



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Agenda: Regular Meeting 004-2022

November 30, 2022

Iqaluit, Nunavut



	No:	Item:	Tab:	Presenter:	Maximum Time
9:00 - 9:02 AM	1	Open Meeting		Chairperson	2 Minutes
9:02 - 9:04 AM	2	Declaration of Conflict of Interest		Chairperson	2 Minutes
9:04 - 9:05 AM	3	Agenda: Review and Approval of RM004-2022	1	Chairperson	1 Minute
9:05 - 10:00 AM	4	Request for decision on the proposed amendments to the List of Species under the <i>Species at Risk</i> (For Decision)	2	Environment and Climate Change Canada	55 Minutes
10:00 - 10:15 AM		BREAK			15 Minutes
10:15 - 10:45 AM	5	2023 Walrus Sport Hunt Applications (For Decision)	3	NWMB	30 Minutes
10:45 - 11:15 AM	6	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Fisheries Management Operational Updates (For Information)	4	Fisheries and Oceans	30 Minutes
	7	Adjournment of RM004-2022 Meeting		Chairperson	



Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Request for decision on the proposed amendments to the List of Species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)

Background:

- 7 species which occur in Nunavut are under consideration for addition or a status change under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)
- More information on the status of the species and their distribution is contained within Appendix A
- Briefly the species under consideration are:

ᐃᓄᑦᐅᐅᑦ	English Common Name	Proposed Status
ᐅᓄᓴᑦᐅᐅᑦ ᓄᐱᑦᐅᐅᑦ ᑦᐅᐱᐅᐅᑦ	Barn Swallow	Special Concern
ᓴᐅᑦᐅᑦ ᐅᑦᐅᐅᑦ ᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ	Lesser Yellowlegs	Threatened
ᓴᑦᐅᑦ ᐅᓄᓴᑦᐅᐅᑦ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᑦ ᐅᓄᓴᑦᐅᐅᑦ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᑦ ᐅᓄᓴᑦᐅᐅᑦ	Red Knot <i>Islandica</i>	Not at Risk
	Red Knot <i>rufa</i> (Northeastern South America wintering population)	Special Concern
	Red Knot <i>rufa</i> (Southeastern USA/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Wintering population)	Endangered
ᓄᐅᓴᑦᐅᐅᑦ	Ross's Gull	Endangered
ᐅᓄᓴᑦ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᑦ ᐅᓄᓴᑦ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᑦ ᐅᓄᓴᑦ	Short-eared Owl	Threatened

Consultations:

- Consultations on the proposed changes to the list of Species at Risk in Canada were held between January and October 2022 and included Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTOs), Regional Wildlife Boards (RWBs), Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), Hamlets, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Government of Nunavut (GN) and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) board staff. The table below outlines a timeline of consultation efforts.

Date	January 24, 2022	May 2022	May 2022	October 2022
Contact method	Initial consultation package emailed	Consultation package emailed again	Follow up phone calls	Follow up phone calls
Who was contacted	HTOs, Hamlets, RWBs, RIAs, NWMB, NTI, GN	HTOs, Hamlets, RWBs, RIAs, NWMB, NTI, GN	HTOs and RWBs	Those who we were not able to be reached in May

- Consultation packages contained a fact sheet and a questionnaire (in Inuktitut and English; Appendix B), [links to the individual species accounts on the Species at Risk Registry which contained the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada \(COSEWIC\) Assessment and Status Report](#) and [information on the federal consultation process](#).
- Organizations were asked to provide their formal position on the proposed listing (i.e. oppose, support or are indifferent) and any other comments, concerns or information that they feel should be considered.
- CWS contacted hunter and trapper organizations and hamlets that overlapped or were close to the breeding range for the species in Nunavut. For Barn Swallow, given the limited range in Nunavut, only HTOs and hamlets where there were documented records of the species were contacted.
- Given the variability in species ranges not all organizations and communities were contacted about all 7 species, a detailed list can be found in Appendix B.
- In Nunavut, we received a response from the Issatik HTO and the GN. The Issatik HTO, mentioned they had seen both Red Knot *rufa* and Short-eared Owls in the area. They indicated that the recovery of the species would be beneficial but did not specify if they supported the proposed amendments. The GN largely did not support the proposed amendments, with the exception of the Red Knot *islandica*, which is proposed to be removed from the SARA (Appendix B).
- In the territories, at the time of writing, CWS had received support on the proposed amendments from the Gwitchin and Weekeezi Renewable Resource Boards in Northwest Territories as well as the Government of the Northwest Territories. In the Yukon, no comments were received from either the Wildlife Advisory Council (North Slope) or the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Yukon Government supported the proposed amendments.

Next Steps:

Following the Board's decision, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Governor in Council that takes into account the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's assessment, consultations, including those with wildlife management boards

authorized for that species by a lands claims agreement (including the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB), and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB)), and the regulatory impact analysis statement. The final decision or final decision as varied, as arrived at through 5.3.16 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, must be respected in the Minister's recommendation to the Governor in Council.


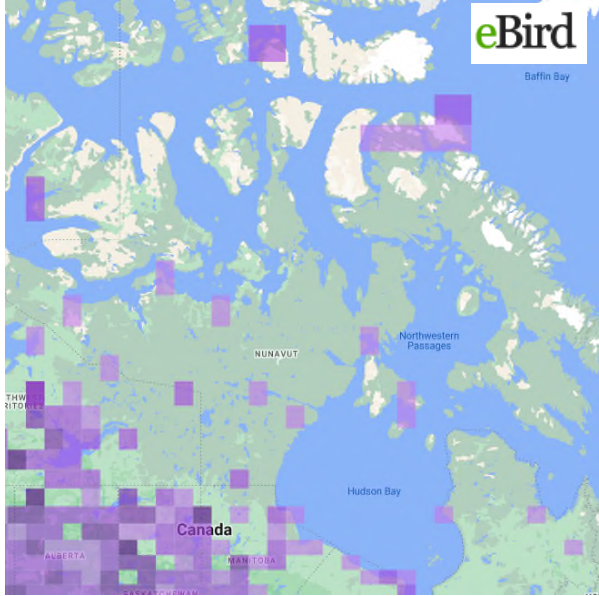
As part of the federal regulatory process, a 30-day comment period follows the publication of the proposed decision in Canada Gazette, Part 1. The final step in the process is for the Governor in Council to make a final listing decision. If the Governor in Council decides to list a species, it is at this point that it becomes legally included on Schedule 1. The decision and the regulatory impact analysis statement will be published in the next edition of the Canada Gazette, Part II.




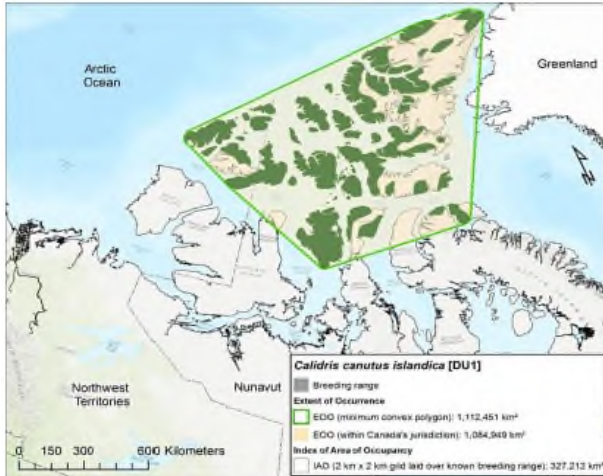
Decision:



We are requesting a decision from NWMB on the proposed amendments to the List of Wildlife Species under the federal *Species at Risk Act* as per the *Nunavut Agreement* s.5.2.34(f) and 5.3.16-5.3.23.

Prepared by: Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region
Date Drafted: 2022-11-03

Appendix A: (Sub)species under consideration for addition or status change under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), a summary of the current status and reason for assessment, range extent and proposed communities to be consulted.

Species	Status	Reason for listing and Implications	Nunavut Range
<p>Barn Swallow ᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ</p>  <p>Species Information (SARA Registry)</p>	<p>Under consideration for listing at lower risk category.</p> <p>New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – Special Concern (2020)</p> <p>Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Threatened (2017)</p>	<p>This species was reassessed as special concern mainly due to a stabilization in Canadian population trends.</p> <p>If listed as Special Concern, a national Management Plan will be required.</p>	 <p>It breeds irregularly in Nunavut, although it has been observed in nearly every region of the territory as far north as Bathurst Island, and has been documented nesting on Akimiski Island and nest building in Arviat. The regular breeding range excludes Nunavut.</p>

Species	Status	Reason for listing and Implications	Nunavut Range
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs</p> <p>ᐱᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ</p>  <p>Species Information (SARA Registry)</p>	<p>Under consideration for addition to list.</p> <p>New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – Threatened (2020)</p> <p>Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Not listed</p>	<p>This species was assessed as threatened due to substantial long- and short-term declines and predicted on-going threats from loss of habitat, hunting pressure, and climate change.</p> <p>If listed as Threatened, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat.</p>	 <p>Canadian breeding range and estimate of extent of occurrence of Lesser Yellowlegs.</p> <p>In Nunavut, it is mainly restricted to the forested portions of the territory though observations have been made north of the tree line.</p>
<p>Red Knot <i>islandica</i></p> <p>ᐱᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ or ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ or ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ</p>  <p>Species Information (SARA Registry)</p>	<p>Under consideration for removal from SARA list.</p> <p>New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – Not at Risk (2020)</p> <p>Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Special Concern (2012)</p>	<p>This subspecies was reassessed as Not at Risk due to the stabilization of populations and a reduction to threats, primarily shellfish harvesting in Europe.</p> <p>There are no listing implications.</p>	 <p>Extent of occurrence (EOO) and index of area of occupancy (IAO) for Red Knot <i>C. c. islandica</i> (DU1) in Canada, based on the known breeding range within the northeastern Canadian Arctic</p>

Species	Status	Reason for listing and Implications	Nunavut Range
			In Nunavut, Red Knot <i>islandica</i> breeds in the Canadian High Arctic and winters on the European Atlantic seaboard.
<p>Red Knot <i>rufa</i> (Northeastern South America wintering population)</p> <p>ᐱᓪᑦᑕᓄᓂ ᐱᓪᑎᓪᑲᓪᑲᓂ or ᐱᓪᑎᓪᑲᓪᑲᓂ ᐱᓪᑎᓪᑲᓪᑲᓂ or ᐱᓪᑎᓪᑲᓪᑲᓂ ᐱᓪᑎᓪᑲᓪᑲᓂ</p>  <p>Species Information (SARA Registry)</p>	<p>Under consideration for listing.</p> <p>New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – Special Concern (2020)</p> <p>Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Threatened (2010)*</p>	<p>This species was assessed as Special Concern due to threats along migratory routes, primarily from human harvesting of Horseshoe Crab (whose eggs are an essential food source for northbound migrants), but also predation and disturbance from recreational activities. Currently, a combined Recovery Strategy and Management Plan exists for Red Knot, which includes all subspecies. Critical habitat has been partially identified.</p>	 <p>Extent of occurrence (EOO) for Red Knot <i>C. c. rufa</i> (DUs 3, 4, and 5) in Canada, based on the known breeding range of the subspecies within the central Canadian Arctic</p> <p>This subspecies overwinters on the northeastern coast of South America, centred in northern coastal Brazil. It breeds across central Nunavut and overlaps with the Southeastern USA/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Wintering population.</p>

