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March 17, 2022

Hon. Steven Guilbeault Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada Government of Canada

Dear Steven Guilbeault:

Re: NWMB decision on the proposed final Management Plan for Horned grebe (western population) in Canada under the Federal Species at Risk Act

NWMB Decision

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM001-2022) on March 9, 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada presented a briefing note requesting an NWMB decision on the approval of the proposed final Management Plan for the Horned grebe (Podiceps auritus) in Canada under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). The NWMB considered this request at its In-Camera Meeting (IC001-2022) on March 10, 2022, where the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB approve the "Management Plan for the Horned grebe (western population) in Canada" under the federal Species at Risk Act.

Reasons for NWMB Decision

In September 2010, the NWMB approved the listing of the horned grebe as Special Concern under SARA following a written hearing. The Board's decision at the time considered persuasive written evidence and arguments about identified threats and risk of the species becoming threatened or endangered. The horned grebe was listed under Canada's *Species at Risk Act* in 2017. The Board is aware of the mandatory requirement to collaboratively develop a national management plan for species listed as special concern.

The Board is also aware that the main threats to horned grebe occur outside Nunavut. Nevertheless, the proposed conservation measures are non-intrusive and could alleviate



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identified threats for the horned grebe and other wetland species.

The management plan objectives are to maintain or increase the horned grebe's population levels and maintain its distribution in Canada in the next 30 years. The management plan outlines strategies, conservation measures, and timelines for achieving the management plan objectives.

The Board also considered the efforts by Environment and Climate Change Canada to consult with the Government of Nunavut and Inuit organizations since 2019. The Board noted that they are currently no objections to the proposed management plan from Nunavummiut.

The Board considers this management plan timely and appreciates the expediency with which it was prepared to meet the timeline of three years prescribed in the *Species as Risk Act*.

Conclusion

As per Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision approving the proposed final Management Plan for the horned grebe (western population) in Canada to you for consideration.

Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk

Jariel Slubul

Chairperson

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc: - Michael Svoboda, Canadian Wildlife Service