

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
September 2015

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Operational Updates.

Updates:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Marine Mammals:

1) Narwhal:

- The 2015/16 narwhal carryover tags were distributed to communities during July and August as per the continuation of the interim flex-quota system.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is also planning to conduct post-season narwhal fishery reviews during each of the Regional Wildlife Organization's (RWO) Annual General Meetings.

2) Walrus:

- With regards to sport hunts, Iqaluit staff worked with walrus outfitters to ensure that all licences and sample kits were distributed in a timely fashion. A total of 9 walrus sport licences were issued for the area of Coral Harbour and 12 for Hall Beach. All hunts were planned for July and August 2015.

3) Bowhead Whale:

- The Bowhead Whale licence for Repulse Bay was issued in late July 2015.
- A letter of Bowhead hunt plan approval for Hall Beach was sent to DFO on Aug. 12th, 2015.

Arctic Char:

1) Pangnirtung Arctic Char Fishery:

- The Pangnirtung Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery was licensed on July 23, 2015; however, ice has been an issue in Cumberland Sound this summer.

2) Pond Inlet Arctic Char Fishery:

- The Pond Inlet Exploratory Arctic Char Fishery was licensed on July 8, 2015. Fishing was planned to start mid-July.

Greenland Halibut:

- Five vessels have been fishing Nunavut sub-allocations in NAFO Division 0B (Davis Strait). As of August 8, 2015, about 960 t of 2850 t of Turbot had been harvested. Fishing in NAFO Division 0A (Baffin Bay) started on August 1, and about 108 t of 8000 t of Turbot had been harvested as of August 12, 2015.

Shrimp:

- Fishing in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) Davis Strait and SFA Nunavut started on July 14 2015.

Prepared by: Northern Operations – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: Aug. 13, 2015

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Qammartalik Cove Emerging Char Fishery Application

Background:

The Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Qikiqtarjuaq, NU have requested an exploratory licence for Arctic Char from the Fox Charlie/Qammartalik Cove Area. The HTO is the applicant and has consulted with their membership and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). This briefing note and the attached fishing plan are being presented to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for decision.

According to the application and previous correspondence with the applicant Arctic Char are abundant in the Qammartalik Cove Area (Figure 1 - topographic map). Subsistence fishing takes place annually in this area in the spring. The HTO feels that these lakes have the potential to develop into a viable commercial fishery.

Fox Charlie/Qammartalik Cove Area:

The most current information available was provided by the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. Traditional and local knowledge suggests that the proposed exploratory harvest level of 1000 kg in the attached fishing plan is reasonable. Furthermore, this initial harvest level is consistent with previous exploratory harvest levels recommended by DFO for other areas. The collection of information as per the five-year exploratory protocol would allow DFO science to evaluate harvest levels. DFO recommends the exploratory fishery begin with the 1st year of the 5-year approach due to the limited information currently available.

The five-year exploratory fishery protocol is intended to provide information on the viability of a fishery in a particular waterbody. The protocol requires effort be taken to annually harvest the full quota over the five-year period, and the collection of biological characteristics of the fish caught at, a minimum, the start and at the end of the five-year period. Changes to the population structure following continuous harvest of the maximum quota may indicate that the harvest level is not sustainable. However, if the harvest over that period does not change indicators of population health, then the existing level of harvest is likely sustainable. Harvest of the full quota annually is necessary for this approach.

Recommendations:

Based on a review of the available information and science advice, DFO's view is there would be a moderate risk¹ of harm from fishing if the attached fishing plan was approved.

The fishery should be monitored to assess the effect of the exploratory fishery on the stock and the following conditions implemented:

- The fishery should follow the exploratory fisheries five-year approach, with all samples and data being submitted annually to DFO-Resource Management in Iqaluit;
- Minimum gillnet mesh-size of 5 ½ inches employed.

Consultations: DFO Central & Arctic Region
Nattivak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization

Prepared by: Chris Lewis & Joanna Panipak
Resource Management – Northern Operations
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: Aug. 11, 2015

Attachment 1:

Qammartalik Cove Emerging Char Fishery Fishing Plan.

Attachment 2:

Nattivak HTO Emerging Fisheries Application Letter of Support – Qammartalik Cove.

¹ Moderate risk: some information is missing which would allow for the assessment of the health of the stock. We think fishing at this level may not adversely affect the stock; however, it is very important to collect data from any harvest that occurs. It is also important to reassess the stock once biological data has been collected and analyzed.

ATTACHMENT 1:

QAMMARTALIK COVE EMERGING CHAR FISHERY PLAN

LICENCE APPLICANT:

Nattivak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization (HTO), Qikiqtarjuaq, NU

PURPOSE:

To develop a sustainable commercial char fishery and promote economic opportunities for Inuit in Qikiqtarjuaq

LOCATION & HARVEST LEVEL:

Water body	Coordinates	Exploratory Harvest Level (kg)
Qammartalik Cove/ Fox Charlie	68°42'N 68°41'W	1000 kg

METHODS:

Fishing will take place during the winter months. The HTO will be the licence holder and as such will coordinate community members to fish the exploratory harvest level. The exploratory char fisheries five-year approach for collecting biological and catch-effort data will be followed. A minimum gillnet mesh-size of 5.5 inches will be employed. Any harvested Arctic Char that is exported across Nunavut's territorial borders will follow the prescribed direction by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as directed by the "Fish Inspection Act" and "Fish Inspection Regulations."

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Consultation report on Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada-West Greenland population).

Background:

As per 3.3 of the Harmonized Listing Process, DFO has previously informed the NWMB of COSEWIC assessment results for the Eastern Canada-West Greenland population of Bowhead Whale. During early 2015, this population was the subject of consultations in Nunavut and three DFO regions. As a possible species of Special Concern, if listed there are no automatic prohibitions or restrictions on harvesting, but a management plan will need to be developed to help ensure the population does not become more at risk in the future.

Consultations in Nunavut did not result in any comments agreeing with listing Bowhead Whale. Several Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTO) responded that they did not believe that listing of Bowhead Whale as a species of Special Concern was necessary. Several other HTOs responded that because they rarely saw Bowhead, they had no comment, or that they did not have any concerns because they did not see listing as having any effect on them or their hunting activities.

The attached consultation report (as outlined in 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process), details the “when” and “what” of information on Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada-West Greenland population) sent to HTOs and others. Copies of this information will be given to the NWMB when the Minister of Environment provides details of what is being considered with respect to listing of this species, as per 3.9 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Recommendations:

That the NWMB consider the information attached and proceed as per 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Prepared by:

Sam A. Stephenson, Species at Risk Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central and Arctic Region.

Date: July 24, 2015

Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population)

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was notified of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) assessment of Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population) in October of 2009 and DFOs intent to consult in Nunavut. The Board was updated on the state of consultations for all species in Nunavut, including Bowhead Whale, in September 2012. The Board was notified of the upcoming consultation for Bowhead Whale in August 2014.

The following outlines all communication and results from the public, Nunavut Government and organizations created under the Nunavut Land Claim during the consultation period.

Nunavut Land Claim

Contact via: phone calls, emailing of materials and several hard copy mailings of materials beginning January 2015 and ending April 2015. All materials provided in English and Inuktitut. Ads in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015. Final email in March notifying of upcoming end of consultation period. Follow up phone calls to those HTOs which had not responded.

HTOs

Disagree with listing: Coral Harbour, Clyde River, Repulse Bay.

No concerns with listing: Arviat, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Resolute Bay.

Bowhead not found in their area, no comment: Ominghaktok, Sanikiluaq.

No response: Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Taloyoak, Whale Cove.

Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board: No comment, but materials primarily sent as "for your information".

Nunavut Government

Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: No comment.

Summary:

There was no support for listing Bowhead Whale in Nunavut while three HTOs stated that Bowhead Whale should not be listed. Despite sending information numerous times via Express Post and/or email and trying to contact organizations by phone, there were few responses (44% response rate from HTOs contacted). There was no interest in a face to face meeting from any HTO. There were no comments received from the general public in Nunavut despite the ad in *Nunatsiaq News* which pointed people to the Species at Risk public registry website where they could have commented on listing.

A list of materials sent, when and how, appears in Appendix A.

Appendix B presents information on responses received in three DFO regions (Central and Arctic, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador) consulting on the listing of Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population).

APPENDIX A: Date of contact and materials sent to Nunavut.

CONTACT WITH HTOs:

January 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Bowhead Whale (fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment) stating consultations were beginning and DFO would like their opinion on listing and that in person meetings could be arranged if desired. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Bowhead Whale including fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Email to HTOs reminding them of the consultation on Bowhead Whale. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Express Post letter with information Bowhead Whale (fact sheets and questionnaire) stating that only a few HTOs had been heard from and again asked for an opinion on possible listing before the consultation period ended. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Email informing that the consultation period was over, but that DFO would still be accepting any comments on listing. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Bowhead Whale. Provided copies of Bowhead Whale fact sheet and questionnaire that had been sent previously.

March-April 2015 – Phone calls to/messages left with HTOs that had not yet responded to determine if they had looked at materials and had any comments regarding the possible listing of Bowhead Whale.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT INUIT WILDLIFE SECRETARIAT, NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC., QIKIQTAALUK WILDLIFE BOARD:

January 2015 – Express Post FYI notice of intent to consult along with information on Bowhead Whale including fact sheet, questionnaire and COSEWIC reason for assessment (same information as sent to HTOs).

January 2015 – Emailed same information as that sent to HTOs to NWMB Wildlife Biologist to further inform the Board of the consultations.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

January 2015 – Express Post of letter to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment, with information on Bowhead Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if there was any opinion on listing.

CONTACT WITH PUBLIC:

Ad placed in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015 (English, French and Inuktitut) which advised people of public consultation period for Bowhead Whale and identified the Species at Risk public registry website as a location with more information and a questionnaire on the listing process.

APPENDIX B: Total responses received in all DFO regions (including Central & Arctic – Nunavut) consulting on Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population). Not specified means some form of comments were received, but it was not stated if they supported listing or not.

Breakdown of Responses by Category

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

List - 0

Do not list – 0

Aboriginal Organizations:

List – 0

Do not list – 5

Not specified – 1

No concerns – 8

Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g., World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club):

List – 1

Do not list – 0

Stakeholders

Not specified – 2

Public:

List – 3

Do not list – 0

Summary of Canadian Responses

List – 4

Do not list – 5

Not specified or no concerns with possible listing – 10

Non-Canadian responses:

List – 1

Do not list – 0

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Consultation report on the Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers.

Background:

As per 3.3 of the Harmonized Listing Process, DFO has previously informed the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessment results for the Roughhead and Roundnose grenadiers. During early 2015, these two species were the subject of consultations in Nunavut and three other DFO regions. As a possible species of Special Concern, if listed there are no automatic prohibitions or restrictions on harvesting of Roughhead Grenadier, but a management plan will need to be developed to help ensure the population does not become more at risk in the future. If the Roundnose Grenadier is listed, there are automatic prohibitions on harming the species and a recovery strategy would need to be completed.

Consultations in Nunavut did not result in any comments agreeing with listing either species of grenadier. One Hunter and Trapper Organization (HTO) responded that they did not believe that listing of either grenadier species was necessary as they did not see them while one other HTO responded that because they did not see grenadiers in their harvests, they did not view listing as having any effect on them or their other fishing activities. There were no other for or against listing responses from anywhere in Nunavut. The fishing industry and the Government of Nunavut suggested more science to better understand these fish stocks is required.

