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 Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaikitkut Katimajiat
 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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 Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
 Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

March 7th, 2012

Hon. Peter Kent
 Minister of the Environment
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0A6

Re: Proposed listing of the Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) as a Species of Special Concern.

Dear Mr. Kent,

On December 12th 2011 the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received written notice from the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service that the Minister of the Environment is requesting a decision from the NWMB with respect to the proposed listing of Atlantic Cod, Arctic lakes population as a species of special concern under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

The request was made pursuant to clause 3.9 of *A Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Listing of Species under the Species at Risk Act (MoU)*.

Clause 3.9 of the MoU requires Environment Canada to provide the NWMB with "... the best available information in English and Inuktitut." Clause 3.10 sets out what is included in the "best available information", which are: species assessments and reasons, response statements, consultation reports, Departmental responses, available summaries of consultations in other jurisdictions, available relevant public documentation used in arriving at what the Minister is considering with respect to the SARA listing, and any additional relevant information that the NWMB considers to be the best available information. On December 12th 2011¹ the NWMB received what Environment Canada considered the best available information in English and Inuktitut as per Clause 3.9 of the MoU, which included the excerpts of the COSEWIC status report relevant to the Atlantic Cod Arctic Lakes population, the response statement, consultation summary, socio-economic analysis, and two briefing notes presented to the NWMB by DFO last year.

The Director General requested that the NWMB's decision be delivered to you by **October 15th 2012**, in compliance with clause 3.14 of the MoU; the Board anticipates no difficulty in delivering the decision as per the date requested by the Director General. The NWMB is of the view that an abridged listing process for the Arctic Lakes population of Atlantic Cod would be fair and efficient, and would meet the requirements of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and SARA (clause 2.2 of the MoU). The abridgement would entail replacing the harmonized

¹ Two of the documents indicated in the December 12th letter to the NWMB were not attached to the original message, but were received by the NWMB as per request on January 16th 2012.

standard listing process in Part 3.0 of the MoU – consisting of, among other steps, the filing of written submission followed by an oral hearing – with a written hearing only.

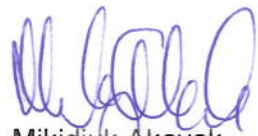
The NWMB has prepared letters to you, the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Nunavut Environment Minister, the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Chairperson of the Qikiqtaaluk Regional Wildlife Organization, and the Chairpersons of all affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations announcing its intention to hold a written hearing for the Arctic lakes population of Atlantic cod, and requesting that any objections to proceeding in this manner be delivered in writing with reasons by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on **March 28th 2012**.

Should you disagree with the NWMB's proposed abridged listing process, then – pursuant to clause 2.2 of the MoU – the Board will follow the harmonized standard listing process. In addition, if any of the other hearing parties contacted by the Board should raise one or more objections that convince the NWMB of the need to follow the harmonized standard process, the Board will do so. If the Board is required, or otherwise decides, to follow the harmonized standard listing process, the delivery of the decision by **October 15th 2012** may be difficult to achieve. In the unlikely event that the NWMB decides or is otherwise required to proceed with the harmonized standard listing process, the Board will contact you – in as timely a manner as possible – regarding a revised, mutually-acceptable date for delivery of its decision.

If no objections are received pertaining to the Board proceeding with an abridged listing process, the NWMB would hold a decision-making session at its June or September quarterly meeting and provide its decision to you by **October 15th 2012** as requested.

If you or your officials have any concerns or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson of the Nunavut
Wildlife Management Board

cc:

Virginia Potter - Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service
Sharon Ashley – Director General – Ecosystems Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Eric Kan – Area Director, Eastern Arctic Area Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dale Nicholson – Regional Director, Ecosystems Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ray Ratynski – Regional Manager, Species at Risk, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