List of species and associated communities and organizations consulted

Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization	Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Association
Barn Swallow	Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs	Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)	Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull	Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl	Short-eared Owl
Aqiggiag Hunters and Trappers Organization	Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Association
Lesser Yellowlegs	Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull	Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl	Short-eared Owl
Aqiggiag Hunters and Trappers Organization	Government of Nunavut
Barn Swallow	Barn Swallow
Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization	Lesser Yellowlegs
Barn Swallow	Red Knot islandica
Lesser Yellowlegs	Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull	Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl	Short-eared Owl
Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers Organization	Grise Fiord Hunters and Trappers Organization
Barn Swallow	Red Knot islandica
Red Knot islandica	Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Association
Ross's Gull	Red knot rufa (both populations)
Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization	Ross's Gull
Barn Swallow	Short-eared Owl
Lesser Yellowlegs	Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Organization
Red knot rufa (both populations)	Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull	Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl	Short-eared Owl
Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization	Iqaluit Hunters and Trappers Association
Barn Swallow	Red knot rufa (both populations)
Red knot rufa (both populations)	Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization
Ross's Gull	Barn Swallow
Short-eared Owl	Lesser Yellowlegs
Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization	Ross's Gull
Barn Swallow	Short-eared Owl
Lesser Yellowlegs	Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Ross's Gull	Barn Swallow
Short-eared Owl	Lesser Yellowlegs
Burnside Hunters and Trappers Association	Red knot rufa (both populations)
Lesser Yellowlegs	Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl	Short-eared Owl
Cape Dorset Hunters and Trappers Organization	
Red knot rufa (both populations)	
Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization	
Lesser Yellowlegs	

Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Kivalliq Inuit Association

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Association

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red Knot islandica
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red Knot islandica
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Omingmaktok Hunters and Trappers Association

Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Short-eared Owl

Pangirtung Hunters and Trappers Association

Ross's Gull

Pond Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organization

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red Knot islandica
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red Knot islandica
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red Knot islandica
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association

Barn Swallow
Red Knot islandica
Ross's Gull

Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association

Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association

Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Coral Harbour

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Rankin Inlet

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Arctic Bay

Barn Swallow
Red Knot islandica
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Arviat

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Nauyasat

Barn Swallow
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Baker Lake

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Cambridge Bay

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Whale Cove

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Kugluktuk

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Pond Inlet

Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs
Red Knot islandica
Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Resolute Bay

Barn Swallow
Red Knot islandica

Hamlet of Clyde River

Lesser Yellowlegs

Hamlet of Sanikiluaq

Lesser Yellowlegs
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Grise Fiord

Red Knot islandica

Qikiqtarjuaq Hunters and Trappers Association

Red knot rufa (both populations)
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Kinngait

Red knot rufa (both populations)

Hamlet of Gjoa Haven

Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Sanirajak

Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Igloodik

Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Municipality of Iqaluit

Red knot rufa (both populations)

Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq

Red knot rufa (both populations)
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Taloyoak

Red knot rufa (both populations)
Ross's Gull
Short-eared Owl

Hamlet of Pangirtung

Ross's Gull

[illegible]



Barn Swallow

Photo: © Gordon Court



Scientific name

Hirundo rustica

Taxon

Birds

COSEWIC status

Special Concern

Canadian range

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

Reason for designation

This aerial insectivore is among the world's most widespread birds, with about 6.4 million mature individuals in Canada. It experienced a substantial population decline in North America over more than two decades, beginning in the mid- to late 1980s. However, the Canadian population has remained largely stable over the past ten years (2009-2019), with a substantial increase in Saskatchewan largely offsetting ongoing declines in several other provinces. Key threats include declining populations of insect prey, increasing frequency of severe temperature fluctuations during spring migration and the breeding season, and in some regions, loss of suitable nesting sites. Although the Canadian population remains large and overall declines

have abated, the species may once again become Threatened if threats continue or worsen.

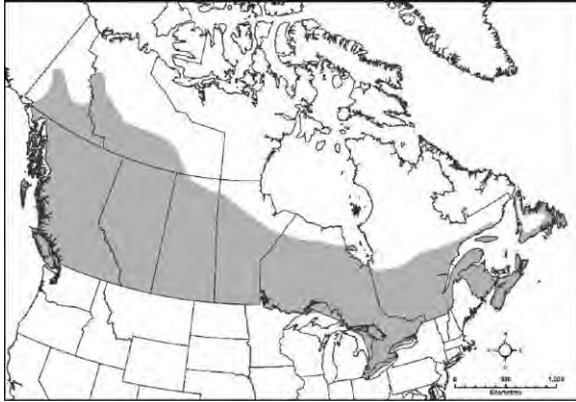
Wildlife Species Description and Significance

Barn Swallow is a medium-sized passerine with metallic blue upperparts, cinnamon underparts, and a chestnut throat and forehead. Its most recognizable feature is a deeply forked tail with long outer feathers. Males have a longer tail, somewhat glossier upperparts and a darker breast.

Barn Swallow is a member of the ecological guild known as aerial insectivores, of which many members are in decline globally.

Distribution

Barn Swallow is the most globally widespread species of swallow, occurring on every continent except Antarctica. In the western hemisphere, it breeds in Canada primarily south of the treeline, the United States and Mexico; Argentina also has a small breeding population. Barn Swallow has been documented breeding in every province and territory. Barn Swallow is a long-distance migrant, overwintering in the southern United States, parts of Mexico, and Central and South America.



Canadian breeding range of Barn Swallow

Source: COSEWIC. 2021. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 60 pp.

Habitat

Before European colonization of North America, Barn Swallows largely nested on fissures in cliffs, rock overhangs, and caves. Thereafter, their preferred nest sites became human-made structures, including barns, stables, houses, sheds, and bridges. Barn Swallows prefer to forage over open spaces such as grasslands, agricultural fields, shorelines, woodland clearings, wetlands, sand dunes, tundra, and roads.

Biology

Barn Swallows nest in colonies or independently. They construct a small cup-shaped nest and affix it to a vertical, or occasionally a horizontal surface. The breeding season in Canada is typically from May through July. Most clutches contain 4-5 eggs; a second brood is often reared, particularly in southern Canada. Some Barn Swallows of both sexes breed in their first year. Barn Swallows forage mostly on the wing, actively pursuing and catching flying insects; however, they may forage on the ground opportunistically. Generation length is estimated to be approximately 3 years.

Population Sizes and Trends

In Canada, the Barn Swallow population is currently estimated to be at least 6.4 million mature individuals. This represents approximately 3.4% of the global Barn Swallow population and 13.6% of the population in the United States and Canada. Over 60% of the Canadian population currently breeds in the Prairie provinces.

Population trend estimates for Barn Swallow are based on Breeding Bird Survey data. For the period 1970-2019, there was a statistically significant annual trend of -2.34% (95% CI = -2.66% to -2.05%) per year in Canada, corresponding to an overall decline of 68.6% over 49 years. During the most recent 10-year period (2009-2019) the Canadian population has been close to stable, changing at -0.12% (95% CI = -1.07% to 0.89%) per year, amounting to a decrease of -1.2% over the decade. However, at a regional scale there has been a large increase in Saskatchewan, offsetting substantial ongoing declines in Ontario and Quebec. Comparisons of first and second generation breeding bird atlases in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes show results consistent with long-term declines of populations across Canada, with the largest reductions in eastern provinces (Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes).

Threats and Limiting Factors

Substantial research is still required to better understand threats affecting Barn Swallow. Currently the most pertinent concerns are thought to be modifications to the natural system (indirect threats such as pesticides and habitat loss reducing prey quality and quantity), climate change, housing and commercial development, changes in agriculture (annual and perennial non-timber crops, and livestock farming and ranching), roads and railroads, and pollution. These threats are thought to be reducing the quantity and quality of insect prey, causing lowered reproductive success and direct

mortality. Threats on the wintering grounds are not currently well understood, but are likely related to changes in land-use, resulting in the destruction of suitable foraging habitat, as well as the intensification of agricultural practices that reduce insect populations. The overall impact of threats on Barn Swallow over the next decade is considered to be medium. Limiting factors for Barn Swallow include a dietary dependence on insect prey and low post-fledging survival rates.

Protection, Status and Ranks

In Canada, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, 1994 protects Barn Swallow, its nests, and eggs. The species is also listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, 2002. In Canada, Barn Swallow is listed as N3N4 (Vulnerable to Apparently Secure) nationally, and S2 (Imperilled) in the Yukon Territory, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, S2? (Imperilled?) in the Northwest Territories, S2S3 (Imperilled to Vulnerable) in Nova Scotia, S3 (Vulnerable) in Alberta and Quebec, S3S4 (Vulnerable to Apparently Secure) in British Columbia, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Manitoba, and S5 (Secure) in Saskatchewan and Ontario. In the United States, Barn Swallow is protected under the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*, and ranked nationally as N5 (Secure). Globally, Barn Swallow is considered G5 (Secure).

Source: COSEWIC. 2021. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 60 pp.

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Lesser Yellowlegs

Photo: © Gary Donaldson



Scientific Name

Tringa flavipes

Taxon

Birds

COSEWIC Status

Threatened

Canadian Range

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut

Reason for designation

This medium-sized shorebird has 80% of its breeding range in Canada's boreal region, migrates through the United States and Caribbean, and winters mostly in South America. It has experienced substantial long- and short-term declines, most recently estimated at 25% over three generations (12 years) based on the Breeding Bird Survey, and greater than 50% over 10 years based on International Shorebird Surveys. Declines are expected to continue. Key concerns include the loss of wetland and intertidal habitat used on migration and in winter, and hunting for sport and subsistence, which has been reduced in some areas but likely remains the most significant threat. Additionally, emerging threats from climate change include increased risk of drought in breeding areas, coastal

flooding, and greater severity of hurricanes during fall migration..

Wildlife Species Description and Significance

Lesser Yellowlegs is a small, slender shorebird with greyish plumage, a long neck, a straight black bill that is roughly the same length as its head, and long, bright-yellow legs. This migrant travels up to 30,000 km in a round trip between its breeding and wintering grounds. Approximately 80% of Lesser Yellowlegs breed in Canada.

Distribution

Lesser Yellowlegs breeds primarily in the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska, including all provinces and territories except the Maritimes. It winters in coastal areas from the southern United States through South America, with concentrations on the northern coast of South America and in the Pampas region of northern Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil.



Canadian breeding range and estimate of extent of occurrence of Lesser Yellowlegs.

Source : COSEWIC. 2020. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. x + 64 pp.