The attached consultation report (as outlined in 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process), details the “when” and “what” of information on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers sent to HTOs and others. Copies of this information will be given to the NWMB when the Minister of Environment provides details of what is being considered with respect to listing of this species, as per 3.9 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Recommendations:

That the NWMB consider the information attached and proceed as per 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Prepared by:

Sam A. Stephenson, Species at Risk Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central and Arctic Region.

Date: July 31, 2015

Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) was notified of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) assessment of the Roughhead Grenadier in June 2008 and the Roundnose Grenadier in October of 2009 and DFOs intent to consult in Nunavut. The Board was updated on the state of consultations for all species in Nunavut, including grenadiers, in September 2012. The Board was notified of the upcoming (2015) consultation for grenadiers in August 2014. Grenadiers were originally part of an abridged listing process which began in 2011, but were pulled from the process early on. For that reason, dates and types of information sent on the grenadier species from 2011-2013 are not given below.

The following outlines all communication and results from the public, Nunavut Government and organizations created under the Nunavut Land Claim during the consultation period.

Nunavut Land Claim

Contact via: phone calls, emailing of materials and several hard copy mailings of materials beginning January 2015 and ending April 2015. All materials provided in English and Inuktitut. Ad in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015. Final email in March notifying of upcoming end of consultation period. Follow up phone calls to those HTOs which had not responded.

HTOs

Disagree with listing: Clyde River.

No concerns with listing: Kimmirut.

No response or no final decision: Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtaaluk.

Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board: No comment, but materials primarily sent as "for your information".

Nunavut Government

Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: No listing decision, but comments made that more science is required to better understand stock status.

Industry

Arctic Fishery Alliance: No statement received as to agreement or disagreement with listing.

Baffin Fisheries Coalition: No comment for or against listing of either species. BFC did submit a report commissioned by the Marine Institute of Newfoundland and Labrador which discussed the COSEWIC and SARA processes which suggested the need for my science.

Pangnirtung Fisheries, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Nunavut Offshore Allocations Holders Association: No comment.

Summary:

There was no support for listing Roundnose or Roughhead grenadiers in Nunavut and one comment opposing listing. There was no interest in a face to face meeting from any HTO. There were no

comments received from the general public in Nunavut despite the ad in *Nunatsiaq News* which pointed people to the Species at Risk public registry website where they could have commented on listing.

A list of materials sent, when and how, appears in Appendix A.

Appendix B presents information on responses received in four DFO regions (Central and Arctic, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Maritimes) consulting on the possible listing of the Roundnose Grenadier and the Roughhead Grenadier.

APPENDIX A: Date of contact and materials sent to Nunavut.

CONTACT WITH HTOs:

January 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers (fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment) stating consultations were beginning and DFO would like their opinion on listing and that in person meetings could be arranged if desired. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers including fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Email to HTOs reminding them of the consultation on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Express Post letter with information Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers (fact sheets and questionnaire) stating that only one HTO had been heard from and again asked for an opinion on possible listing before the consultation period ended. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Email informing that the consultation period was over, but that DFO would still be accepting any comments on listing. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers. Sent copies of grenadier fact sheets and questionnaire.

March-April 2015 – Phone calls to/messages left with HTOs that had not yet responded to determine if they had looked at materials and had any comments regarding the possible listing of Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT INUIT WILDLIFE SECRETARIAT, NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC., QIKIQTAALUK WILDLIFE BOARD:

January 2015 – Express Post FYI notice of intent to consult along with information on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers including fact sheet, questionnaire and COSEWIC reason for assessment (same information as sent to HTOs).

January 2015 – Emailed same information as that sent to HTOs to NWMB Wildlife Biologist to further inform the Board of the consultations.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

January 2015 – Express Post of letter to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment, with information on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if there was any opinion on listing.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT FISHING INDUSTRY

January 2015 – Express Post of letter to industry contacts in Nunavut with information on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if there was any opinion on listing. Industry was also instructed that they should subscribe to the Species at Risk Public Registry e-mail newsletter to ensure they receive notifications of new listing consultations as they occur.

CONTACT WITH PUBLIC:

Ad placed in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015 (English, French and Inuktitut) which advised people of public consultation period for Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers and identified the Species at Risk public registry website as a location with more information and a questionnaire on the listing process.

APPENDIX B: Total responses received in all DFO regions (including Central & Arctic – Nunavut) consulting on Roundnose and Roughhead grenadiers. Not specified means some form of comments were received, but it was not stated if they supported listing or not. Note that responses were the same for both species.

Breakdown of Responses by Category

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

List – 0

Do not list – 2

No concerns with listing – 1

Aboriginal Organizations:

List – 1

Do not list – 1

Not specified – 1

No concerns – 2

Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g., World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club):

List – 1

Do not list – 0

Stakeholders/Industry/Academics (Universities)

List – 1

Do not list – 0

Not specified – 2

Public:

List – 1

Do not list – 0

Summary of Canadian Responses

List – 4

Do not list – 3

Not specified or no concerns with possible listing – 6

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Consultation report on Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population).

Background:

As per 3.3 of the Harmonized Listing Process, DFO has previously informed the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessment results for the Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population of Killer Whale. During early 2015, this population was the subject of consultations in Nunavut and four DFO regions. As a possible species of Special Concern, if listed there are no automatic prohibitions or restrictions on harvesting, but a management plan will need to be developed to help ensure the population does not become more at risk in the future.

Consultations in Nunavut did not result in any comments agreeing with listing Killer Whale. Several Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTO) responded that they did not believe that listing of Killer Whale as a species of Special Concern was necessary. Several other HTOs responded that because they rarely saw Killer Whales, they had no comment, or that they did not have any concerns because they did not see listing as having any effect on them or their other hunting activities.

The attached consultation report (as outlined in 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process), details the “when” and “what” of information on Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population) sent to HTOs and others. Copies of this information will be given to the NWMB when the Minister of Environment provides details of what is being considered with respect to listing of this species, as per 3.9 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Recommendations:

That the NWMB consider the information attached and proceed as per 3.8 of the Harmonized Listing Process.

Prepared by:

Sam A. Stephenson, Species at Risk Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central and Arctic Region.

Date: July 31, 2015

Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population)

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) was notified of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) assessment of Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population) in October of 2009 and DFO's intent to consult in Nunavut. The Board was updated on the state of consultations for all species in Nunavut, including Killer Whale, in September 2012. The Board was notified of the upcoming consultation for Killer Whale in August 2014.

The following outlines all communication and results from the public, Nunavut Government and organizations created under the Nunavut Land Claim during the consultation period.

Nunavut Land Claim

Contact via: phone calls, emailing of materials and several hard copy mailings of materials beginning January 2015 and ending April 2015. All materials provided in English and Inuktitut. Ads in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015. Final email in March notifying of upcoming end of consultation period. Follow up phone calls to those HTOs which had not responded.

HTOs

Disagree with listing: Clyde River, Repulse Bay.

No concerns with listing: Arviat, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Resolute Bay.

Killer Whale not found or rarely found in their area, no comment: Ominghaktok, Sanikiluaq.

No response or no final decision: Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Taloyoak, Whale Cove.

Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board: No comment, but materials primarily sent as "for your information".

Nunavut Government

Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: No comment.

Summary:

There was no support for listing Killer Whale in Nunavut while two HTOs stated that Killer Whale should not be listed. Despite sending information numerous times via Express Post and/or email and trying to contact organizations by phone, there were few responses (44% response rate from HTOs contacted). There was no interest in a face to face meeting from any HTO. There were no comments received from the general public in Nunavut despite the ad in *Nunatsiaq News* which pointed people to the Species at Risk public registry website where they could have commented on listing.

A list of materials sent, when and how, appears in Appendix A.

Appendix B presents information on responses received in five DFO regions (Central and Arctic, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Maritimes, Gulf) consulting on the listing of Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population).

APPENDIX A: Date of contact and materials sent to Nunavut.

