

Response Statement - Red Knot *islandica* subspecies

December 4, 2007

Common Name: Red Knot *islandica* subspecies

Scientific Name: *Calidris canutus islandica*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Special Concern

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This subspecies is a medium-sized Arctic breeding shorebird that migrates to wintering grounds in Europe. Forty percent of the breeding population of this subspecies occurs in Canada. This subspecies has declined by 17% over the last three generations (15 years). There are no identified threats to individuals in Canada. Habitat on the Canadian breeding grounds is likely stable, but shellfish harvesting on the wintering grounds in Europe presents an ongoing threat.

Occurrence: Northwest Territories, Nunavut

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:

Northwest Territories

Nunavut

Applicable federal legislation: This species is protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation. Where it occurs in a National Wildlife Area this species is subject to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act*, which prohibits activities that could be harmful to species and to their habitat, unless a permit is issued indicating the permitted activity.

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of Environment will undertake consultations with the governments of Northwest Territories and Nunavut, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council - Northwest Territories and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Red Knot *islandica* subspecies should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act*. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Red Knot *islandica* subspecies to the GIC upon completion of consultations.