



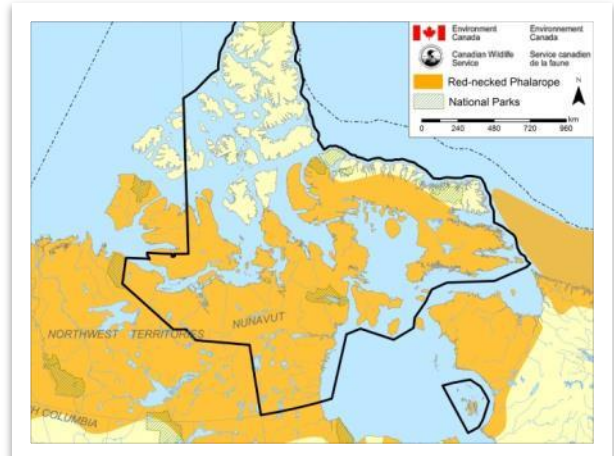
## Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

Information:

**Decision: X**

**Issue:** Pre-listing consultations for the Red-necked Phalarope as a species of Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*



### Background:

- Red-necked Phalarope was assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in November 2014 and designated as a species of Special Concern.
- COSEWIC's reason for designation: This bird has declined over the last 40 years in an important staging area; however, overall population trends during the last three generations are unknown. The species faces potential threats on its breeding grounds including habitat degradation associated with climate change. It is also susceptible to pollutants and oil exposure on migration and during the winter. This is because birds gather in large numbers on the ocean, especially where currents concentrate pollutants.
- In Nunavut, Red-necked Phalarope is found in each region except the high arctic islands (Range map above).
- On October 6th, 2015, COSEWIC submitted its assessment of the Red-necked Phalarope to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister of the Environment posted a response on the SARA Public Registry and indicated there would be an extended consultation period for the proposed listing. The extended consultation period will end on October 4, 2016.
- Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) consulted with the appropriate Minister(s), wildlife management boards and Aboriginal organizations on changes to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk (Schedule 1) of the *Species at Risk Act* for terrestrial species.

- Jurisdictions and wildlife management boards, including the NWMB and the Government of Nunavut, were asked to review and provide input into the draft Terrestrial Issues Flagging (TIF) document, which outlined the species' current status, presence on the landscape, projected impact of listing, and issues flagged. This process helped inform the decision to have an extended consultation timeline.
- Consultations on the proposed listing were held between November 2015 and February 2016 with hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs) and regional wildlife boards. Organizations were asked to provide their formal position on the proposed listing (i.e. oppose, support or are indifferent) and with any other comments, concerns or information that they feel should be considered.
- Consultation packages, in Inuktitut and English, were sent by mail and email, and included: a letter, a narrated PowerPoint, and a questionnaire/response form. The full COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report was provided in digital format in English only.
- Given the range of the species, CWS sent consultation packages to all Nunavut communities with the exception of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay.
- To support consultations, CWS extended an offer to provide more information, if requested, in the best means possible, including attending a board meeting by teleconference.
- To date, CWS has received feedback from 1 community in Nunavut regarding their position of the proposed listing of Red-necked Phalarope:
  - Taloyoak: indifferent
- For species that are listed as Special Concern, a management plan is to be prepared within three years of the species' addition to Schedule 1 and added to the Species at Risk Registry. Management plans are prepared in cooperation with the jurisdictions, wildlife management boards, and Aboriginal organizations.
- While immediate protection under SARA for species listed as Extirpated, Endangered and Threatened do not apply to species listed as Special Concern, any existing protections and prohibitions continue to be in force.

### **Request of the NWMB**

- That the NWMB provide Environment Canada with support for the proposed listing of Red-necked Phalarope as a species of Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