CONTACT WITH HTOs:

January 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Killer Whale (fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment) stating consultations were beginning and DFO would like their opinion on listing and that in person meetings could be arranged if desired. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Killer Whale including fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Email to HTOs reminding them of the consultation on Killer Whale. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Killer Whale (fact sheets and questionnaire) stating that only a few HTOs had been heard from and again asked for an opinion on possible listing before the consultation period ended. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Email informing that the consultation period was over, but that DFO would still be accepting any comments on listing. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Killer Whale. Provided copies of Killer Whale fact sheet and questionnaire that had been previously sent.

March-April 2015 – Phone calls to/messages left with HTOs that had not yet responded to determine if they had looked at materials and had any comments regarding the possible listing of Killer Whale.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT INUIT WILDLIFE SECRETARIAT, NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC., QIKIQTAALUK WILDLIFE BOARD:

January 2015 – Express Post FYI notice of intent to consult along with information on Killer Whale including fact sheet, questionnaire and COSEWIC reason for assessment (same information as sent to HTOs).

January 2015 – Emailed same information as that sent to HTOs to NWMB Wildlife Biologist to further inform the Board of the consultations.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

January 2015 – Express Post of letter to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment, with information on Killer Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if there was any opinion on listing.

CONTACT WITH PUBLIC:

Ad placed in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015 (English, French and Inuktitut) which advised people of public consultation period for Killer Whale and identified the Species at Risk public registry website as a location with more information and a questionnaire on the listing process.

APPENDIX B: Total responses received in all DFO regions (including Central & Arctic – Nunavut) consulting on Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population). Not specified means some form of comments were received, but it was not stated if they supported listing or not.

Breakdown of Responses by Category

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

List - 3

Do not list – 1

Not responsible for species - 1

Aboriginal Organizations:

List – 0

Do not list – 3

Not specified – 4

No concerns – 7

Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g., World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club):

List – 2

Do not list – 0

Did not specify – 1

Stakeholders

List – 2

Do not list – 0

Not specified – 2

Public:

List – 6

Do not list – 0

Did not specify - 1

Summary of Canadian Responses

List – 13

Do not list – 4

Not specified, not responsible or no concerns with possible listing – 16

Non-Canadian responses:

List – 1

Do not list – 0

Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population)

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was notified of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) assessment for Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population) in the fall of 2011 and DFOs intent to consult in Nunavut. The Board was also updated on the state of consultations for this and other species in September 2012 and again in March 2013. The Northern Bottlenose Whale was one of several species which was part of an abridged listing process approved by the Board in June 2013.

The following outlines all communication with industry, Nunavut Government and organizations created under the Nunavut Land Claim.

Nunavut Land Claim

Contact via: phone calls, emailing of materials and several hard copy mailings of materials beginning December 2011 and ending November 2013. Ad in *Nunatsiaq News* in November of 2013 informing public of public consultation period and link to Species at Risk website.

Pangnirtung HTO: No comment.

Qikiqtarjuaq HTO: No comment.

Clyde River HTO: Provided comments (October 2012) that HTO thought the Northern Bottlenose Whale population was healthy even though harvesters rarely saw them and even fewer harvested them. Did not state if they did or did not support listing.

Iqaluit HTO: No comment.

Nunavut Government

Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: Comment was made (2012) that due to a reduction in long line use, Northern Bottlenose Whale were no longer threatened by the commercial fishery. The department was supportive of creating a management plan, which seems to support listing (Special Concern species require a management plan). No other comments received.

Industry

Arctic Fishery Alliance: Asked for additional time to provide comments, but didn't. No statement received as to agreement or disagreement with listing.

Baffin Fisheries Coalition: No comments for or against listing. BFC did submit a report commissioned by the Marine Institute of Newfoundland and Labrador which discussed the COSEWIC and SARA processes.

Pangnirtung Fisheries, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Niqitaq Fisheries,

Nunavut Offshore Allocations Holders Association: No comment.

