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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut 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

November 4, 2011

Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A

Re: Request for abridged listing process pertaining to the proposed listings of Roundnose Grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), Roughhead Grenadier (*Macrourus berglax*), Acadian Redfish – Atlantic population (*Sebastes fasciatus*) and Deepwater Redfish – Northern Population (*Sebastes mentella*) under the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*

Dear Minister Ashfield:

As per s.3.5 of the Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk Under the *Species at Risk Act (NLCA-SARA MOU)*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has informed the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) of COSEWIC's assessment results for four deepwater fish species: Roundnose Grenadier (Endangered), Roughhead Grenadier (Special Concern), Acadian Redfish – Atlantic population (Threatened) and Deepwater Redfish – Northern Population (Threatened).

DFO had indicated that they originally did not intend to proceed with listing species that occur in Nunavut and Nunavik waters until an MOU has been developed and approved to harmonize the SARA listing process with the *Nunavut Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. However, it was noted that since Inuit subsistence fisheries do not normally capture these deepwater fishes, DFO has concluded that these listing processes could proceed.

As such, DFO has suggested that the listing of these four deepwater fish species under SARA will have minimal impact of Nunavut residents. DFO has requested an NWMB decision, as per s.2.2 of the NLCA-SARA MOU, to begin an abridged listing process for the four deepwater fish species. As per s. 3.2 of the NLCA-SARA MOU, if DFO considers that an abridged listing process may be advisable, DFO is required to provide information and seek the views of the relevant communities and Inuit organizations with respect to the species and the advisability of such an abridged listing process. DFO has specified that only consultation with the fishing industry is necessary, but indicated that they are prepared to send letters to Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTOs) in areas adjacent to the species' ranges to advise them of the process and to see if there are concerns about the possible listings.

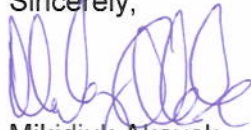
At the NWMB's Regular Meeting (number RM003-2011) held in Kugluktuk, Nunavut on October 17-18, 2011 the Board made the following resolution with respect to this issue:

"RESOLVED that the NWMB request that DFO communicate with relevant industry, communities, and Inuit organizations with respect to the proposed abridged listing processes for the species as per NLCA-SARA MOU s.3.2, and inform the NWMB of the results."

As per the Board's resolutions, the NWMB requests that DFO contact all fishing industry members, including Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. & Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd., Arctic Fisheries Alliance, and Qikkiqtaaluk Corporation to solicit views on conducting an abridged listing process for the four deepwater fish species. Furthermore, NWMB requests that DFO also communicate with all relevant HTOs and communities adjacent to where the species occurs. If possible, the NWMB requests that DFO inform the NWMB of the results at the December 2011 NWMB Regular Meeting. Based on the results of these consultations, the NWMB will consider the proposal for an abridged listing process for these four species under SARA.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB at any time if you have questions or concerns with respect to the Board's request.

Sincerely,



Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Richard Connelly, Executive Director, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat
Eric Kan, Eastern Arctic Area Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Raymond Ratynski, Division Manager - Species at Risk Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada