

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Consultation report on Deepwater Redfish (Northern population) and Acadian Redfish (Atlantic population).

Background:

As per 3.3 of the Harmonized Listing Process, DFO has previously informed the NWMB of COSEWIC assessment results for these two marine fish species; Acadian Redfish (Atlantic population) and Deepwater Redfish (Northern population). In September of 2011, DFO asked for the Board to consider the possibility of an abridged listing process (as per 2.2 of the Harmonized Listing Process) for these and three other species. DFO suggested that consultations could be streamlined as there were no records or subsistence use for any of these species. The Board agreed to this process in a letter dated June 25, 2013. During 2013 and 2014, both of these species were the subject of consultations in Nunavut and three DFO regions.

Consultations did not result in any comments for or against listing despite a period of more than two years communication between DFO and possible interested groups. Two of the species originally included in the abridged process, Roundnose Grenadier and Roughhead Grenadier, were dropped from the abridged process and will be consulted on beginning January 2015. While consultations for the other species included in the abridged process, the Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population), are complete, a decision to list or not list is being handled separately.

The enclosed consultation report (as outlined in 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process), in English and Inuktitut includes details the “when” and “what” of information on Acadian Redfish (Atlantic population) and Deepwater Redfish (Northern population) sent to HTOs and industry. Copies of this information will be given to the NWMB when the Minister of Environment provides details of what is being considered with respect to listing of these two species, as per 3.9 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Recommendations:

That the NWMB consider the information attached and proceed as per 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Prepared by:

Sam Stephenson, Species at Risk Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central and Arctic Region.

Date: October 24, 2014

Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Deepwater Redfish (Northern population) and Acadian Redfish (Atlantic population)

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was notified of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) assessment of Deepwater and Acadian Redfish in May of 2010 and DFOs intent to consult in Nunavut. They were also updated on the state of consultations for all species in Nunavut in September 2012 and, specifically for Redfish and Northern Bottlenose Whale, in March 2013.

The following outlines all communication with industry, Nunavut Government and organizations created under the Nunavut Land Claim.

Nunavut Land Claim

Contact via: phone calls, emailing of materials and several hard copy mailings of materials beginning December 2011 and ending November 2013. Ads in *Nunatsiaq News* in November 2013. Final email notifying of extension of consultation period to May 31, 2014 sent in April 2014.

Pangnirtung HTO: No comment.

Qikiqtarjuaq HTO: No comment.

Clyde River HTO: Provided comments (October 2012) that Redfish appear uncommon, but they are encountered by individuals involved in the offshore fishing fleet and that these individuals sometimes bring this by-catch home to be shared with their families. Did not state if they supported listing or not.

Iqaluit HTO: No comment.

Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board: No comment.

Nunavut Government

Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: They suggested (2012) there was little community interest in Redfish, but because community people were involved in the commercial fishery, there needed to be more science carried out on the species to ensure economic possibilities were not being eliminated before they were realised. They did not state if they supported listing or not for these species.

Industry

Arctic Fishery Alliance: Asked for additional time to provide comments but didn't provide any.

Nunavut Offshore Allocation Holders Association: Submitted a report reviewing the scientific basis of the COSEWIC assessment of redfish written by an external consultant which suggested that there was not enough science in the arctic or recent science used to assess Redfish as Threatened under the SARA. Did not comment on agreement with listing or not.

Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Pangnirtung Fisheries, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Niqitaq Fisheries: No comment.

Summary:

There was no stated support for listing and no group or individual in Nunavut specifically spoke against it. Despite sending information numerous times via Express Post and/or email and trying to contact organizations to try to elicit a response by phone, there were few responses. There was no interest or acceptance of an offer for a face to face meeting with any group. Considering the length of time over which industry and HTOs were contacted (*i.e.*, more than two years) as well as the number of times they were contacted (at least 7 times for communities and 5 times for industry, excluding phone calls which

most often were not answered or returned), it is probably fair to say that there is little interest in these species in Nunavut. There were no comments received from the general public on either of these species based on ads in *Nunatsiaq News* which pointed people to the Species at Risk public registry website where they could have commented on listing.

A list of materials sent, when and how, appears in Appendix A.

