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نهمالم 4, 2011

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November 4, 2011

Honourable Keith Ashfield Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0A6

Re: Request for abridged listing process pertaining to Northern Bottlenose Whale (Hyperoodon ampullatus) Davis Strait-Labrador Sea population under the federal Species at Risk Act

Dear Minister Ashfield:

As per s.3.3 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 or MOU), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has informed the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) of COSEWIC's assessment results of Northern Bottlenose Whale. COSEWIC re-assessed the Northern Bottlenose Whale – Davis Strait-Labrador Sea Population and moved its designation from Not at Risk (April 1993) to Special Concern (May 2011).

The Northern Bottlenose Whale occurs in Nunavut in small numbers in Davis Strait and the Labrador Sea in summer. In Canada the species is not hunted for subsistence, and it is protected from hunting and other deliberately harmful activities by the *Fisheries Act* Marine Mammal Regulations. The following are reasons for COSEWIC's Special Concern designation: (1) whaling likely reduced numbers (late 1960s to early 1970s), (2) population abundance trends are uncertain but survey sighting rates are low, and (3) fisheries interactions are an ongoing and primary threat.

In a briefing to the NWMB, DFO suggested an abridged listing process for this population. As per s.3.2 of the MOU, if DFO considers that an abridged listing process may be advisable, DFO is required to provide information and seek the views of relevant communities and Inuit organizations with respect to the population and the advisability of an abridged listing process.

DFO has indicated that it will send letters to the Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTOs) in Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River to inform them of the COSEWIC designation and ask if they would like to be consulted on a possible SARA listing of the population. DFO has also informed the NWMB that letters will be sent to

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Baffin Fisheries Coalition, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and Government of Nunavut (Department of Environment).

In consideration of the above, at the NWMB's Regular Meeting (number RM003-2011) held in Kugluktuk, Nunavut on October 17-18, 2011, the Board made the following resolution:

"RESOLVED that the NWMB request that DFO communicate with relevant industry, communities, and Inuit organizations with respect to the proposed abridged listing processes for the species as per NLCA-SARA MOU s.3.2, and inform the NWMB of the results."

As per the Board's resolution, the NWMB suggests that the Arctic Fisheries Alliance as well as Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. be added to the list of industry partners to be consulted. Following receipt of the views from relevant industry, communities and Inuit organizations the NWMB will consider DFO's suggestion for an abridged listing process for the proposed listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale as per s.3.5 of the MOU.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB at any time if you have questions or concerns with respect to the Board's request.

Sincerely,

Mikidjuk Akavak Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Richard Connelly, Executive Director, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat
Eric Kan, Eastern Arctic Area Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Raymond Ratynski, Division Manager - Species at Risk Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Ministre des Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

DEC 7 - 2011

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



Dear Mr. Akavak:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 4, 2011, in which you requested that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) communicate with relevant industry, community and Inuit organizations with respect to a possible abridged listing process for the Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Labrador Sea population).

I would like to thank the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for its continuing cooperation and consideration of DFO's request for an abridged listing process. The Department is currently in the process of contacting the fishing industry and the Hunter and Trapper Organizations near the area of occurrence of these species to determine their views on an abridged listing process. The feedback received from these organizations will be available at the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's March 2012 meeting, at which time the Board can further consider the possibility of an abridged listing process.

Once again, thank you for your prompt attention to our request.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Ashfield