



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

March 19th 2010

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Government of Canada

Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Government of Canada

Paul Kaludjak
President of Nunavut
Tunngavik Incorporated

Attima Hadari
Chairperson of the
Kitikmeot Regional

Jayko Alooloo
Vice-Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Wildlife Board

Gerald Butts
President
World Wildlife Fund

Chairpersons of the following Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs):

Grise Fiord HTO
Arctic Bay HTO

Resolute HTO
Hall Beach HTO

Pond Inlet HTO
Igloodik HTO

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Written hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to consider the listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a written hearing to consider the proposed legal listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). If a wildlife species is listed as special concern, it means that the wildlife species may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

A written hearing is one in which all submissions are filed in writing, and the hearing does not have an oral component. If you have an objection in this case to the NWMB holding a written hearing only, please respond in writing to this letter by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on **April 2nd 2010**, providing the reason or reasons for your position.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the Government of Canada's Department of Environment (EC) *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (EC Proposal) as to whether or not to list the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern under the federal SARA. The Ministers position is to not list the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population on Schedule of the Act. Also attached are the *Rules for the NWMB's Written Hearing to consider the legal listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern*. The EC Proposal, the hearing rules, and a number of additional documents

comprising the best available information to date are available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Parnaivik Building
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 975-7300
Fax: (867) 975-7320
E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation in response to the EC Proposal, or otherwise regarding concerns with the proposed legal listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern. All written materials must be filed with the NWMB – in English and Inuktitut – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on **May 14th 2010**. Unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the Board for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

Materials may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the NWMB Hearing for Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on **May 14th 2010** – that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Shortly after the deadline for delivery of the written submissions, the NWMB will consider all of the relevant evidence and arguments filed, and will make a decision.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive supporting evidence and justifications are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

Yours sincerely,



Willie Nakoolak,
Acting Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (2)

- c.c. Richard Connelly, Executive Director of the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, for distribution to the Chairpersons of Nunavut's other Hunters and Trappers Organizations;
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Virginia Potter, Director General, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service;
Eric Kan, Area Director-Eastern Arctic Region, Department of Fisheries and Oceans



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

NWMB - RECEIVED

Date: Oct 9/09

OCT 01 2009

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

I am writing to advise you of what the Minister is considering for the listing of two populations of beluga whale on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, and to request the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's approval decision. This is in accordance with subsection 3.9 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*.

In 2004, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the Cumberland Sound population of beluga whale as threatened, and the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population as special concern. Based on these assessments and in consultation with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister is considering listing the Cumberland Sound population as threatened and not listing the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population on Schedule 1 of the Act.

Please advise the Ministers of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision with respect to these proposed listing recommendations, in accordance with subsection 3.14 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the species at risk listing process.

Sincerely,

Virginia Poter
Director General
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada

c.c.: Pardeep Ahluwalia, Director General, Director General, DFO Species at Risk Directorate

NEW – The NWMB will be conducting a **Written Hearing** to consider the proposed legal listing, under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern. Hearing submissions must be filed by May 14th 2010. [Learn more...](#)

**RULES FOR THE NWMB'S WRITTEN HEARING TO
CONSIDER THE LEGAL LISTING OF THE EASTERN HIGH ARCTIC-
BAFFIN BAY BELUGA POPULATION
AS A SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN UNDER THE FEDERAL SARA**

March 19th, 2010

THE PURPOSE of this NWMB written hearing is to consider the proposed legal listing, pursuant to the federal *Species at Risk Act*, of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern.

The Government of Canada's Department of the Environment (EC) has filed – in Inuktitut and English - a *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (EC Proposal) with the NWMB, seeking a decision as to whether or not to list the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern. The EC Proposal, along with other documents comprising the best available information to date, is available for review or download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com).

RULES:

1. The NWMB shall provide notice to the public at least 30 days prior to the deadline for filing hearing submissions.
2. Any interested person or body may file with the NWMB a written submission in response to the EC Proposal, or otherwise regarding concerns with the proposed listing of the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay beluga population as a species of special concern – duly translated into Inuktitut or English as the case may be – by no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 14th 2010.
3. Unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.
4. The requirement for translation of submissions filed with the NWMB does not apply to individual members of the public.
5. The NWMB shall ensure that all materials filed with it or produced by it are made publicly available, subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns.
6. Any representative or agent of the Government of Canada or Government of Nunavut, any Hunters and Trappers Organization or Regional Wildlife Organization and any Inuk shall be accorded the status of party for the hearing.
7. Any other person or body wishing to be named as a party by the NWMB shall make an appropriate request in writing to the NWMB.