



September 19, 2019

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Government of Canada

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

**Re: Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Request for Approval of the *Action Plan for the Blue Whale (Balaenoptera musculus), Northwest Atlantic Population, in Canada Pursuant to the Species at Risk Act***

### NWMB Decision

On September 11, 2019, at the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM 003-2019), Fisheries and Oceans Canada provided a briefing note requesting the NWMB's approval of the *Action Plan for the Blue Whale (Balaenoptera musculus), Northwest Atlantic Population, in Canada (Action Plan)*, pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act*.

At the NWMB's In-Camera Meeting (IC 003-2019) on September 12, 2019, the Board passed the following resolution:

*RESOLVED that, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board recommend to Fisheries and Oceans Canada that they send consultation materials regarding the Action Plan for the Blue Whale (Balaenoptera musculus), Northwest Atlantic Population, in Canada to Nunavut communities closest to the known areas of occurrence of blue whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area.*

### Rationale for the NWMB decision

The Board took into consideration Fisheries and Oceans' briefing note with the attached executive summary and action plan. In reaching its decision, the Board considered that Nunavut communities adjacent to the known occurrences of blue whales in the Nunavut Settlement Area were not consulted on the action plan. During the Board's Regular Meeting, evidence was also presented that blue whales may occur more frequently within the Nunavut Settlement Area. Consultations with Nunavut communities will give Fisheries and Oceans Canada the opportunity to gather local knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit regarding whether the range of the blue whale has expanded into Nunavut's waters.



**Conclusion**

The NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision to you, for your consideration pursuant to Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Please contact the NWMB if you or your officials have any questions with respect to the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk  
 Chairperson  
 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Sam Stephenson, Species at Risk Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada