

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

Jayko Alooloo
Vice-Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Peterosie Qappik
Chairperson of the Pangnirtung
Hunters & Trappers Organization

Gerald Butts
President
World Wildlife Fund

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to consider the listing of the Cumberland Sound beluga population

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing to consider the proposed legal listing of the Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). If a wildlife species is listed as threatened, it means that the population is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction (disappearance).

The hearing will take place from June 22nd to 23rd 2010, in Pangnirtung, Nunavut. The hearing will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 22nd and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on June 23rd. The NWMB may also hold one or more evening sessions from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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 Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species. Also attached are the *Rules for the NWMB's Public Hearing to consider the legal listing of the Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species*. 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 Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species. 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 18th 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 Cumberland Sound 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 18th 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.

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 Poter, 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

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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 Public Hearing to consider the proposed legal listing, under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, of the Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species. