

SUBMISSION TO THE NWMB FOR

Information:

Decision:

X

Issue: Approval of the proposed Management Plan for the Barrow's Goldeneye, eastern population, pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)

Background:

The Barrow's Goldeneye is a sea duck that occurs in three distinct populations in North America and Iceland. The Eastern population of Barrow's Goldeneye in North America was assessed in 2000 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a species of special concern and was listed as such in Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in 2003.

The Eastern population comprises approximately 6800 individuals, which is equivalent to 2100 pairs. The species breeds primarily in the boreal forests of Quebec, north of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence. While most of the population also winters in the Estuary and the Gulf, its wintering range extends to the coast of the Atlantic provinces and Maine.

Barrow's Goldeneye do not breed or winter in Nunavut, but based on satellite telemetry, some adult males have been found to moult in the Arctic along the shores of eastern Hudson Bay and the south coast of Baffin Island (Figure 1). Bird surveys conducted in 2000 in Southern Baffin Island did not find any Barrow's Goldeneye. Communities (Kimmirut, Iqaluit and Sanikiluaq) that are nearest to the locations where Barrow's Goldeneye might be found have been asked for their input on this issue but results were not available at the time this Briefing Note was submitted. CWS will report on those results during the presentation.

The main threats to the Barrow's Goldeneye, eastern population, occur in its habitats in southern Canada and include logging, the stocking of fishless lakes, and oil spills. Hunting in the St Lawrence Estuary and sediment contamination may also pose threats to this population.

Management Plan:

The Species at Risk Act requires that a management plan must be written for species listed as a species of special concern.

The management goal is to maintain and, if possible, increase the current population size and range of the Barrow's Goldeneye, Eastern population. In order to achieve this objective, the size of the population must be maintained for the next ten years at not less than 6800 individuals across the species' range. General strategies and management activities designed to achieve this goal are set out in the proposed management plan.

There are no activities proposed in the management plan that would occur in Nunavut.

The Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Management Board has reviewed and supported the draft SARA Management Plan for Barrow's Goldeneye.

Recommendations:

The NWMB is asked to consider whether or not they wish to make a formal decision on supporting the national SARA Management Plan for Barrow's Goldeneye, and if so, whether or not they approve of the Management Plan.

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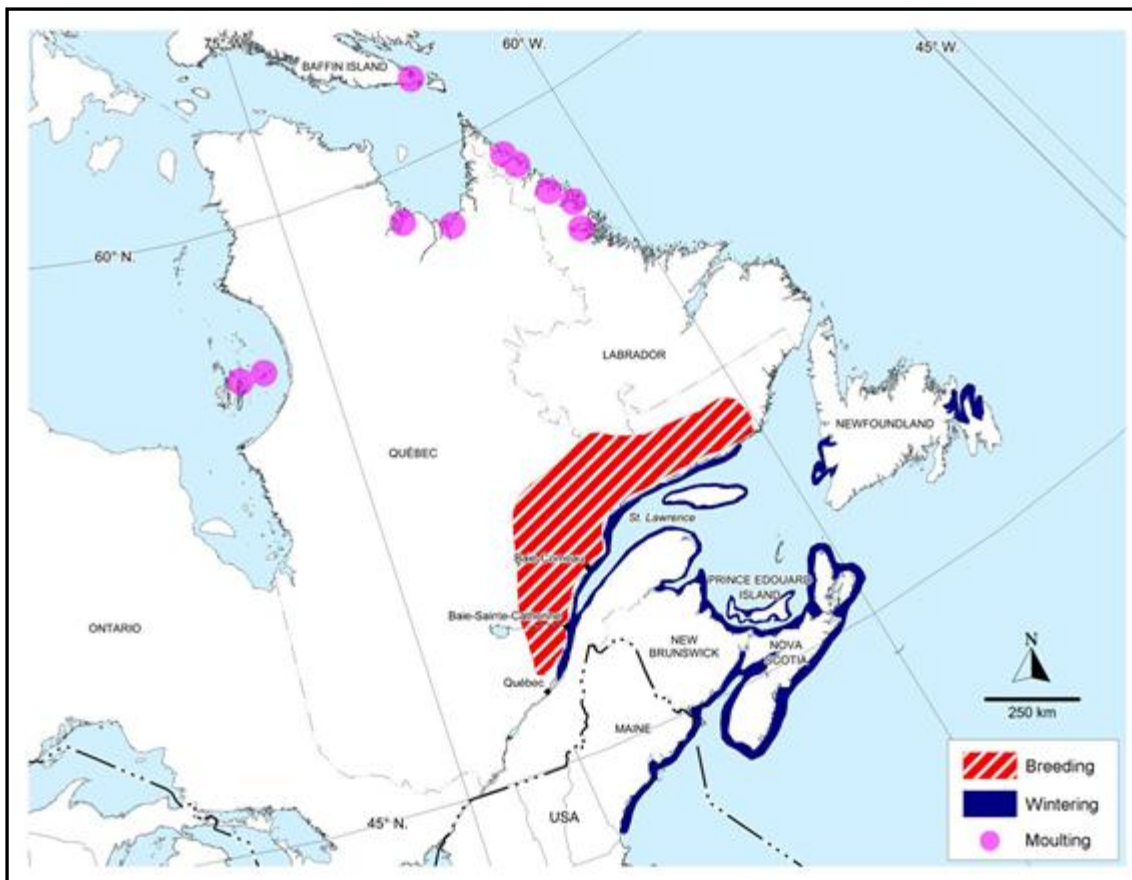


Figure 1. This figure shows the distribution of Barrow's Goldeneye, eastern population in Canada. It shows breeding, wintering and moulting locations for the eastern population of Barrow's Goldeneye in Canada. The solid shading indicates wintering areas, the striped shading represents breeding areas and the dots indicate moulting areas.