Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

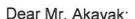


Ministre des Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

MAR 1 7 2011

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





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 Rate, 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.

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,

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

c.c.: Dr. Marty Leonard