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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

02/02/2013

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Γσ C ΔΕΠΟΛΩΣ J^c

Les Terrasses de la Chaudière

10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor

Gatineau, Quebec, Canada K1A 0H3

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December 23rd, 2013

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada K1A 0H3

RE: Request for an NWMB decision on approval of the proposed recovery strategy for Porsild's bryum (*Mielichhoferia macrocarpa*), in Canada, pursuant to the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Dear Minister Aglukkaq,

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was requested by the Canadian Wildlife Service, on November 8th, 2013, to provide a decision for approval of the proposed “Recovery Strategy for the Porsild’s Bryum (*Mielichhoferia macrocarpa*) in Canada”. At the Board’s In-Camera Meeting (IC007-2013) held December 12th, 2013, in Iqaluit, Nunavut, the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Canadian Wildlife Service's proposed recovery strategy for Porsild's bryum in Canada as per S 5.2.34 (d) (i) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The Board decision to approve this recovery strategy was strongly influenced by the consultation results in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, as neither community was opposed to the recovery strategy.

As this strategy describes the establishment of critical habitat for the purposes of conservation and recovery, the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the critical habitat as set out in the recovery strategy for Porsild's bryum in Canada as per S. 5.2.34 (a) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

While Porsild's bryum is federally quite rare, there has been little investigation into its abundance in Nunavut, outside of the Quttinirpaaq National Park boundary. The NWMB recommends that Environment Canada conduct investigations into other locations where the appropriate combination of habitat attributes for Porsild's bryum are present. Conducting community consultations and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit studies throughout Nunavut may also lead to the discovery of additional populations of Porsild's bryum.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact the NWMB at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Kovic
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

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Mr. Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Kovic:

Thank you for your letter of December 23, 2013, informing me of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's support for the posting of the proposed recovery strategy for the Porsild's Bryum (*Mielichhoferia macrocarpa*) in Canada, pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act*. I regret the delay in responding.

With regard to the Board's recommendation that Environment Canada conduct surveys for Porsild's Bryum throughout Nunavut, the current draft recovery strategy does list additional surveys as a priority. One or more action plans will be prepared subsequent to this recovery strategy that will identify the measures needed to achieve this species' recovery. The Board's suggestion of more surveys for Nunavut will be considered for inclusion as part of these measures.

I appreciate the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's time and input on the proposed recovery strategy for the Porsild's Bryum in Canada, and I look forward to working with the Board again in the future.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment

Canada