Habitat

Lesser Yellowlegs nests on dry ground near peatlands, marshes, ponds, and other wetlands in the boreal forest and taiga. In winter and during migration, the species frequents coastal salt marshes, estuaries and ponds, as well as lakes, other freshwater wetlands, and anthropogenic wetlands such as flooded rice fields and sewage lagoons.

Biology

Lesser Yellowlegs can begin breeding at one year old, and is estimated to have a generation length of 4 years. Females typically lay a single clutch of four eggs in mid-May, and may lay a second clutch if the first is lost to predation. Incubation lasts approximately 22 days; the young leave the nest shortly after hatching. Lesser Yellowlegs is monogamous and only defends a small area around the nest or brood. Adults may travel many kilometres from the nest to the wetlands where they forage, so home range may be as large as several dozen square kilometres.

Population Sizes and Trends

The North American population of Lesser Yellowlegs as of 2020 is estimated to be at least 527,000 mature individuals, with 80% (422,000) breeding in Canada. Data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) estimate an average annual trend of -2.40% in Canada over the most recent three generations (2007 to 2019), corresponding to a cumulative loss of 25%. From 1970 to 2019, the average annual BBS trend is -2.36%, amounting to a total decline of 69%. This is comparable to the significant 2.75% annual (69% cumulative) decline shown by shorebird migration monitoring data in North America between 1974 and 2016; over the most recent decade (2006 to 2016; slightly less than three generations) the decline based on these surveys accelerated to 7.28% annually, amounting to 53%. This estimate includes the

Alaskan population, which BBS results indicate is declining more rapidly than the Canadian population. Periodic surveys at migratory stopovers in the Caribbean and at key wintering regions in South America also indicate steep rates of decline within the past three generations.

Threats and Limiting Factors

Hunting of Lesser Yellowlegs during migration and on wintering grounds in the Caribbean and South America appears to be the greatest threat to the species. Ongoing habitat loss is also a concern, especially with respect to agricultural expansion and shoreline development in South America. Various impacts related to climate change remain poorly understood but may be increasing in importance. Other threats which may contribute to ongoing declines are energy production and mining, increasing abundance of predators, and various forms of pollution.

Protection, Status and Ranks

In Canada, Lesser Yellowlegs and its nests and eggs are protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. The species was assessed as Threatened by COSEWIC in November 2020. NatureServe considers Lesser Yellowlegs to be Secure or Apparently Secure in Canada, although it is ranked Vulnerable in five provinces and territories, and Imperilled to Apparently Secure in the Northwest Territories. The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) aims to designate and protect migratory stopover sites of significance at regional to hemispheric scales, but offers no legal protection. Quill Lakes in Saskatchewan is the only Canadian WHSRN site with globally significant numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, but habitat there has been severely degraded as a consequence of unregulated and unlicensed drainage of wetlands.

Source : COSEWIC. 2020. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. x + 64 pp.

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Ross's Gull



Photo: © Mark Mallory

Scientific name

Rhodostethia rosea

Taxon

Birds

COSEWIC status

Endangered

Canadian range

Nunavut, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean

Reason for designation

This small little-known gull nests at 1-3 known colonies in the Canadian High Arctic and likely winters in the Labrador Sea. Fewer than 20 mature individuals are known to breed in Canada, although roughly similar numbers may occur undetected. Large numbers of fall migrants seen annually off northern Alaska likely come from a separate large population in eastern Russia. This species has low productivity in Canada, with frequent breeding deferral, nest abandonment, and no chicks fledged over a period of 14 years at the only known active Canadian colony. These factors contribute to inferred continuing population decline. The abandonment of Low Arctic nesting sites since the last assessment has reduced its range and number of locations in Canada, and its breeding range is now limited to the High Arctic. Major threats impeding reproductive success include the killing of chicks by Arctic

Terns at colonies, and contamination from airborne toxic chemicals. Effects of ongoing climatic changes on food availability, reproductive success, and adult survival are largely unknown.

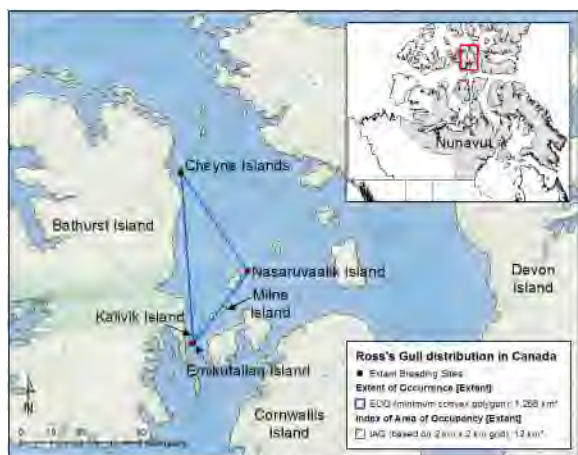
Wildlife Species Description and Significance

Ross's Gull is a small Arctic gull with light, buoyant flight and quick, shallow wingbeats, characterized by a unique wedge-shaped tail. Breeding adults have a distinctive black collar, and the pale head and body feathers take on a light pink cast. Juvenile birds have black outer primaries and a broad black diagonal band across the inner wing.

Ross's Gull is the only member of the genus *Rhodostethia*, and its plumage, vocal repertoire, courtship behaviour, and general ecology are unique among gulls. Scientific studies are largely limited to opportunistic observations at small colonies in Russia and Canada and of migrating gulls at Point Barrow, Alaska. Its winter ecology is largely unknown, although its winter range likely overlaps with pelagic gulls and alcids in subarctic waters. Ross's Gull is known to Inuit in Nunavut and Indigenous residents of Barrow, Alaska, and sought by birdwatchers as a rare winter visitor to lower latitudes.

Distribution

Ross's Gull's breeding stronghold is assumed to lie in eastern Russia, with scattered nesting records from Canada and Greenland. Large flocks of Ross's Gull that annually migrate past Point Barrow each fall are thought to originate in eastern Russia. Birds from the very small Canadian Arctic breeding population likely overwinter in the Labrador Sea.



Extant breeding sites of Ross's Gull in Canada

Source : COSEWIC. 2021. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 35 pp.

Habitat

Ross's Gull typically nests in flat, low-lying areas with low vegetative cover, and has nested in two habitat types in Canada. Ross's Gull is now most frequently encountered on High Arctic islands in Queens Channel, Nunavut, on small sparsely vegetated gravel islands adjacent to marine open-water polynyas. Small numbers formerly nested in marshy Low Arctic floodplain habitat near Churchill, Manitoba, where it has not been confirmed breeding since 2005.

Biology

Ross's Gull likely first breeds after 2 years, with a generation time of about 5 years. It lays 1-3 eggs in a scrape on the ground, in loose colonies, typically of 2-10 pairs. Ross's Gull frequently defers or abandons nesting, or relocates to a different nesting site, in response to snow cover, prolonged inclement weather, or terrestrial predators. Studies of tagged birds have shown very low overall breeding success and mate fidelity.

Adult Ross's Gulls feed on small invertebrates in freshwater environments, and on zooplankton and small fish on migration and when overwintering at sea. Its eggs and chicks are

vulnerable to terrestrial and avian predators. Sympatrically nesting Arctic Terns have been observed killing Ross's Gull chicks at High Arctic colonies, and are likely an important cause of breeding failure in Canada.

Population Sizes and Trends

Little is known about the population status of Ross's Gull in Canada. It has only been monitored regularly at Nasaruaalik Island, in High Arctic Nunavut, where 1-6 pairs nest annually. It is likely that much fewer than 250 mature individuals breed in Canada. Extensive areas of apparently suitable habitat may host small undetected colonies. Migration counts and extrapolations from breeding surveys in Siberia suggest a global population of about 50,000 mature individuals.

The number of breeding Ross's Gull in Canada has varied over the past three generations, and has been relatively stable or declining slightly over the short-term. A projected continuing population decline is inferred from lack of reproductive output in 14 years of study at the only known Canadian colony. Ross's Gull is no longer known to breed near Churchill, in Low Arctic Canada, resulting in a significant decline in apparent extent of occurrence. However, surveys of Ross's Gull migrating past Point Barrow do not suggest that global populations have declined overall.

Threats and Limiting Factors

Threats to Ross's Gull in Canada are poorly understood. High rates of chick mortality as a result of attacks by Arctic Terns in shared colonies, and predation and disturbance by Polar Bear and Arctic Fox are major threats. Low hatching rates may be a result of egg infertility linked to high levels of mercury and persistent organic pollutants from airborne sources. Most Ross's Gulls nest in remote areas where human activity is limited or absent. Shipping activity in the Labrador Sea poses a low risk to birds that winter there. Many climate-related changes in

terrestrial High Arctic breeding habitats are unlikely to affect this species within three generations, and effects of shifts in marine conditions in breeding and wintering areas are unknown.

Protection, Status and Ranks

Ross's Gull, its eggs and nests are protected in Canada under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act 1994*, and the species was listed as Threatened under the *Species at Risk Act 2002*. It is listed as Endangered under Manitoba's *Endangered Species Act*. Internationally, Ross's Gull is listed as a Threatened or Endangered Species in Russia's Red Book, and is fully protected in Russia and Greenland against deliberate harm or disturbance. It is protected in the United States under the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*. Ross's Gull is assessed by the IUCN in Canada as Critically Imperilled/Imperilled, and globally as a species of Least Concern.

Source: COSEWIC. 2021. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 35 pp.

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Short-eared Owl

Photo © Christian Artuso



Scientific name

Asio flammeus

Taxon

Birds

COSEWIC status

Threatened

Canadian range

Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador

Reason for designation

The Canadian population of this widespread nomadic owl breeds in open grassland, tundra, and wetland habitats in all provinces and territories, and winters in southern Canada and the United States. The use of new atlas-based population estimation procedures suggests that the size of the Canadian population is about 31,000 mature individuals, roughly 10% of previous estimates. Its numbers vary over space and time in response to cycles in the availability of small mammals—its main prey. This adds uncertainty to estimates of the rate of decline in the Canadian population. Data from both the Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Counts indicate a decline of more than 30% over the past three generations. The Canadian population is projected to continue to decline

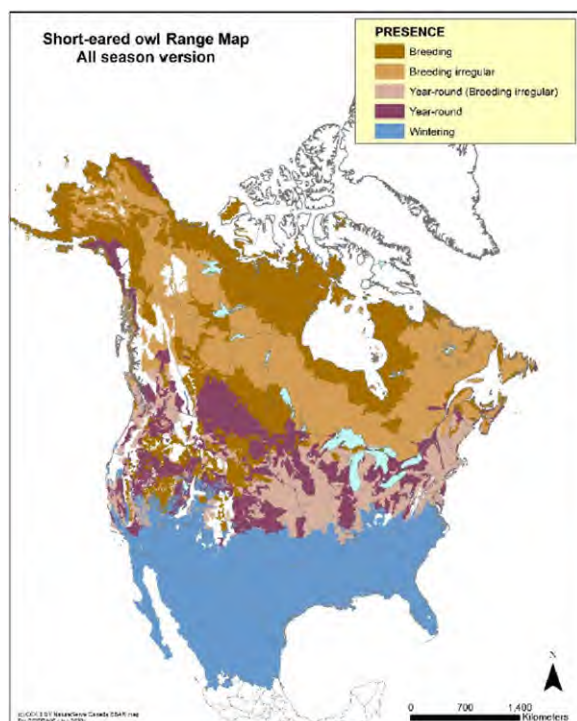
because of future threats, including reduced availability of nesting and wintering habitat resulting from crop conversion, agricultural intensification, urbanization, and invasive plants. In low Arctic habitats, increased growth of shrubs as a result of climate warming (shrubification) will further reduce prey availability and increase predation risk.

