

SUBMISSION TO THE NWMB  
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

**Issue** Community Consultations on the Proposed Legal Listing of the Horned Grebe as Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act (SARA)

**Background**

The Horned Grebe (Western population) was assessed as ‘Special Concern’ by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in April 2009. The purpose of this briefing is to provide you with information about the proposed listing and to give you the results of the community consultations on the listing which have occurred in Nunavut.

The Horned Grebe is a small waterbird that breeds in western Canada and winters along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America. Its breeding range includes the extreme southern part of Nunavut. The Horned Grebe has experienced both long-term and short-term declines on its wintering and breeding grounds. Threats to the species include degradation of wetland breeding habitat, droughts, increasing populations of nest predators (mostly in the Prairies), and oil spills on their wintering grounds in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. There is no evidence of population decline in the Northwest Territories, where Horned Grebe numbers have been monitored since 1986.

In October 2009 Environment Canada consulted Arviat, as the only community close to the breeding range of the Horned Grebe, through the mail. The consultation materials provided consisted of general information on the Species at Risk Act and how it works in Nunavut, and information on COSEWIC’s recommendation to list the Horned Grebe as Special Concern and the implications if the species is listed. The community was asked to respond with any questions, concerns, or information and to provide their opinion or position about the proposed listing. A copy of the consultation materials was provided to and reviewed by NWMB staff prior to the consultation.

The Arviat HTO sent in their official response (Do Not Support the proposed listing) and noted that they see the Horned Grebe around their

community, particularly inland, and refer to it as *nuyaralik* in Inuktitut. In light of Arviat's familiarity with the species, in November 2009 Environment Canada sent the consultation package to four more communities in the region—Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake. No responses have been received so far from these communities.

It is expected that consultation will also occur with the governments of other provinces and territories that have Horned Grebe, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories, as well as with relevant wildlife management boards, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public.

### **Next Steps**

Environment Canada will make a formal request for the NWMB's decision on the proposed listing of the Horned Grebe as Special Concern.

### **Recommendations**

N/A

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2 November 2009