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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

ॐ 25, 2013

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Mr. Manasie Audlakiak  
A/Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

June 7, 2013

Dear Mr. Audlakiak,

As you will recall, several aquatic species in Nunavut have been assessed as "at risk" according to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has informed the Board via Briefing Notes as COSEWIC has made these assessments. Several of these species, primarily marine fish, have been the topic of an ongoing discussion on a possible abridged listing process. Five of these species, the Deepwater Redfish (Northern population) (assessed as Threatened), the Acadian Redfish (Atlantic population) (Threatened), the Roundnose Grenadier (Endangered), the Roughhead Grenadier (Special Concern) and the Northern Bottlenose Whale (Baffin Bay-Davis Strait-Labrador Sea population) (Special Concern) are now in the process of being moved forward nationally as DFO regions complete or begin consultations.

DFO intends to consult with interested communities, stakeholders and Nunavut organizations from November 2013 to January 2014 so that we may proceed with making listing decisions on these species in 2014. It is our intention to contact HTOs one final time and determine if face-to-face consultation on any of these species is desired. To date, there has been no indication of interest in "in person" consultations from any Hunters and Trappers Organizations. Additionally, we will contact and provide consultation materials to the Department of Environment in Nunavut, the fishing industry, including the Baffin Fisheries Coalition (including direct contact with Pangnirtung Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk Corp. and Cumberland Sound Fisheries if desired), and enterprise allocation holders in southern Canada to seek their opinion on listing. In addition, advertisements will be placed in regional newspapers to inform the public that these consultations are taking place.

As is customary, when consultations are complete and when the Minister has determined whether he will list or not, we will provide the best available information on the species, including the consultation results, to the Board and seek your decision as outlined in 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*.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to inform you and the Board that we will be consulting on these species with the identified groups this fall and winter. Please feel free to contact me if

there are additional Inuit organizations or stakeholders that you believe should be contacted during this process.

Best regards,



*Sam A. Stephenson, Ph.D.*  
Species at Risk Program  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
501 University Cres. Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N6

[Sam.Stephenson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Sam.Stephenson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Phone: 204.984.0577





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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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

Dear Minister Ashfield:

**Re: Decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Concerning the Abridged Listing Process for the Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Acadian Redfish – Atlantic Population, Deepwater Redfish – Northern Population, and Northern Bottlenose Whale – Baffin Bay – Davis Strait – Labrador Sea Population**

During the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM001-2013) in March 2013, Fisheries and Oceans Canada requested a decision on moving forward with the abridged listing process for five marine species proposed for listing under the *Species at Risk Act*: Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Acadian Redfish – Atlantic population, Deepwater Redfish – Northern population, and Northern Bottlenose Whale – Baffin Bay – Davis Strait – Labrador Sea population. The listing process is described in 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* (MoU). At that time the Board felt further information from Fisheries and Oceans Canada was needed before a decision could be made. The NWMB requested this additional information from Fisheries and Oceans Canada in a letter dated April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Appendix I). The requested information from Fisheries and Oceans Canada was obtained from Sam A. Stephenson in letters dated April 29<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Appendices II and III, respectively).

At the NWMB's June 2013 Regular Meeting (RM 002-2013) held in Rankin Inlet, the Board considered Fisheries and Oceans Canada's request for decision on proceeding with the abridged listing process in light of the new information that was provided by the department. The NWMB made the following decision:

*“RESOLVED that the NWMB agree to the development of abridged listing processes as per S. 2.2 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 (MoU) for the following five species: Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Acadian Redfish – Atlantic*

*population, Deepwater Redfish – Northern population, and Northern Bottlenose Whale – Baffin Bay – Davis Strait – Labrador Sea population.*

The Board also recommends that Fisheries and Oceans Canada contact and provide consultation material directly to Arctic Fishery Alliance, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, and Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization. All of these organizations currently have fisheries allocations and a vested interest in Nunavut's fisheries.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Audlakiak', written in a cursive style.

Manasie Audlakiak  
A/Chairperson of the Nunavut  
Wildlife Management Board

Enclosures (3)