

# The Role of Fisheries Co-Management in Addressing Access and Allocation Inequities in Eastern Inuit Nunangat

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*We would like to dedicate this chapter to Jorgen H. Bolt (1961–2020). Jorgen was from the community of Kugluktuk, Nunavut, and was appointed to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) in 2017, serving until he passed away in 2020. During his time on the board, he was heavily involved in commercial fisheries issues and decisions. During the 2018 revisions to Nunavut’s Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries, he attended stakeholder meetings to ensure consistency and accountability with regard to allocation issues and decisions. In addition, he made significant contributions to the first meeting of the three co-management boards (Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut) to discuss commercial fisheries and the reports that serve as the recommendations for this chapter. Besides his role on the NWMB, Jorgen was known for being a master hunter, trapper, and guide. He will be remembered by his colleagues for sharing hunting stories over a meal or his open invitations to join him on hunting trips. His warm, inviting, sharing nature is greatly missed. This profound loss to his family, friends, and community and to wildlife management is far-reaching. We hope to continue sharing knowledge of wildlife management and fisheries in his honour.*

Inuit have been asserting, negotiating, finalizing, and implementing modern-day land claims agreements (LCAs) since the early 1970s (see also Chapters 2 and 14). Together, these agreements make up Inuit Nunangat (Inuktitut for “homeland”), a term that includes water and ice in addition to land (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami 2020). The agreements have brought significant changes in Inuit governance and sovereignty, and greater involvement of local resource users and Inuit community members in decision making compared with the initial settlement periods.

In the eastern portion of Inuit Nunangat – Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut – there is commercial fisheries access at both the local (community) and territorial (offshore) levels. The main commercial fisheries<sup>1</sup> are focused on Greenland halibut (also referred to as turbot in Canada, *Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*), northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*), striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*), and snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*). Under each of the LCAs, territorial co-management boards have been created: the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife