



Tammaqtailinahuaririit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin  
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Hon. Jim Prentice  
Minister of the Environment  
10 Wellington Street  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

**Re: Proposed listing process for Horned Grebe (Western population) pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

Dear Mr. Prentice,

On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2010, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received written notice from the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service that the Minister of Environment is requesting a decision from the NWMB with respect to the proposed listing of Horned Grebe (Western population) as a species of special concern under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

The request was made pursuant to clause 3.9 of *A Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Listing of Species under the Species at Risk Act* (MOU). The Director General requested that the NWMB's decision be delivered to you by **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, in compliance with clause 3.14 of the MOU.

Clause 3.9 of the MOU requires Environment Canada to provide “..the NWMB in writing with the best available information in English and Inuktitut.” Clause 3.10 sets out what is included in the “best available information”, which are: species assessments and reasons, response statements, consultation reports, any Departmental responses, available summaries of consultations in other jurisdictions, available relevant public documentation used in arriving at what the Minister is considering with respect to the SARA listing, and any additional relevant information that the NWMB considers to constitute best available information.

On March 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, the NWMB received what Environment Canada considered the best available information in English and Inuktitut as per Clause 3.9 of the MOU, which included the: COSEWIC assessment summary, Ministers response statement, results of consultations in Nunavut and a one page summary of the COSWEIC status report. In making its decision the NWMB requires the best available information and based on the information provided the NWMB feels that it does not have the required information to make a sound decision.

The COSWEIC status report is the vital piece of information that the NWMB would consider is still missing from Environment Canada's "best available information" package. The NWMB requests that Environment Canada submit the COSEWIC status report in English and Inuktitut in order to complete the "best available information" package. If Environment Canada cannot



commit to providing a full Inuktitut translation of the COSEWIC report, the NWMB would request that an adequate summary of the COSEWIC report, that includes all relevant information pertaining to the Western population of Horned Grebe, be provided to the NWMB in English and Inuktitut. The NWMB requests, depending on the approach decided by Environment Canada, that the information be provided to the NWMB by no later than **June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.

Subject to the timely receipt of the additional "best available information" requested by the NWMB, the Board anticipates no difficulty in delivering the decision as per the date requested by the Director General. The NWMB is of the view that an abridged listing process for the Western population of Horned Grebe would be fair and efficient, and would meet the requirements of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) and SARA (clause 2.2. of the MOU). The abridgement would consist of replacing the harmonized standard listing process in Part 3.0 of the MOU –consisting of, among other steps, the filing of written submissions followed by an oral hearing- with a written hearing only.

The NWMB will prepare letters to you, the Nunavut Environment Minister, the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Chairpersons of the three Nunavut Regional Wildlife Organizations, and the Chairpersons of all affect Hunters and Trappers Organization, announcing its intention to hold a written hearing for the Western population of Horned Grebe, and requesting that any objections to proceeding in this manner be delivered in writing with reasons by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on **June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**.

Should you disagree with the NWMB's proposed abridged listing process, then –pursuant to clause 2.2 of the MOU –the Board will follow the harmonized standard listing process. In addition, if any of the other hearing parties contacted by the Board should raise one or more objections that convince the NWMB of the need to follow the harmonized standard process, the Board will do so. If the Board is required, or otherwise decides, to follow the harmonized standard listing process, the delivery of the decision by **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010** will be difficult to achieve. In the unlikely event that the NWMB decides or is otherwise required to proceed with the harmonized standard listing process, the Board will re-contact you –in as timely a manner as possible –regarding a revised, mutually-acceptable date for delivery of its decision.

If no objections are received pertaining to the Board proceeding with an abridged listing process, the NWMB would provide public notice of its intent to hold a written hearing, would hold a decision-making session at its September quarterly meeting and provide its decision to you by **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010** as requested.

The Board looks forward to receiving the additional requested "best available information". In the meantime, if you or your officials have any concerns or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Willie Nakoolak  
A/Chairperson of the  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Virginia Porter, Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service