Appendix B presents information on responses received in three DFO regions (Central and Arctic, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador) consulting on the listing of Deepwater and Acadian Redfish.

APPENDIX A: Date of contact and materials sent to Nunavut.

CONTACT WITH HTOs:

December 2011 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community

July 2012 – Letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) again asking if these species were important to the community

October 2012 – Emailing of all information previously sent (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) and advising I would be phoning to seek answer as to importance and use of these species by community

November-December 2012 – Calls to all HTOs see if these species were used or important to community. Messages left with Iqaluit HTO, no answer/answering machine at any other location.

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email advising that public consultation period for Redfish species was now open on the Species at Risk public registry site (provided link to website), advised of ad in *Nunatsiaq News* and attached link to COSEWIC status report on Redfish

November 2013 – Email of Inuktitut version of Redfish workbook and again pointed out Species at Risk public registry site and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on redfish

April 2014 – Email informing that the consultation period had been extended to May 31, 2014. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Redfish. Provided Inuktitut copy of Redfish questionnaire previously sent.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT INUIT WILDLIFE SECRETARIAT, NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC., QIKIQTAALUK WILDLIFE BOARD:

December 2011 – Email FYI notice of information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment (same information as sent to HTOs).

August 2013 – Express Post FYI letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) similar to that sent to HTOs and industry. Stated I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired.

September 2013 – Express Post FYI letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) similar to that sent to HTOs and industry saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email advising that public consultation period for Redfish species was now open on the Species at Risk public registry site (provided link to website), advised of ad in *Nunatsiaq News* and attached link to COSEWIC status report on Redfish

November 2013 – Email of Inuktitut version of Redfish workbook and again pointed out Species at Risk public registry site and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on redfish

April 2014 – Email informing that the consultation period had been extended to May 31, 2014. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Redfish. Provided Inuktitut copy of Redfish questionnaire previously sent.

CONTACT WITH INDUSTRY:

December 2011 – Letter or email with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking for expression of interest in these species

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email advising that public consultation period for redfish was now open on Species at Risk public registry site (provided link to website), advised of ad in *Nunatsiaq News* and attached link to COSEWIC status report on Redfish

November 2013 – Email of Inuktitut version of Redfish workbook and again pointed out Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on redfish

April 2014 – Email informing that the consultation period had been extended to May 31, 2014. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Redfish. Provided Inuktitut copy of Redfish questionnaire sent previously.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

December 2011 – Email of letter to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email notifying that public consultation period for Redfish was now open on the Species at Risk public registry website (link to site provided), that ad had recently appeared in *Nunatsiaq News* informing the public of the same information, and, provided copies of English, French and Inuktitut information sheet.

January 2014 – The Deputy Minister of DFO wrote to the A/Deputy Minister of Environment, Dept. of Environment in Nunavut for a position on the listing of Redfish. No response.

April 2014 – Email informing that the consultation period had been extended to May 31, 2014. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Redfish. Provided Inuktitut copy of Redfish questionnaire sent previously.

CONTACT WITH PUBLIC:

Ad placed in *Nunatsiaq News* in November 2013 (English, French and Inuktitut) which advised people of public consultation period for Redfish and identified the Species at Risk public registry website as a location with more information and a questionnaire on the listing process.

APPENDIX B: Total responses received in all DFO regions (including Central & Arctic – Nunavut) consulting on Deepwater and Acadian Redfish. Not specified means some form of comments were received, but it was not stated if they supported listing or not.

Breakdown of Responses by Category

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

List - 0

Do not list – 1 (Newfoundland & Labrador)

Aboriginal Organizations:

List – 0

Do not list – 1

Not specified – 1

Commercial Fishing Industry:

List – 1 organization

Do not list – 6 (5 organizations and 1 individual)

Not specified - 1

Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g., World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club):

List – 4

Do not list – 1

Not specified – 1

Academics:

List –2 individuals

Do not list - 0

Small Business:

List – 1 individual

Do not list – 0

Public:

List – 7

Do not list – 1

Summary of Canadian Responses

List – 15

Do not list – 10

Not specified - 3

Non-Canadian responses:

List – 0

Do not list – 1