Wildlife Species Description and Significance

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) is a medium-sized owl, approximately 34-42 cm in length. Plumage is mottled brown above and buff with heavy streaking below, varying only slightly by sex and age. Short-eared Owl is largely crepuscular and hunts through the evening and into the night, and is recognizable by its agile, moth-like flight over open areas.

Distribution

Short-eared Owl has the broadest global distribution of any owl, with a range that includes most of North America and Eurasia, parts of South America, Africa, and many oceanic islands. North American breeding range extends from the Canadian Arctic south to Nevada in the west and Massachusetts in the east, and the winter range spans from southern Canada to Mexico. It breeds across Canada, regularly in the subarctic tundra and prairies, and more sparsely elsewhere.



Breeding, wintering, and year-round distribution of Short-eared Owl in North America

Source : COSEWIC, 2021. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xiii + 69 pp.

Habitat

Short-eared Owl favours open habitats throughout the year, including grasslands, tundra, and wetlands. Breeding typically occurs in open landscapes at least 50-100 ha in area, and nests are preferentially located on the ground near clumps of taller vegetation that provide concealment. In winter, Short-eared Owls roost in conifers adjacent to open areas used for hunting or on the ground in the shelter of tall grasses or forbs. Declines in the extent and quality of open grassland and wetland habitats have likely reduced the distribution and abundance of Short-eared Owl in southern Canada.

Biology

Age of first breeding is thought to be one year; lifespan is poorly documented but generation time is considered to be about 4 years. A single brood is raised annually, although a replacement clutch may be laid in cases of early nest failure. Diet primarily comprises voles, lemmings, and other small mammals. Short-eared Owls tend to be nomadic, often moving relatively long distances through the year to areas with high rodent abundance. This results in substantial fluctuations in abundance at local and regional scales, complicating the estimation of overall numbers and population trends.

Population Sizes and Trends

The previous COSEWIC estimate of the size of the Canadian Short-eared Owl population of about 350,000 mature individuals was based on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data. However, the BBS samples only a small part of the Canadian breeding range with low sample sizes. Interpretation and extrapolation of breeding bird atlas results from the past two decades likely provide a more accurate estimate of approximately 31,000 mature individuals, over half of which breed in Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Short-eared Owl population trends estimated from BBS data indicate declines of -70% between 1970 and 2019, and -31% over the most recent three-generation period, although the BBS does not sample the core of the Canadian population breeding in the tundra. There is greater overlap between the wintering range and coverage by the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). CBC trends for Canada show similar declines of -79% between 1970 and 2019, and -27% over the past three generations, with steepest decreases in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. The winter distribution of Canadian birds is poorly known, but most individuals likely overwinter in the United States. At a continental scale, CBC trend estimates for 2007 to 2019 range from -6.5% to -33.6%,

depending on the method of analysis. Declines in numbers and range have also been documented by breeding bird atlases completed in British Columbia and Quebec since the previous status report.

Threats and Limiting Factors

Natural system modifications, and climate change and severe weather, are the most important threats to Short-eared Owl, and each is expected to have a low to medium impact on populations. In low Arctic habitats, where a large percentage of the population nests, increased growth of shrubs as a result of climate warming (shrubification) will further reduce prey availability and increase predation risk. The cumulative effect of these threats and six others considered to be of low impact is anticipated to have a medium to high overall impact on the species.

Protection, Status and Ranks

Short-eared Owl is listed as a species of Special Concern under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*. It is listed under provincial endangered species legislation in Manitoba (Threatened), Ontario (Special Concern), New Brunswick (Special Concern), and Newfoundland and Labrador (Vulnerable). In Quebec, it is on the list of wildlife species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable.

In the United States, Short-eared Owl is protected under the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*, but is not listed under the *Endangered Species Act*. It is considered Endangered in 11 states, and Threatened or Special Concern in five others.

Globally, Short-eared Owl is classified as Least Concern by IUCN. NatureServe ranks Short-eared Owl as Secure (G5) globally, Apparently Secure as a breeder and migrant but Vulnerable as a non-breeding/wintering population in Canada (N4B-N3N-N4M in Canada), and nationally Secure (N5) in the United States. The

breeding status of Short-eared Owl is ranked as Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable (S1 to S3) in all provinces and territories, with status having worsened in four provinces and one territory since the previous status report.

Source: COSEWIC. 2021. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xiii + 69 pp.

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Proposed changes to the List of Wildlife Species on the federal *Species at Risk Act*

We would like your input on the proposed changes to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk on the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Since adding or reclassifying a species on the SARA List may affect the way you or your community, nation, business or organization interact with the species, the Minister wants to know what these changes could mean to you. It could be that you need to know that the species will be there for future generations, but you also may have concerns about your future activities. Your comments will help the Minister understand what the changes to the List would mean to you.

How changes to the List might affect you

General prohibitions

- In the territories, when a species is listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated, general prohibitions (cannot harm, kill, harass, possess, buy, sell, trade) come into place, protecting the individual and their residence automatically on lands under the authority of the Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada (e.g. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, National Wildlife Areas, National Parks).
- These general prohibitions do not automatically apply to Inuit or any person exercising a right recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Any application of these prohibitions would require separate consultation and a federal order.
- Migratory birds are already provided some protections under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, but these protections do not apply to harvest, collection, and possession by Inuit or any person exercising a right recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Critical Habitat (Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated species)

- If a species is listed as either Endangered (EN), Threatened (TH), or Extirpated (EX), a recovery strategy and action plan will need to be created
- Critical habitat will need to be identified (habitat needed for the species to survive) and protected at the implementation phase

Special Concern species

- If a species is listed as Special Concern (SC), a management plan is created, there will be no critical habitat identified and there are no general prohibitions (cannot harm, harass, kill, possess, buy, sell, trade)

Reclassifying species

- The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) re-assesses species every 10 years (or sooner), and this can lead to a reclassification on the SARA list
- If the species is downlisted to special concern from threatened or endangered, general prohibitions will no longer apply, critical habitat will no longer be protected, and the species will require a management plan
- If the species is uplisted from special concern to threatened or endangered general prohibitions will come into place, critical habitat will need to be identified, and a recovery strategy will be required

- A reclassification results in the same consultations occurring as would happen for a newly potentially listed species

The following questions are intended to assist you in providing comments. They are not meant to be limiting and any other comments you may have are welcome.

By completing this questionnaire, you understand that this information will be used to inform the Minister of Environment in their recommendation to the Governor in Council. Any information provided here will be shared and could be shared in the public realm.

Please send completed forms to Hayley Roberts, Species at Risk Biologist.

Email: hayley.roberts@ec.gc.ca or by fax at (867) 975-4645

Please send forms by October 10, 2022

Name: _____ Date: _____

If you are representing an organization please provide the name of the organization:

Have you seen these species in your area?



Barn Swallow
Yes ☐



Lesser Yellowlegs
Yes ☐



Red Knot *islandica*
Yes ☐



Red Knot *rufa**
Yes ☐



Ross's Gull
Yes ☐



Short-eared Owl
Yes ☐

*The Red Knot *rufa* subspecies populations are grouped together because they are indistinguishable by sight and are found in the same part of Nunavut

If yes, where have you seen them and do you see them often?

What do these species and their habitats mean to you or the group for which you are responding?

Could you describe your or your group's relationship with these species (e.g., cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, practicing rights, health, wellbeing, livelihood)?

How might your relationship with these species change if these changes goes through?

Could the recovery of these species support your livelihood, or well-being? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you need more information from Environment and Climate Change Canada to make your decision?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, a representative from ECCC will contact you.

What is your or your organization’s position/opinion on the proposed listing / reclassification of the following species?



Downlisting TH -> SC
☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



New Listing TH
☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



Removal from List
☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



New Listing TH* -> SC
☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



New Listing TH* -> EN
☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



Uplisting TH -> EN
☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



Uplisting SC -> TH
☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent

Do you have any additional comments?

*New population structure, currently listed on SARA Schedule 1 as Red Knot *roselaari* type

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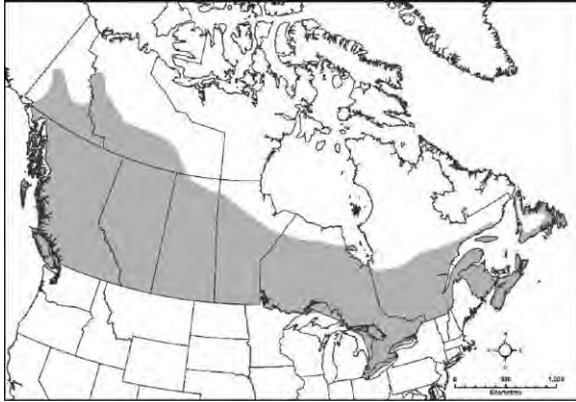
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 ለሚከተሉት ምክንያቶች ምርጫ ማድረግ አስቸኳይ ነው፡-
 ለሰላም፣ ለሰብዓዊ መብቶች፣ ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣
 ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣ ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣ ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣ ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣
 ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣ ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣ ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣ ለሰነድ ምርጫ፣

ბეჭდო ოცნებები
 დღე, დღე

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

உத்யோகம்

[illegible][illegible]

bacΓ, γ_δΔ▷∩^b δε^aΔΓ^bΔ^cΓ^c bac▷^c
▷^aε^bε^c<ρ^aλεC bac^aε^aσ.

[illegible]

ᐃᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ

[illegible] $\Delta L \leq \Delta C$ [illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

၎င်းတို့မှာ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအတိုင်း ဖြစ်သည်။

[illegible]

$\triangleright \neg L \triangleleft Q P C \triangleright R^c \quad \triangleleft R^c Q P C \triangleright R^c \neg$

[illegible]

[illegible]

ከ $\sigma^a \otimes \sigma^b \otimes \sigma^c$, $\sigma^a \otimes \sigma^b \otimes \sigma^c$

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

ላቢኒ ምድራችን በፊርማ፣ ርዕይና ኃሳት-ላቢ
ላቢሮኔልም. ርዕሪላ ርዕሪላ *C. c. islandica*-
ቤ ልረርሲነውም ርዕሪ N3B-ቤ ወደሚሆኑ
ላቢ S2B-ቤ ርዕይ ወደሚሆኑ.

