



MAR 17 2011

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MAR 29 2011

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

Dear Mr. Akavak:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 28, 2011, regarding the proposed listing of the Arctic Lake population of Atlantic Cod as a Species of Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act*.

I applaud the efforts of your Board to share information regarding the location of other lakes which may harbour similar populations of Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes population). I encourage you to share this information with the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada for their consideration in future work since the Committee has the legal responsibility for gathering and considering the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge to be included in species status reports. I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Dr. Marty Leonard, Chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, for her consideration.

As you have noted in your letter, the *Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Listing of Species at Risk under the Species at Risk Act* sets out a process for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to provide their views as part of the decision-making process for whether the species should be added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will continue following the process agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding in order to ensure that Cabinet will have your views before it when considering whether the Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes population) should be listed, not listed, or referred back to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

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I appreciate your comments with respect to the consultations on the proposed addition of the Arctic Cod to the Schedule 1 the *Species at Risk Act*, and particularly the role of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for species that occur in the Territory of Nunavut. DFO will be revising future consultation workbooks to ensure that, where relevant, the role of your Board is appropriately described in the consultation process.

Thank you for taking the time to communicate your views on the implementation of the *Species at Risk Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gail Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Dr. Marty Leonard