residency to 15
- b) One point – each year operator or helper
- OR One Point – each year holds GHL, NWT Treaty Card
or enrolled as a beneficiary of a Land Claim to 15
- c) One point – each year family member Cert.to 10 to 10
OR One point – each year family – lapsed Cert. (to 5)
- d) One point – each year applicant resided in
community on shores of GSL to 10
OR One point – each year resided in any NWT
community (to 5)
- e) One point – each year applicant continuously applied to 10

Renewal Category

- DFO will automatically re-issue commercial certificates if holder meets minimum production requirements
 - Summer & Winter Class A 2000kg
 - Summer & winter Class B 200kg

Other

- There are rules governing notification, claiming certificates and operational readiness
- There is an appeal process
 - On grounds of being denied a Certificate
 - Appeals directed to DFO, Western Arctic Area at any Area office
 - DFO notifies GSLAC and the Appellant of its decision in writing

GSL Research and Monitoring

- DFO Science – Stock
 - Assessment sector FWI-Wpg
- DFO Fisheries Mgmt. Sector
 - WAA - Hay River
- Fish Plant Samples
 - Size and age
- Experimental Gillnetting
- Fishery Observations
- Species Studies – eg. Inconnu
- AFS & AAROM
 - Co-mgmt. supported studies



GSL – AAROM Board



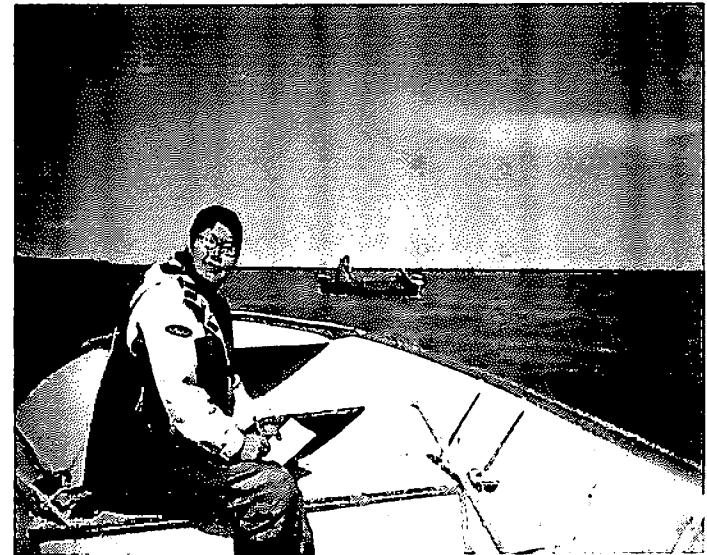
Dehcho Watershed Ecosystem Advisory Committee - AAROM & AFS

- A Capacity Building and Collaborative Mgmt. program
- Working with DFO
 - AAROM
 - AFS



Kakisa Lake Commercial Fishery

- Main species – Walleye
- Other species – Pike
- Walleye quota – 20, 000 kg annual
- Gear – 4 1/4" gillnet
- Commercial fishing licence
 - by NWT Fishery Regs.
 - Resident of Kakisa; 6 months
- Sustainable fishery since the 1946
(Transient stock problem in the 1990's)



Tathlina Lake Commercial Fishery

- Quota = 20 000 kg of Walleye
- The stock has been depleted since 2001
- May be a combination of heavy exploitation and spawning failure
- Tathlina - a shallow lake subject to winter-kill & other problems
- Climate change may be affecting the recovery - usually recovers in three or four years
- Kakisa Band working with DFO on the recovery strategy