[illegible][illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

ᐃᓂᓐᐅᓐᐅᓐᐅᓐ

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

ፈዋሊናሚኖር ነፃጋሊኒብኤሚሮፕላኖር COSEWIC ከገጠሞቹ 2020. ከገጠሞቹ ነፃጋሊኒብኤሚኖር ነፃጠራሚኖር፡፡ ስሙከረረ the ለፍጥነት ሥራፍጥነት *Calidris canutus islandica* subspecies (*Calidris canutus islandica*), *roselaari* subspecies (*Calidris canutus roselaari*) ለፍጥነት *rufa* subspecies (*Calidris canutus rufa*) ከፍጥነት ከፍጥነት ነፃጠራሚኖር፡፡ ለፍጥነት ለፍጥነት ከፍጥነት ከፍጥነት xxxv + 173 ለፍጥነት.

ፌዴራል

ፖላሳጂክ ልዩነቶች ለሕዝብ ጥቅም
 ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች
 ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች
 ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች
 ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች
 ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች ልዩነቶች

[illegible] $\dot{D}L\Delta^C$ [illegible][illegible][illegible]

၎င်းတို့သည် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအတိုင်း ဖြစ်ပေါ်လာခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။

[illegible]

$\triangleright_{\text{NL}} \triangleleft_{\text{QLP}} \triangleright^{\text{c}} \triangleleft^{\text{c}}_{\text{QLP}} \triangleright$

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

$\gamma^a \sigma^\mu \Delta^{\alpha\beta} \sigma_\mu \gamma_c$, $\epsilon_{\beta\delta} \Delta^{\alpha\delta} \sigma^\mu \gamma_c$

[illegible]

ጥንቃቄና ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ

ጥንቃቄና ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ

NatureServe-ድ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ

ጥንቃቄና ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ ስርዓተ ሥራ

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ወደፊት ለማሳደግ ለሚችል ልማት ማድረግ፡፡

[illegible]

ሞላሪውም ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ ሪፖርት: COSEWIC
 ከጥቅምት 2021. ከጥቅምት ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ
 ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ ድርጅት ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ
 ከጥቅምት ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ ድርጅት ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ
 ከጥቅምት ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ ድርጅት ማህበራዊ-ኢኮኖሚክስ

ጋዋጥ ላብላኤል ማረጋገጫ, ርዕሰ ምክር ቤት ርዕሰ ምክር ቤት
ጥራት ማረጋገጫ ርዕሰ ምክር ቤት ርዕሰ ምክር ቤት
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[illegible]

ሥልጣን ልሳን



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ፍፅላትና ፍፁም ርዕሳዊ

Asio flammeus

ᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒ ᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒ

၈၃၇၄၄

በቢሮና ልማትና የጥራት ማረጋገጫ ምክር ቤት ስር
የሰራተኛው ጥራት - COSEWIC ስራ ስልጣን
ሰጥቶታል።

$$\triangleright \omega \triangleleft \alpha^{\epsilon_b} \triangleright \dot{\alpha}^{\epsilon_b} \sigma^{\epsilon_b}$$
[illegible]
$$\cap^b d \triangleleft^b c \triangleright \sigma^a \rho^a \sigma^c \wedge \lambda^c \triangleleft c \triangleright \sigma^a \rho^c$$
[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

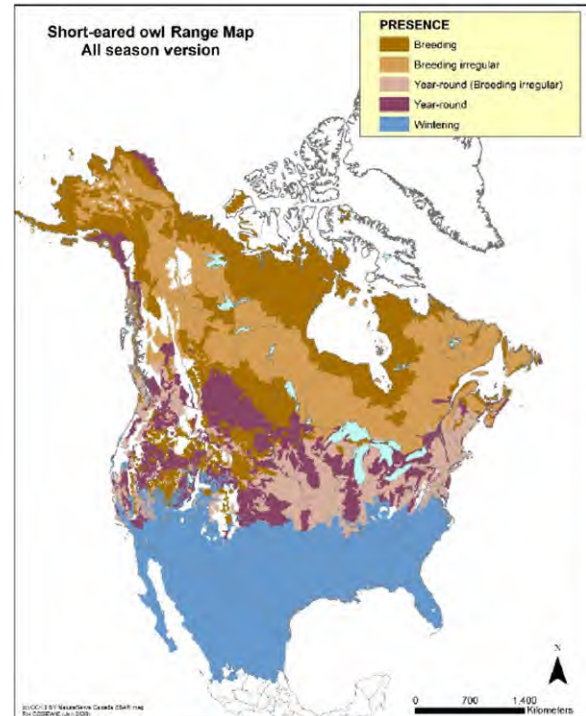
ᐅᐱᕐᐱᕐ ᑦᑲᐃᕐᐱᕐᐱᕐ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᕐᐱᕐ

ᠠᠰᠢᠨ ᠲᠤᠨᠤᠨᠤᠨ (Asio flammeus)

[illegible]

[illegible]

ᐃᓂᑦᔭᕐᕈᕋᕐ

[illegible][illegible]

உதாரணம்

[illegible]

[illegible]

ኢትዮጵያን ለማዳንና ለማቆም ለሚችሉ ሁሉም ጥላቻዎች ምስክር ወረቀት

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

ጋራ ምርመራ ማህበራዊ ልማት ሚኒስቴር
ኮሙኒኬሽንና ምረቃ ሚኒስቴር ድጋፍ ማህበራዊ
www.sararegistry.gc.ca
ጋራ ምርመራ ማህበራዊ ልማት ሚኒስቴር
ድጋፍ ማህበራዊ ልማት ሚኒስቴር
ሰላማዊ ልማት ሚኒስቴር ልዩ ምርመራ ድጋፍ ማህበራዊ
ኮሙኒኬሽንና ምረቃ ሚኒስቴር ድጋፍ ማህበራዊ 1-800-
668-6767 (ኮሙኒኬሽንና ምረቃ ሚኒስቴር) ድጋፍ ማህበራዊ 819-997
2800 ድጋፍ ማህበራዊ ሰላማዊ ልማት ሚኒስቴር
ጋራ ምርመራ ማህበራዊ ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada

כַּיִן־כִּי אֶקְוֶה בְּנִסְתָּרֵי לִבִּי שֶׁאֶחָד מֵעַמִּי יִשְׁכַּח לִי לְעֵדוּתִי בְּיָמַי
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Government of Nunavut Review of Proposed SARA amendments

Barn Swallow, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot (subspecies), Ross's Gull and Short-eared Owl

June 2022

Barn Swallow

- Proposed down listing from Threatened to Special Concern
- Regular breeding range does not include Nunavut, and occurs irregularly in the territory
- Government of Nunavut position: No position, primary range does not include Nunavut

Lesser Yellowlegs

- Proposed listing to Threatened (not previously listed)
- If listed, will require national Recovery Strategy and the identification of critical habitat
- Breeds in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions of Nunavut, primarily restricted to treed regions
- Population trends derived from Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data, which is not typically optimal for shorebirds. However, due to the highly vocal nature of Lesser Yellowlegs, it is possible that BBS does effectively monitor the species. But BBS does not representatively sample the entire Canadian population and provides limited coverage of the Lesser Yellowlegs range.
- Due to limited survey coverage in Nunavut, no trend data is available for Nunavut
- Comments for Figure 5:
 - o Annual population change based on the North American BBS plotted on BCR shows Nunavut declining by 1% to 2% annually, whereas Table 1 indicates that trends couldn't be derived for Nunavut. Its misleading to fill in whole BCR with trend based on very few eastern BBS routes when none exist in Nunavut. Nunavut should be white. BCR in south divided by province, however, in north not divided by territory. This is misleading.
 - o Issues with southern BCRs reporting trends where Lesser Yellowlegs doesn't breed (BCR 11), therefore, there is concern that BBS trends in southern BCRs are likely reporting non-breeding birds
- Figure 1 inaccurate for southern range of the species
- Additional data provided by the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) monitor trends in the relative abundance of shorebirds during migration at regional and continental scales, where its not possible to tell which migrating birds are Canadian
- Migration counts are problematic to determine population abundances
- The 25% decline in mature birds in over three generations inferred from BBS data doesn't meet the 30% cut off, and the associated large credible intervals make taking precautionary measures surprising
- The projected 3-70% over 3 generations based on is a huge range, and indicates that the population may be stable and not precipitously declining (as concluded by the report)
- Listing is suggested due to apparent declines, however, the data provided from BBS and ISS are not substantial to suggest listing
- Government of Nunavut position: Do Not Support

Red Knot *islandica*

- Proposed down listing from Special Concern to Not At Risk
- Breeds in the Canadian High Arctic and winters in the European Atlantic seaboard
- Numbers appear stable based on surveys on the wintering grounds

- Winter in regions of Europe and breed in the High Arctic
- Government of Nunavut position: Support

Red Knot *rufa*

- Unclear why the subspecies is being separated into three designations. COSEWIC standards require designatable units to be evolutionarily distinct and evolutionarily significant, and there is insufficient support for this and therefore the division of this subspecies into three designatable units.
- No evidence of segregations on breeding grounds, or evidence that inbreeding is not occurring
- Prior to separating additional information is required
- The three designatable units use the same migration route and the only characteristic that is being used to differentiate them is the wintering ground location which could be unrelated
- Declines in aerial winter surveys could be the result of low wintering site fidelity or movement between sites. Ideally, wintering surveys would be done simultaneously between the three wintering grounds.
- The evidence provided is not compelling to the splitting into three designatable units. Although this may be reasonable, without additional information it is premature.
- Government of Nunavut position on splitting to three designations: Do Not Support

Red Knot *rufa* (Northeastern South America wintering population)

- Proposed listing to Special Concern (previously listed as Endangered as one designatable unit)
- Population seemingly stable, is threatened by harvesting of Horseshoe Crab, disturbance, and predation during migration
- Based on the lack of evidence for the separation into three designatable units, with steep declines in the other two designatable units, it is unlikely that this designatable unit is no longer at risk
- Government of Nunavut position: Do Not Support

Red Knot *rufa* (Southeastern USA/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Wintering population)

- Proposed listing to Endangered (previously listed as Endangered as one designatable unit)
- Decline inferred by ISS and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) counts
- Migration abundance data is difficult to attribute to one specific wintering population
- Government of Nunavut position: Do Not Support

Red Knot *rufa* (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia wintering population)

- Proposed listing to Endangered (previously listed as Endangered as one designatable unit)
- Wintering surveys indicate large declines in the population, however, declines in wintering surveys could be the result of movements to other wintering grounds. Not sufficient evidence to substantiate the perceived decline.
- Breeding habitat quality is listed to be decreasing for this designatable unit, and not for the others. Very little disturbance occurs for much of their breeding range, and as the breeding range is shared between the three, this should be consistent.
- Government of Nunavut position: Do Not Support

Ross's Gull

- Proposed up listing from Threatened to Endangered

- If listed, will require the identification of critical habitat, which hasn't been possible due to lack of data
- Three nesting locations have been found in Nunavut, in the High Arctic, and one in Churchill, MB
- Little information during the last 15 years to indicate if the global population is stable
- Up listing is suggested due to the low number in few locations
- Genetic evidence to differentiate Siberian and Canadian breeders is inconclusive and the listing to Endangered hinges on the genetic differences between the Siberian and Canadian species
- Government of Nunavut position: Do Not Support

Short-eared Owl

- Proposed up listing from Special Concern to Threatened
- If listed, will require national Recovery Strategy and the identification of critical habitat
- Poorly surveyed by BBS due to the species' habitat requirements, additionally the species rarely vocalizes and is crepuscular in nature. The BBS sample size is small, with low reliability.
- CBC surveys are conducted on the wintering grounds. Wintering ground selection depends on environmental conditions, and there is little wintering site fidelity between years, therefore CBC is not a reliable data source for abundance information for this species.
- Information available for the species is lacking in northern Canada, density estimates for Nunavut are not based on any empirical data and are based on densities from Ontario and Alberta
- The up listing is suggested based on inferences from CBC and BBS data (30% declines over 3 generations) which are inadequate in demonstrating such a decline
- Government of Nunavut position: Do Not Support

Archived: August 24, 2022 4:01:10 PM

From: [Mona Okalik](#)

Sent: June 13, 2022 3:02:04 PM

To: [Roberts, Hayley \(ECCC\)](#)

Subject: RE: Follow-up Proposed SARA amendments (Note new Due Date: October 10, 2022) Inuktitut and English Email

Sensitivity: Normal

Attachments:

[Proposed Changes to the List of Wildlife Species on the federal species at Risk Act 2022.pdf](#) 

Good afternoon,

Please find attached.