Summary:

Despite sending information numerous times via Express Post and email and trying to contact organizations to elicit a direct response by telephone, there were very few responses. No group or individual in Nunavut spoke for or against listing. Considering the length of time over which industry and Hunters and Trappers Organizations were repeatedly contacted (*i.e.*, more than 2 years) as well as the number of times they were contacted (at least 7 times for communities and 5 times for industry, excluding phone calls which most often were not answered or returned), it is probably very fair to say that there is very little interest in this species. There were no comments received from the public on the

possible listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale despite the ad in *Nunatsiaq News* which pointed people to the Species at Risk public registry website where they could comment on listing.

A list of materials sent, where, when and how, appears in Appendix A.

Appendix B presents information on responses received in two DFO regions (Central and Arctic, Newfoundland and Labrador) consulting on the listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population).

APPENDIX A:

CONTACT WITH HTOs:

December 2011 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community

July 2012 – Letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) again asking if these species were important to the community

October 2012 – Emailing of all information previously sent (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) and advising I would be phoning to seek answer as to importance and use of these species by community

November-December 2012 – Calls to all HTOs see if these species were used or important to community. Messages left with Iqaluit HTO, no answer/answering machine at any other.

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email notifying that public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale was now open on the Species at Risk public registry website (link to site provided), that ad had recently appeared in *Nunatsiaq News* informing the public of the same information, and, provided copies of English, French and Inuktitut information sheet.

CONTACT WITH INDUSTRY:

December 2011 – Letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking for expression of interest in these species

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email notifying industry that public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale was now open on the Species at Risk public registry site (link to site provided), that ad had recently appeared in *Nunatsiaq News* outlining this same information, and, provided copies of English, French and Inuktitut information sheet.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

December 2011 – Email of letter to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired.

November 2013 – Email notifying that public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale was now open on the Species at Risk public registry website (link to site provided), that ad had recently appeared in *Nunatsiaq News* informing the public of the same information, and, provided copies of English, French and Inuktitut information sheet.

CONTACT WITH PUBLIC:

Ad placed in *Nunatsiaq News* in November 2013 (English, French and Inuktitut) which advised people of the three month public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale and identified the Species at Risk public registry website as a location with more information and a questionnaire on the listing process.

APPENDIX B: Total responses received in two DFO regions (including Central & Arctic – Nunavut) consulting on Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population). Not specified means some form of comments were received, but it was not stated if they supported listing or not.

Breakdown of Responses by Category

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

List - 0

Do not list – 0

Not specified – 2 (1 possibly supporting listing)

Aboriginal Organizations:

List – 0

Do not list – 0

No concerns – 1

Not specified – 1

Industry

List – 0

Do not list – 0

Not specified – 1

Summary of all Responses

List – 0

Do not list – 0

Not specified or no concerns with possible listing – 5



Your file / Votre référence

Our file / Notre référence

July 22, 2015

Mr. Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Kovic;

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Scientific Council has provided the Department with its Total Allowable Catch (TAC) recommendations for Greenland Halibut in Division 0A+1AB and Division 0B+1C-F for the 2016 season. For both Divisions, the NAFO Scientific Council recommended the TACs remain unchanged from 2015 levels (i.e. for Division 0A+1AB the TAC remains at 16,000t and for Division 0B+1C-F the TAC remains at 14,000 t).

The Department is seeking the advice of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on the recommended NAFO Scientific Council TACs. The NAFO Scientific Council report can be accessed online at <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/sci-reports.html> with the relevant section found on pages 42-44.

I look forward to hearing from the Board on this matter by the end of September. Your earliest response is appreciated to assist in allowing time for any required follow up discussions and timely opening of the fishery. I can be reached at scott.gilbert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

for

Scott Gilbert
Regional Director, Fisheries Management

Cc: David Burden, Regional Director General
Larry Dow, Director Northern Operations
Sylvie Lapointe, Director Fisheries Management Plans