

7, 2010

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K1A 0A6

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$$\Gamma_{\sigma^2 C} > \alpha^* \cap^{\alpha^*} \Delta:$$
[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

<sup>2</sup> ወላይኛ ሥራ ሪፖርት 2004. ሪፖርት 23.



$\dot{L}_{\text{bol}}, d < \Delta^b$  K1A 0H3

**AUG 31 2010**

 $\triangleright \Delta c \propto d\dot{c}^b$ 
$$\Delta^b \nearrow \curvearrowright \triangleright \triangleright b \Delta^a \underline{\quad} {}^{\text{fb}} \rceil {}^{\text{fb}}$$

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 $\Delta^a b \supset \Delta^c$ ,  $\text{ma} \supset^c$  X0A 0H0

Γ<sub>1</sub>C adC<sup>a</sup>J<sub>1</sub>:

[illegible][illegible]

ጋዋጥ ሥራ ላይ ማውጣት ለሚችሉ ሰራተኞች ለሚከተሉት ምክንያቶች ማረጋገጥ ይገባል፡

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ant

 $\rho \cap \Delta^c$ 
$$\Gamma\sigma^4CD^{\leq} \supseteq C^{\leq}L_{\mathcal{D}}^{\leq} \Delta b^{\leq} \supseteq \Delta b \Delta^{\leq} a^{\leq} \supseteq b^{\leq}$$
$$\trianglelefteq \Gamma^b \llcorner \Gamma^b \sigma^b \wedge \Gamma^b \delta^b$$
[illegible]





Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin  
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

The Hon. Jim Prentice  
Minister of Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Prentice:

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) conducted a public consideration of the proposed listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay (EHA-BB) beluga population through a written hearing taking place from March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The written submissions submitted to the NWMB in response to the proposed listing can be viewed and downloaded from the NWMB's website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)).

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, the NWMB held a decision-making session at which the Board carefully reviewed all of the arguments and evidence filed with the Board during the written hearing. After having taken into careful account the reliability and persuasiveness of all of the arguments and evidence, the NWMB made the following decision pursuant to Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) and Step 3.14 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* (NLCA/SARA MOU):

*“RESOLVED that the NWMB not approve the listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA)”*

The NWMB's reasons for disapproving the listing were based on three main considerations, which were the following: (1) uncertainty surrounding the EHA-BB beluga population being a distinct population; (2) overharvesting is not a concern to the population that spends most of its time in Canadian waters; and (3) the information that was provided to the NWMB was outdated. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit suggests there are two distinct populations – one consisting of Canadian whales and the other of Greenland whales – and DFO has no current population estimates for either. [hunters of Resolute Bay]

In the NWMB's consideration of the arguments and evidence provided, the arguments and evidence demonstrated to the NWMB the uncertainty surrounding the delineation of beluga populations and this uncertainty was expressed in the COSEWIC report indicating that the EHA-BB beluga population "...might consist of two distinct populations."<sup>1</sup>


The evidence provided to the NWMB in the COSEWIC report specifies that based on the information provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 1999 the summer harvest of the population is less than 100 a year and below the maximum sustainable yield of 317.<sup>2</sup> The concern about overharvest was the possible separate "population" that winters in Greenland waters,

When considering the evidence provided by Environment Canada, the NWMB was concerned that it was not provided with the most current information available at that time.. When the NWMB makes decisions it is essential that those decisions are supported by current, reliable and persuasive evidence. Based on the information provided to the NWMB it did not believe that it was provided with current information to make an informed decision as the COSEWIC report was six years old and the Canadian summer range survey was carried out fourteen years ago (1996).

In the *Request for Decision* to the NWMB from the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service, it was indicated that you and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans were considering not to list the EHA-BB beluga population on Schedule 1 of the Act. The evidence that was submitted to the NWMB's public consideration on behalf of Environment Canada did not provide any rationale for this position and the NWMB requests in your response to the Board's decision that you provide the reasons for taking your position.

Should you have any questions or concerns with respect to this decision or the rational provided by the NWMB, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Yours sincerely,



Willie Nakoolak  
A/Chairperson of the Nunavut  
Wildlife Management Board

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<sup>1</sup> COSEWIC 2004. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the beluga whale *Delphinapterus leucas* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. p. 5

<sup>2</sup> COSEWIC 2004. p.23



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Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

**AUG 31 2010**

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

Dear Mr. Nakoolak:

Thank you for your letter of July 7, in which you present the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision with respect to the proposed listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population of beluga whale as a species of special concern under the *Species at Risk Act*. The Honourable Jim Prentice has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In your correspondence you stated that the Board does not approve the listing of this species and provided your reasons. I concur with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision. Therefore, my recommendation to the Governor in Council will be that the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population of beluga whale not be listed under the Act. This recommendation is based on consideration of the purposes of the Act, the advice of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and her officials, other available information regarding the status and threats to the species in addition to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessment, and the results of the Board's decision-making process.

I appreciate your co-operation in harmonizing the designation of species under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Wright  
A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Branch

c.c.: The Honourable Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.





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