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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

દિન 17, 2022

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 David L. Hinshaw

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

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COURT OF APPEALS

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January 17, 2022

Hon. Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Government of Canada

Dear Steven Guilbeault:

**Re: NWMB Decision on Environment and Climate Change Canada's Proposal to List Hudsonian Godwit as Threatened under the Federal Species at Risk Act**

NWMB Decision and Recommendation

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM004-2021) on December 9, 2021, your department presented a proposal requesting that the Board approve the listing of Hudsonian Godwit as Threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

At the Board's In-Camera Meeting (IC005-2021), on December 10, 2021, the Board considered your department's submission and presentation, along with the *2019 Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada Assessment and Status Report on the Hudsonian Godwit* and oral submissions made by co-management partners at the regular meeting and made the following decision:

*RESOLVED* that, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(f) of the Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approve the designation of Hudsonian Godwit as Threatened under the Federal Species at Risk Act.

## NWMB Recommendation

The Board also recommends that Environment and Climate Change Canada sponsor an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit study of shorebirds in Nunavut generally. During the meeting, the Board heard of sightings of Hudsonian Godwit that were outside of the range map provided in your proposal. Given the limited monitoring of migratory birds across Nunavut and the wealth of knowledge held by Inuit, the Board considers that it would be valuable for Environment and Climate Change Canada to sponsor an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of shorebirds in Nunavut. Such a study would help define species distributions, changes in abundance and distribution over time, and provide



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other information that could be useful to future assessment and management of shorebirds in Nunavut.

## **Reasons for NWMB Decision**

In reaching its decision, the Board considered information from your department that indicated that Hudsonian Godwit's abundance has decreased by 44% over the last three generations (23 years). The Board also considered the threats to this population identified and described in the *2019 COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report*, including ongoing threats from climate change, habitat loss on their wintering grounds, and pollution from agricultural, shipping, and industrial activities. The Board determined that the listing of the Hudsonian Godwit as Threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act* will have no impact on Inuit harvesting rights given that the species is not known to be commonly harvested by Inuit but could lead to improvement in its conservation status in other parts of its range where current threats persist.

## Conclusion

The NWMB looks forward to your reply and prompt completion of the *Nunavut Agreement Article 5* decision-making process. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

**Daniel Shewchuk**  
**Chairperson**  
**Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

cc: Craig Machtans, Environment and Climate Change Canada,  
Hayley Roberts, Environment and Climate Change Canada.



**FEB 24 2022**

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk  
Chairperson  
c/o Mr. Jason Akearok  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
[jakearok@nwmb.com](mailto:jakearok@nwmb.com)

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your letter of January 17, 2022, sharing with me the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on Environment and Climate Change Canada's proposal to list Hudsonian Godwit as threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*.

I am pleased to learn that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board supports the Department's recommendation to list this migratory bird as threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*. As provided in section 5.3.20 of the Nunavut Agreement, I accept the Board's decision for this species.

In addition, I note that you also shared your organization's recommendation to Environment and Climate Change Canada to sponsor an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit study of shorebirds in Nunavut. Departmental regional officials are interested in discussing this matter with you in more detail, and they will follow up accordingly.

In closing, I will ensure that Environment and Climate Change Canada officials continue to keep you informed of the next steps on the development of a recovery strategy for Hudsonian Godwit, and I appreciate your continued interest in this important matter.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)