

Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

July 6, 2020

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0
c/o Taqialuq Sataa

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 26, 2020, regarding the approval of the Action Plan for the Blue Whale, Northwest Atlantic Population, in Canada pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act*. I regret the delay in responding.

As you know, we are living in unprecedented times, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada is taking action to help. As Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, I am committed to providing the Canadian fisheries sector the support needed so it can continue to provide the world with high-quality, sustainably sourced fish and seafood. To learn about the measures the Government is taking to support Canadians and businesses, I encourage you to consult the website for [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) website for [COVID-19 – Information for industry and partners](#).

As you point out in your letter, although none of the actionable items in the Action Plan for the Blue Whale are currently proposed for Nunavut, DFO will continue to work with you and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations in each community to see if any actions should be applied to the north. DFO scientists and community members are often working together collaboratively on a number of whale projects. They may be able to collect information on the location, number, and activity of blue whales. Should blue whales begin to move into Nunavut waters more frequently, adjustments can be made to the Action Plan to ensure that the whales and the areas into which the whales are moving are well studied and that the whales' habitats are protected.

Thank you for providing me with your thoughts on this matter. I appreciate the Board's approval of the Action Plan for the Blue Whale and I look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bernadette Jordan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

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