



June 30th, 2016

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada

Dear Minister McKenna:

RE: Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Request for an NWMB decision on the proposed listing of Red-necked Phalarope as a species of Special Concern under the Federal Species at Risk Act

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board’s (NWMB or Board) In-Camera Meeting (IC003-2016) on March 16th 2016, the Board considered Environment and Climate Change Canada’s *Proposal for Decision* (Proposal) to list Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) as a species of Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, and made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5.2.26 and 5.2.34(f) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the NWMB arrange to hold a written public hearing regarding Environment and Climate Change Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service’s proposed listing of Red-necked Phalarope as Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act.

On April 1st 2016, the NWMB provided public notice that the Board would be conducting a written public hearing to consider the Proposal. The Board did not receive any written submissions by the June 1st 2016 deadline.

During the NWMB’s In-Camera Meeting (IC004-2016) on June 13th 2016, the NWMB carefully considered the best available science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit presented through Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Proposal, as no submissions were received during the written public hearing, and made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(f) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and Section 3.14 of A 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 under the Species at Risk Act, the NWMB approve the listing of Red-necked Phalarope as Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act.

The main considerations during the NWMB’s decision-making included the species’ decline in an important staging area coupled with the uncertainty of population trends; the threats faced on the breeding grounds, including habitat degradation and effects

associated with climate change; and the species susceptibility to pollutants and oil exposure during migration and overwintering while large flocks gather on the ocean surface.

The listing of Red-necked Phalarope as Special Concern requires Environment and Climate Change Canada to develop a Management Plan within three years of the species' addition to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. The NWMB recommends that the development of this Management Plan be done in consultation with Nunavut co-management partners, including the NWMB, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Regional Wildlife Organizations, Hunters and Trappers Organizations and those communities within the species range in Nunavut.

As per Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its Red-necked Phalarope listing decision for your consideration.

If you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Shewchuk". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel Shewchuk,
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Cc: Lisa Pirie, Acting Head – Eastern Arctic Unit, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

AUG 18 2016

RECEIVED
AUG 29 2016

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

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 30, 2016, providing the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision to approve the listing of Red-necked Phalarope as a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

I am pleased that the Board has completed its public consideration of the proposed listing and I appreciate your sharing its final decision with me. In accordance with clause 3.15 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 Species under the *Species at Risk Act*, I accept the Board's decision.

I look forward to continued collaboration and consultation with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

