



Polar Bears

Proposed Listing as a Species of Special Concern

To Participants in Public Meeting:

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has reviewed the status of the Polar Bear. COSEWIC has assessed the Polar Bear as a species of Special Concern in Canada. Before the Federal Government decides whether to list Polar Bears under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), we need to consult with you.

Although the overall population and habitat trends in Canada did not meet the criteria for the polar bear to be considered Threatened or Endangered, the information about declines in some subpopulations combined with concern about long-term trends related to climate change, motivated COSEWIC to recommend that it be considered a species of Special Concern.

Your observations and comments on the proposed listing of polar bears are important to us. All responses will be reviewed, and considered by the Minister of Environment and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in deciding whether or not to recommend that polar bears should be added to the SARA list.

Listing the Polar Bear as Special Concern would not result in any prohibitions or designation of critical habitat, but it would require preparation of a national management plan for the species. If the Polar Bear is listed, communities would be consulted on the management plan.

Please attend the community meeting or look at the Summary of the COSEWIC Assessment and Update Status Report for the Polar Bear for more information.

We want to hear what you think about listing polar bears as special concern.
Please fill in the form or send us a letter.

In person: **Give it to us at the community consultation meeting**
OR Submit it to the local HTO office
Fax: **867-975-4645**
Mail: **Species at Risk Biologist**
Canadian Wildlife Service
Box 1714
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
E-mail: **Heather.Main@ec.gc.ca**

Please send your comments to us by **June 26 2009**.



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Your community: _____

Your name (optional): _____

Your organization (optional): _____

1. What is your opinion on the listing of the Polar Bear as Special Concern?

- The Polar Bear should be listed as Special Concern.
- The Polar Bear should not be listed as Special Concern.
- I am indifferent to the listing of the Polar Bear as Special Concern.

2. What are your reasons for this opinion?

3. What do you feel are the potential impacts of listing the Polar Bear as Special Concern?

4. Do you have any other information or concerns that the Minister should consider in making a decision on the listing of the Polar Bear?
