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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

ኅዳር 20, 2017

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September 20th, 2017

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada

Dear Minister McKenna:

RE: NWMB decision on the proposed final Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for Red Knot in Canada under the Federal *Species at Risk Act*

1. NWMB DECISION

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular June Meeting (RM002-2017), Environment and Climate Change Canada presented a briefing note requesting an NWMB decision on the approval of the proposed final "Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for the Red Knot in Canada" (Management Plan) under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. This request was considered by the NWMB at its In-Camera Meeting (IC002-2017) on June 6th, 2017, where the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5.2.26 and 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB arrange to hold a written public hearing regarding Environment and Climate Change Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service’s “Recovery Strategy and Management”

The NWMB provided notice on June 23rd, 2017 that the Board would be conducting a written public hearing to consider the Management Plan. The Board did not receive any written submissions by the deadline of August 4th, 2017.

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) In-Camera Meeting (IC003-2017) on September 12th, 2017, the Board considered Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Proposal for Decision* on the approval of the final "Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for Red Knot in Canada" (Management Plan) under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, and made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5.2.26 and 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB approve Environment and Climate Change Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service’s “Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for the Red Knot in Canada” under the federal Species at Risk Act.

2. RATIONALE FOR THE NWMB DECISION

In addition to carefully reviewing the best available science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the Board also took into consideration the following:

The Red Knot is listed under the Federal Species at Risk Act. Two subspecies of Red Knot breed in the Arctic, *Rufa* (endangered) and *islandica* (special concern). Although the subspecies are not facing threats in Nunavut, approving the Management Plan will provide protection for the Red Knot on its wintering grounds where it is facing several threats such as habitat loss, disturbance and pollution.

During both of 2015 community consultations and the NWMB's 2017 written public hearing, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the NWMB did not receive any objections to the proposed final Recovery Strategy and Management Plan.

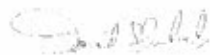
The Management Plan does not include any harvest restrictions nor does it identify critical habitat for the species within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

3. CONCLUSION

As per Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision on the approval of the proposed final Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for Red Knot in Canada to you for your consideration.

If you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Lisa Pirie, Head of Eastern Arctic Section, Canadian Wildlife Service



NOV 14 2017

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 20, 2017, concerning the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on the final recovery strategy and management plan for the Red Knot rufa and islandica subspecies (*Calidris canutus rufa* and *Calidris canutus islandica*) in Canada under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

I am pleased that the Board has approved the final recovery strategy and management plan for the Red Knot rufa and islandica subspecies pursuant to subparagraph 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

I value the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's ongoing collaboration on species at risk in Nunavut, and I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