Thank you,

Mona Okalik
Manager
Issatik Hunter and Trappers
P.O. Box 119±
Whale Cove, NU
X0C 0J0
Ph: 867-896-9944

From: Roberts, Hayley (ECCC) <Hayley.Roberts@ec.gc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 8:49 AM

To: Roberts, Hayley (ECCC) <Hayley.Roberts@ec.gc.ca>

Subject: Follow-up Proposed SARA amendments (Note new Due Date: October 10, 2022) Inuktitut and English Email

Hello,

This is to follow up on a previous email about the opportunity to provide the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change with comments on proposed amendments to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk ("Schedule 1") under Canada's *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

I have included the original materials to this email as well as an updated questionnaire, which provides additional information on the implications of changes to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk and questions to help guide feedback. Most of these materials are also available online ([Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act: Terrestrial Species January 2022 - Public consultation search - Species at risk registry \(canada.ca\)](#)).

There is also a correction to the original email and we requesting comments by **October 10, 2022**. If you require additional time to provide comments, please inform us prior to this deadline.

If you have any questions about the SARA process or the species under review or would like to provide comments, please contact me directly.

Kind Regards,

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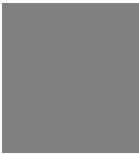


Biologiste des Espèces en Périel, Service Canadien de la faune
Environnement et Changement climatique Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
hayley.roberts@ec.gc.ca / Tél. : +1 (867) 979-7045, Cell: +1 (867) 222-0112


From: Roberts,Hayley (ECCC)
Sent: January 27, 2022 9:31 PM
To: Roberts,Hayley (ECCC) <Hayley.Roberts@ec.gc.ca>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Proposed SARA amendments Barn Swallow, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ross's Gull and Short-eared Owl (Due:

Good day,

Every year the Government of Canada considers the scientific assessments of terrestrial species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) that are eligible either to be added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* or to have their current status changed. There are several species that occur within the range of your community in Nunavut. At this time, we are seeking comments and a position on the proposed listing for the 2022 species.

Briefly, the species found in Nunavut included in the proposed amendments to Schedule 1 are (to see more details see attached species summaries):

Species	Status	Reason for designation	Range	Listing Implications	More Information
Barn Swallow 	Under consideration for listing at lower risk category. COSEWIC status – Special Concern (2020) SARA status – Threatened (2017)	This species was reassessed as special concern mainly due to a stabilization in Canadian population trends.	It breeds irregularly in Nunavut, although it has been observed in nearly every region of the territory as far north as Nasaruaalik Island, and has been documented nesting on Akimiski Island and nest building in Arviat. The regular breeding range excludes Nunavut.	If listed as Special Concern, a national Management Plan will be required.	Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) - Species search - Species at risk registry (canada.ca)
Lesser Yellowlegs 	Under consideration for listing. COSEWIC status – Threatened (2020) SARA status – Not listed	This species was assessed as threatened due to substantial long- and short-term declines and predicted on-going threats from loss of habitat, hunting pressure, and climate change.	The breeding range of Lesser Yellowlegs in Canada extends through most of the boreal forest from northern Yukon to western Labrador. In Nunavut, it is mainly restricted to the forested portions of the territory though observations have been made north of the tree line.	If listed as Threatened, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat	Lesser Yellowlegs (Tringa flavipes) - Species search - Species at risk registry (canada.ca)
Ross's Gull 	Under consideration for listing at higher risk category. COSEWIC status – Endangered	This species was reassessed as Endangered due to a restricted Canadian population, inferred	This species nests at 1-3 known colonies in the Canadian High Arctic and likely winters in the Labrador Sea. Fewer than 20 mature	Currently a Recovery Strategy exists for Ross's Gull. However, the Recovery Strategy could be	Ross's Gull (Rhodostethia rosea) - Species search - Species at risk registry (canada.ca)

	(2020) SARA status – Threatened (2003)	population declines and a retraction of the breeding range paired with on-going threats from climate change, toxic airborne chemicals, and predation of chicks.	individuals are known to breed in Canada, although roughly similar numbers may occur undetected.	updated to include the identification of Critical Habitat which has not yet been identified due to a lack of data.	
Short-eared Owl 	Under consideration for listing at higher risk category. COSEWIC status – Threatened (2020) SARA status – Special Concern (2012)	This species was reassessed as Threatened due to new data that suggests the Canadian population is roughly 10% of the estimate from the initial assessment paired with projected declines from future threats related to loss of habitat.	Short-eared Owl has the broadest global distribution of any owl. It breeds across much of mainland Nunavut, and portions of southern Victoria Island, and northern Baffin Island.	If listed as Threatened, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat	Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus) - Species search - Species at risk registry (canada.ca)

For more information please refer to the attached “Part 1: Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act: Terrestrial Species”, the “Part 2: List of Species Eligible for an Amendment to Schedule 1” and the Part 3: Species Summaries. These documents explain the process and contain the species profiles for the species found in Nunavut under consideration.

More information can also be found on the registry [here](#).

You are invited to submit comments regarding the potential impacts of these proposed amendments to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk. Your comments will be considered and will inform the Minister’s recommendation to Cabinet. Please provide comments by **June 30th, 2022**. There will also be an opportunity to provide comments during the 30-day public consultation period associated with pre-publication in Canada Gazette Part I, before any amendments to SARA are made. If you require additional time, please inform us prior to the requested deadline. *****Please note that as a result of the COVID-19 situation, it is currently not possible to have in-person meetings. We will work to ensure that all the known, potentially affected parties have the opportunity to contribute to the consultations and that the consultation process is flexible and sensitive to the current context.***

Please contact Hayley Roberts, (Hayley.roberts@ec.gc.ca, 867-222-0112) directly if you would like to provide comments, if you have questions about the SARA process or the species under review, or if you would like to request an online presentation of this material.

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Hayley Roberts / HΔ?Δ?c-? 5?>?c?y?

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Species at Risk Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service

Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada

hayley.roberts@ec.gc.ca / Tel: +1 (867) 979-7045, Cell: +1 (867) 222-0112

****NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS ENDING****

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hayley.roberts@ec.gc.ca / ☎: +1 (867) 979-7045, 📠: +1 (867) 222-0112

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Proposed changes to the List of Wildlife Species on the federal *Species at Risk Act*

We would like your input on the proposed changes to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk on the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Since adding or reclassifying a species on the SARA List may affect the way you or your community, nation, business or organization interact with the species, the Minister wants to know what these changes could mean to you. It could be that you need to know that the species will be there for future generations, but you also may have concerns about your future activities. Your comments will help the Minister understand what the changes to the List would mean to you.

How changes to the List might affect you

General prohibitions

- In the territories, when a species is listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated, general prohibitions (cannot harm, kill, harass, possess, buy, sell, trade) come into place, protecting the individual and their residence automatically on lands under the authority of the Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada (e.g. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, National Wildlife Areas, National Parks).
- These general prohibitions do not automatically apply to Inuit or any person exercising a right recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Any application of these prohibitions would require separate consultation and a federal order.
- Migratory birds are already provided some protections under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, but these protections do not apply to harvest, collection, and possession by Inuit or any person exercising a right recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Critical Habitat (Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated species)

- If a species is listed as either Endangered (EN), Threatened (TH), or Extirpated (EX), a recovery strategy and action plan will need to be created
- Critical habitat will need to be identified (habitat needed for the species to survive) and protected at the implementation phase

Special Concern species

- If a species is listed as Special Concern (SC), a management plan is created, there will be no critical habitat identified and there are no general prohibitions (cannot harm, harass, kill, possess, buy, sell, trade)

Reclassifying species

- The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) re-assesses species every 10 years (or sooner), and this can lead to a reclassification on the SARA list
- If the species is downlisted to special concern from threatened or endangered, general prohibitions will no longer apply, critical habitat will no longer be protected, and the species will require a management plan
- If the species is uplisted from special concern to threatened or endangered general prohibitions will come into place, critical habitat will need to be identified, and a recovery strategy will be required

- A reclassification results in the same consultations occurring as would happen for a newly potentially listed species

The following questions are intended to assist you in providing comments. They are not meant to be limiting and any other comments you may have are welcome.

By completing this questionnaire, you understand that this information will be used to inform the Minister of Environment in their recommendation to the Governor in Council. Any information provided here will be shared and could be shared in the public realm.

Please send completed forms to Hayley Roberts, Species at Risk Biologist.

Email: hayley.roberts@ec.gc.ca or by fax at (867) 975-4645

Please send forms by October 10, 2022

Name: Simon Enuapik Date: June 13, 2022

If you are representing an organization please provide the name of the organization:

Issatik Coop Hunter's & Trappers Organization

Have you seen these species in your area?



Barn Swallow
Yes ☐



Lesser Yellowlegs
Yes ☐



Red Knot *islandica*
Yes ☐



Red Knot *rufa**
Yes ☒



Ross's Gull
Yes ☐



Short-eared Owl
Yes ☒

*The Red Knot *rufa* subspecies populations are grouped together because they are indistinguishable by sight and are found in the same part of Nunavut

If yes, where have you seen them and do you see them often?

Spring and late fall for short eared owl

What do these species and their habitats mean to you or the group for which you are responding?

Always ~~and~~ good to see different species

Could you describe your or your group's relationship with these species (e.g., cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, practicing rights, health, wellbeing, livelihood)?

How might your relationship with these species change if these changes goes through?

