

REPORT BACKGROUND



THE NORTHERN COALITION

The [Northern Coalition](#) is a non-profit group of six enterprises based in Canada's Eastern Arctic and coastal Labrador established to provide a common voice on Northern fisheries issues & access. Its members have widely different origins, mandates & structures, but a common purpose is the reinvestment of the profits from their fisheries in their communities & regions. The report explores how profits from their offshore shrimp & Greenland halibut fisheries have been used to diversify adjacent coastal regions for long-term economic & social sustainability.



Northern Coalition companies have been involved in the Northern shrimp and Greenland halibut fisheries for some forty years. Members hold 6.5 of the 17 offshore shrimp licences and quotas for Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) 1-7 and fishing licences and quotas in NAFO areas 0, 1, and 2GHJ for Greenland halibut. They also share a collective allocation of Northern shrimp in SFA 5 assigned to the Northern Coalition.



Profits realised from these fisheries can be significant. The Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, with access to only 50 per cent of a shrimp licence, for example, generated \$7m in profits from its fishing activities between 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, while Makivik Corporation, with 1.5 shrimp licences (plus additional shrimp within its land claim area and Greenland Halibut quotas), reported \$18.6m for the same period. These values are consistent with the Northern Coalition's 2018 estimate that the total financial benefits in 2017 for all Northern groups from adjacent fisheries to be in the order of \$75 million. The funds generated by the offshore fishery have historically been one of the most important sources of investment capital for each of the Coalition members, however, both the shrimp and Greenland halibut fisheries face uncertainties. Shrimp allocations, for example, declined by almost 59 per cent between 2010 and 2021. Changes to TACs, how they are shared and the impacts on the economies that they help to support are major concerns for licence and quota holders.

A number of case studies are developed in the report to illustrate the ways fishery profits have been reinvested. They offer strong evidence of the role that Northern and Indigenous community-focused organizations are playing in developing successful business models in remote coastal communities and provide further support for the need for greater recognition of this role in the way fisheries policies are developed in the future in this region.

The economies within which the Coalition members operate are undeveloped, fragile and vulnerable compared with most of their southern counterparts. Economic and social development benefits from reinvestment offer opportunities for the regions themselves to address many of the issues they face. The fishery represents a long-term, sustainable resource and no other sectors have demonstrated the ability to generate comparable benefits over the years.

The report offers a number of recommendations which focus on the contribution of Canadian offshore fishery activities to Canada's Arctic and Northern policy objectives and how they might be recognized and incorporated in future resource allocation decisions.