



Mr. Harry Flaherty
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

NWMB - RECEIVED
Date: Oct 9/09

OCT 01 2009

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

I am writing to advise you of what the Minister is considering for the listing of two populations of beluga whale on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, and to request the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's approval decision. This is in accordance with subsection 3.9 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*.

In 2004, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the Cumberland Sound population of beluga whale as threatened, and the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population as special concern. Based on these assessments and in consultation with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister is considering listing the Cumberland Sound population as threatened and not listing the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population on Schedule 1 of the Act.

Please advise the Ministers of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision with respect to these proposed listing recommendations, in accordance with subsection 3.14 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the species at risk listing process.

Sincerely,

Virginia Poter
Director General
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada

c.c.: Pardeep Ahluwalia, Director General, Director General, DFO Species at Risk Directorate