Could the recovery of these species support your livelihood, or well-being? Yes ☒ No ☐

Do you need more information from Environment and Climate Change Canada to make your decision?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, a representative from ECCC will contact you.

What is your or your organization's position/opinion on the proposed listing / reclassification of the following species?



Downlisting TH -> SC

- ☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



New Listing TH

- ☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



Removal from List

- ☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



New Listing TH* -> SC

- ☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



New Listing TH* -> EN

- ☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



Uplisting TH -> EN

- ☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent



Uplisting SC -> TH

- ☐ Support
☐ Do not support
☐ Indifferent

Do you have any additional comments?

*New population structure, currently listed on SARA Schedule 1 as Red Knot *roseaari* type

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X



Walrus Sport Hunt Applications for 2023

Background

In May 1999, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or The Board) approved an interim policy for evaluating requests for walrus sport hunting in Nunavut (Appendix 1). According to the policy, the NWMB shall approve plans for walrus sport hunting before licenses are issued. The Board further requires that those conducting sport hunts report their struck, lost, and landed animals at the time of application the following year.

The NWMB, on August 24, 2022, issued a call for walrus sport hunt applications to all Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) and other interested individuals or outfitters for the 2023 harvest season. The deadline for submission of applications was November 1, 2022.

Status

Hunters and Trappers Organization support letters have been received for walrus sport hunting in the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05) walrus stock, the Foxe Basin stock (AW-04), and the Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound (AW-03) stock (Figure 1). The following table summarizes the sport hunts requested based on the HTO support letters¹:

Applicant	Community	Walrus Stock	Hunts Requested
Aaron Emiktowt, Siku Tours	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	7
Clifford Natakak, Natakak Outfitting Adventures	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	6
Danny Pee, Polar Bear Adventures	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	5
Darcy Nakoolak, Southampton Island Adventures	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	12
Jonathan Emiktowt, Touring Southampton	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	5

¹ At the time of writing of this BN, not all application forms have been returned to the NWMB (none from Sanirajak)

Leonard Netser, Ancient Arctic Tours	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	8
Luke Eetuk, E&E Outfitting	Coral Harbour	Hudson Bay-Davis Strait (AW-05)	8
Manasie Naullaq, Amittuq Adventures	Sanirajak	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	15
Enoki's Outfitting, Enoki Iqittuq	Sanirajak	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	14
Hall Beach HTO	Sanirajak	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	50
Levy Uttak, Igloo Tourism and Outfitting	Igloolik	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	8
Terence Uyarak, Anu Outfitting	Igloolik	Foxe Basin (AW-04)	4
Niko Inuarak, Nuttuituq Outfitting	Pond Inlet	Penny Strait-Lancaster Sound (AW-03)	6
Total			148

Coral Harbour outfitters request fifty-one (51) sport hunt tags for hunting from Hudson Bay–Davis Strait–Management Unit AW-05. Nunavik and Greenland share this management unit.

The Sanirajak HTO and outfitters have requested eighty-seven (79) sport hunt tags for hunting within the Foxe Basin–Management Unit AW-04. Igloolik outfitters have asked for twelve (12) sport hunt tags for the same management unit (Unit AW-04).

Finally, a Pond Inlet outfitter has requested six (6) sport hunt tags for sport hunting from Penny Strait–Lancaster Sound Management Unit (AW-03)

The total number of sport hunt requests for 2023 is 148, 84 tags more than last year's request (64).

NWMB staff will present a decision briefing note to the Board during its In-Camera Meeting on December 1, 2022.

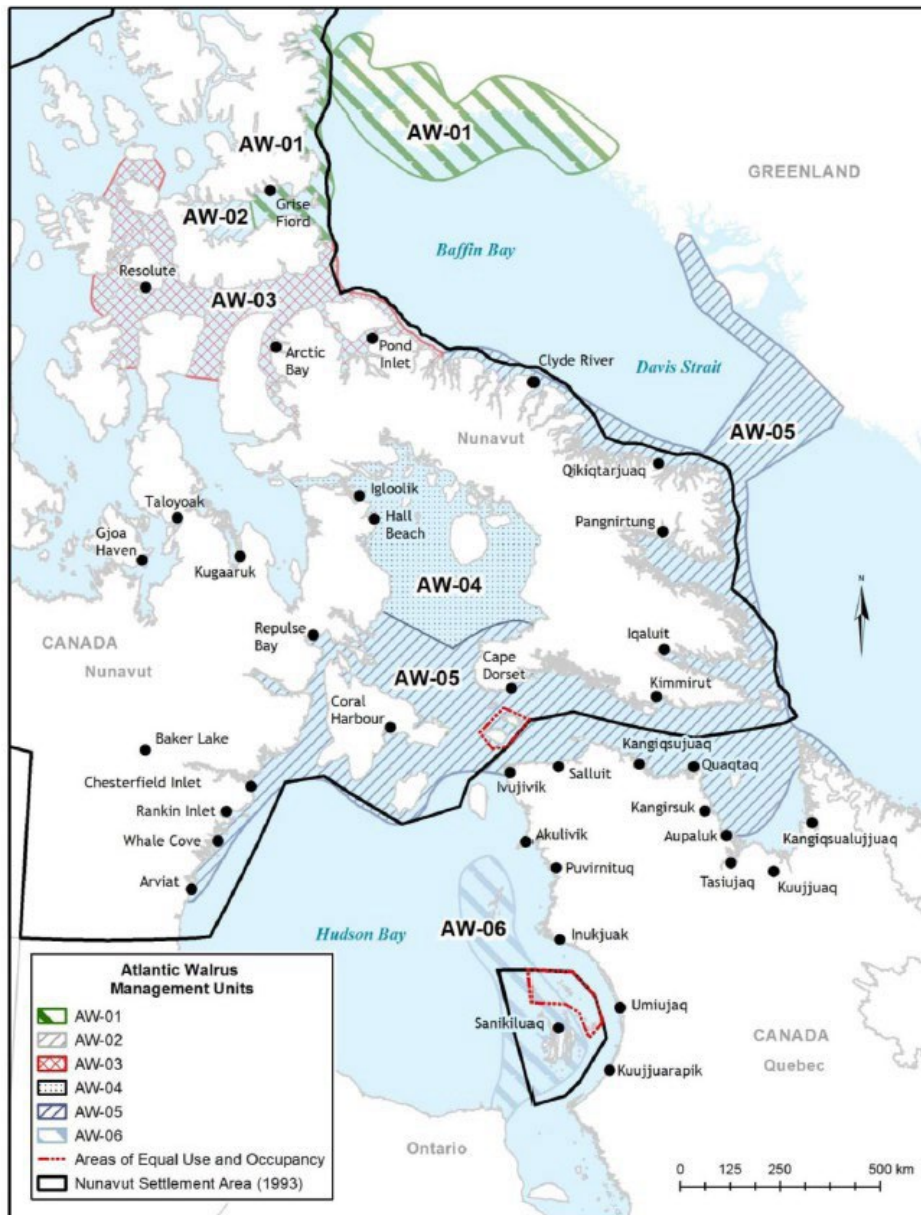


Figure 1. Map of walrus management units.

Appendix 1 - Walrus Sport Hunt Interim Policy

In deciding the number of sport hunts to approve for a particular community, it is recommended that the NWMB's policy be to ensure, to the extent reasonably possible, that sport hunting in the community develops in such a manner that the following four conditions are met:

1. (i) no conservation concern arises;
2. (ii) hunter and public safety are maintained;
3. (iii) humane harvesting takes place, and the whole animal is used; and
4. (iv) the developing industry is healthy and will continue to deliver a quality product, thus serving and promoting the long-term economic, social, and cultural interests of Inuit harvesters (See *Nunavut Agreement* Sub-section 5.1.3(b)(iii))

Accordingly, until the Walrus Working Group offers a more detailed analysis and recommendations, it is recommended that the NWMB apply the following three criteria in deciding upon the number of sport hunts for a community:

1. In a community that is not subject to a quota (beyond the individual limit of four), attempt to ensure that the combination of community and sport hunts does not exceed the average total harvest for the previous five years (condition i);
2. Ensure that a hunt plan is in place that meets the safety, humane, and other requirements necessary under the *Nunavut Agreement*, the *Fisheries Act* and the Regulations (conditions ii and iii); and
3. Ensure that the community or enterprise starts with a relatively small and closely monitored number of hunts (the 'pilot' stage), before permitting an expanded sport hunting effort (condition iv).

In addition, the NWMB may wish to consider what percentage of the overall quota or average harvest for the last five years should be allocated to sport hunts.

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
NOVEMBER 2022

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Fisheries Management Operational Updates

Updates:

Marine Mammals:

- 1) Narwhal
 - The total reported landings for Narwhal management units in the 2021/22 harvest season were: Jones Sound 10, Smith Sound 0, Northern Hudson Bay 115, Somerset Island 78, East Baffin Island 102, Admiralty Inlet 185, and Eclipse Sound 162.
 - This spring, DFO and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) co-chaired three Narwhal Working Group meetings (March 2, April 21, and May 12) to explore different seasonal harvest scenarios for the Baffin Bay narwhal population in 2022/23 that are consistent with the current narwhal management regime. Despite multiple meetings and a variety of scenarios proposed, there was no consensus among co-management organizations this year. Since an agreement could not be reached among Working Group members, and to avoid harvesting delays to affected communities, DFO applied the same allocations and season dates used in 2021. 2022/23 narwhal tags (including carry-over tags) and information packages were distributed to all harvesting communities in the spring/summer of 2022.
 - DFO recognizes that the 2013 Narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) is past due for a formal review and acknowledges the importance of updating the IFMP incorporating all available knowledge, including Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The Department remains committed to organizing virtual and face-to-face meetings of the Narwhal Working Group to continue the review of the Narwhal IFMP and explore issues co-management organizations deem relevant to narwhal management. We would appreciate hearing from co-managers as to convenient dates for the next Working Group meeting.
 - DFO Fisheries Management provided briefing notes to the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) and Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) to be presented at

their 2022 Annual General Meetings on the available information for the 2021/22 narwhal harvest season and discussed planning for the 2022/23 season. A similar briefing note has not yet been provided to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB), as they indicated they will be holding a meeting to discuss wildlife management at a later date.

- In planning for the 2023/24 harvest season, it is very important that Hunters and Trappers Organizations/Associations (HTOs/HTAs) return both the used and unused tags from 2022/23 along with the Narwhal HTO Harvest Sheet by the close of the season (March 31, 2023). Carry-over allocations cannot be finalised until the harvest information from the previous season is returned and analysed by DFO. Prior to distributing the 2023 harvest tags, 2022 harvest data will be reconciled, carry-over allocations will be calculated, and community allocations will be sought from Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs).

2) Walrus

- The total reported landings for walrus within the Nunavut Settlement Area for the 2021/22 season was 93 harvested for subsistence and 5 harvested by sport hunters. However, numerous communities did not provide a report of subsistence harvest.
- In 2022, the Community-Based Catch Monitoring Program for Walrus continued in Sanirajak, Coral Harbour, and Igloolik. The program was also expanded to Nauyasat for the first time. Community Coordinators were hired in all four communities for the 2022 harvest season to support program delivery in the community and increase capacity at the local HTO/HTA. The Community Coordinator spreads awareness about the DFO Science sample kit program and encourages hunters to report their harvest to the HTO/HTA. DFO continues to work closely with the HTO/HTA Managers and Community Coordinators to obtain updates on the 2022 walrus harvest in these two communities.
- Of the 64 walrus sport hunts approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and DFO for 2022, 40 walrus sport hunt licences were issued and DFO has received reports from 12 of these hunts. DFO staff will continue to follow up with sport hunt outfitters to ensure receipt of reporting information and biological samples in the coming months.

3) Beluga

- The total reported landings for beluga within the Nunavut Settlement Area for the 2021/22 season was 324. However, numerous communities did not provide a report of harvests in 2021/22.
- The Cumberland Sound Beluga Working Group continues to meet virtually while COVID-19 impacts the ability to hold in-person meetings. During the June 28,

2022 Working Group meeting, the Pangnirtung HTO identified that they want to have an Inuit focused meeting to discuss a management plan for Cumberland Sound Beluga. The HTO requested that QWB coordinate this meeting. The Working Group agreed to wait to host the next Working Group meeting until after this QWB-led meeting was held. To date, there has been no communication with DFO about the status of the Inuit management meeting.

4) Bowhead

A) Harvest

- The Total Allowable Harvest of Eastern Arctic-West Greenland bowhead whales in Nunavut is 5 per year (Qikiqtaaluk 2, Kivalliq 2, Kitikmeot 1). Following the approval of hunt plans by RWOs and penitence training by NTI, DFO issued licences for the 2022 bowhead hunts in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions.
- Both Qikiqtaaluk hunts and the hunt in Rankin Inlet were successful in landing a whale. At the time this briefing note was written, Coral Harbour had not yet provided a report on the outcome of this year's hunt. The Kitikmeot regional hunt in Taloyoak was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Sample kits were provided by DFO Science to all communities. DFO will continue to follow up with communities in the coming months to ensure receipt of harvest information and biological samples.

B) Management Plan

- On November 9, 2021, DFO met informally with available Bowhead Working Group members and RWO technical staff. Representatives from Nunavut (KRWB, KWB, NWMB, and NTI) and Nunavik (Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board, Makivik) were present. Since not all members were available, the objective was to introduce new members to each other and think about potential approaches to resuming our joint revision of the existing draft bowhead management plan.
- Since that time, turnover of key DFO file leads in 2022 made workload adjustments necessary. As a result, work activities related to the bowhead management plan were postponed until later this winter. DFO Winnipeg staff will circulate a status update to Working Group members in December.

5) Harvest Reporting

- Staff from the Iqaluit DFO office will soon be in contact with HTOs/HTAs requesting mid-season harvest updates for beluga, walrus, and narwhal. Reports of total marine mammal hunting mortality (landed and lost) are essential to develop reliable advice on sustainable harvests. Timely and accurate reporting is required under the *Fisheries Act*, *Marine Mammal Regulations*, and the *Nunavut Agreement*.

- DFO urges continued reporting of unusual marine mammal occurrences and events for follow up by co-management organizations, such as beached carcasses and ice entrapments.

Arctic Char

1) Pangnirtung:

- In 2021/22, a total of approximately 19,585 kg of Arctic char was reported harvested in Cumberland Sound.
- For 2022/23, the Arctic char summer fishery in Cumberland Sound opened on July 29th and ran until mid-September. DFO Fisheries Management staff were unfortunately unable to fly to Pangnirtung to assist with the opening of the fishery and meet with fishers due to inclement weather, but DFO Science staff were in the community and assisted with the fishery opening. DFO FM staff worked closely with the Pangnirtung HTO and Pangnirtung fish plant prior to and during the fishery to ensure the fishery ran smoothly and to monitor the harvest at each waterbody.
- Approximately 24 fishers participated in the summer fishery and fished 12 waterbodies, with a total of approximately 17,870 kg round weight of char landed at the Pangnirtung fish plant in the summer of 2022.
- Additional char fishing in Cumberland Sound is expected to occur during the upcoming winter season.

2) Kivalliq:

- In 2022/23, the Arctic char commercial summer fishery in the Kivalliq region was approximately 8,000 kg, harvested from the Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove areas.
- The commercial plant sampling program once again occurred in 2022 thanks to the ongoing support of Kivalliq Arctic Foods with the aim of collecting biological data from commercially harvested char in the region. Specific sample sizes per location will be determined when all samples are shipped to Winnipeg in the coming weeks.
- A community-based sampling program began in 2019 and has continued into 2022, with local fishers collecting 50 samples per waterbody from four waterbodies around Naujaat. The aim of this program is to collect samples that will be used to understand diet and parasites of Arctic char in the region. The last set of samples will be assessed for diet and parasites and the results of this work will be summarized in community reports and primary publications.
- DFO is hosting another Kivalliq char workshop involving members from all Kivalliq HTOs and is being planned for February 14-16, 2023 in Rankin Inlet. The objective of this workshop is to identify new and emerging research priorities and management concerns. The findings from the workshop will be used to guide future char research in the region.

3) Cambridge Bay:

- The Cambridge Bay IFMP Working Group met in person in Cambridge Bay in June 2022 for its annual meeting to review the IFMP and to discuss the operation of the fishery.
- Commercial harvest in 2022 was planned for 4 sites [Ekalluk, Halokvik (30-Mile), Jayko and Surrey]. Fishing was attempted at Surrey, but no fish were caught.
- A total of 38,241 kg (round weight) or 83% of targeted quota was harvested. Daily reporting and quota management is completed by Kitikmeot Foods Ltd. (KFL) to ensure there is no over-harvest. Fishers are provided with logbooks before the start of fishing to record catch-per-unit effort, bycatch, and discard information.
- The commercial plant sampling program in 2022 was once again successful in providing DFO with fishery-dependent biological data and samples from 200 Arctic char from three of the four locations that were commercially fished.
- Fishery-independent sampling occurred this summer at Ekalluk River and Gravel Pit, but only 60 samples were collected in total due to poor weather and high winds. The goal is to transition the fishery-independent sampling program from the Lauchlan River to the Ekalluk River moving forward as KFL has indicated their plan to no longer harvest Arctic char at Lauchlan River due to the distance from the community and the small quota available at that location.
- There will be a post-season fishing meeting scheduled with the IFMP Working Group in the near future.
- DFO is planning to host a Kitikmeot Arctic char Workshop in Cambridge Bay with representatives from each Kitikmeot HTO, the KRWB, Government of Nunavut, NWMB, and others. The goal of the workshop will be to discuss community and regional priorities around the development of Arctic char fisheries. This meeting is being planned for January 2023 with the assistance of the KRWB.

Greenland Halibut (Turbot):

- 1) Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Area (CSTMA):
 - DFO FM staff met with the Pangnirtung HTO in-person in May 2022 to discuss both Arctic char and Greenland halibut fisheries in Cumberland Sound to re-engage after travel restrictions prevented in-person visits for several years. Topics discussed included HTO priorities, licence conditions, and logbooks. DFO staff look forward to continued in-person visits to Pangnirtung to collaborate on sustainable management of these commercial fisheries.
 - Following an absence of on-ice winter turbot fishing in Cumberland Sound earlier this year, DFO issued a licence in late June for open-water summer turbot fishing in Cumberland Sound. To date, no landings have occurred at the Pangnirtung fish plant.

Fish Stocks Provisions

- DFO is seeking feedback on a proposal for a regulatory amendment to the *Fishery (General) Regulations* (FGR) to list the second batch of major fish stocks that would be subject to the Fish Stocks provisions (sections 6.1-6.3) of the *Fisheries Act*. This regulatory amendment would see the addition of 62 fish stocks to Schedule IX of the FGR. Schedule IX currently contains 30 fish stocks. DFO (Arctic Region) fisheries that are proposed for listing in the second batch are Arctic Char stocks in Cambridge Bay and Cumberland Sound.
- The Fish Stocks provisions include obligations to maintain major fish stocks prescribed by regulation at levels necessary to promote their sustainability (s. 6.1); and to develop and implement rebuilding plans for stocks that have declined to or below their limit reference point (s. 6.2). The DFO website contains some additional useful information about the Fish Stocks provisions and can be accessed at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/about-notre-sujet/engagement/2022/fish-stock-provisions-dispositions-stocks-poissons-eng.html>.
- Feedback or questions on the proposed amendments can be sent to: DFO.Rebuilding-Retablissement.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca prior to December 19, 2022 or by contacting DFO's regional coordinator, Adrienne McLean, at Adrienne.McLean@dfo-mpo.gc.ca prior to March 1, 2023. DFO will be sharing this information and seeking feedback from additional co-management organizations in the near future.
- Seeking feedback on this proposed regulatory amendment is a step in the regulatory process as described in the [Cabinet Directive on Regulation](#). This regulatory process will provide another opportunity to submit feedback on the proposed amendment containing the proposed list of fish stocks, once the draft regulation is published in Canada Gazette, Part I. Currently there is no timeline for that publication step.

U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions

- On October 20, 2022, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced an additional one-year extension to foreign nations to receive a comparability finding for their commercial fishing operations to export fish and fish products to the United States – a revision to the regulations implementing the import provisions of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- With this extension, nations will have until December 31, 2023 to receive a comparability finding for their commercial fishing operations in order to export fish and fish products to the United States.
- The Import Provisions regulations, published in 2016, provided foreign nations a five-year exemption period to develop, as appropriate, regulatory programs governing the bycatch of marine mammals that are comparable in effectiveness

to U.S. regulations. NOAA previously extended the exemption period for an additional year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- NOAA is reviewing comparability finding applications from more than 130 nations representing more than 2,500 exempt and export fisheries. NOAA has indicated that it needs additional time to review and evaluate these applications, correspond with nations, make its final determination, and notify nations of its findings. These comparability findings are important because they ensure that foreign nations' bycatch programs meet U.S. standards as a condition to allow import of the fish and fish products from these fisheries.
- NOAA's official post "Modification of Deadlines Under the Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act" can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/10/21/2022-22965/modification-of-deadlines-under-the-fish-and-fish-product-import-provisions-of-the-marine-mammal>.
- At this time, there is no action required. Co-management organizations and stakeholders will be provided updates on the status of our comparability finding applications as they become available.

Ghost Gear Fund

- The Ghost Gear Fund is intended to support Canada's commitment to prevent and mitigate marine litter, and improve fisheries sustainability particularly with respect to Ghost Gear. The Government of Canada invested \$16.7 million from 2020-2022 and \$10 million for 2022/23.
- In 2022/23, two Arctic Region projects were successful in securing \$646,483 for ghost gear projects in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. More information on Ghost Gear can be found on the DFO website at the following link: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/management-gestion/ghostgear-equipementfantome/program-programme/index-eng.html>.

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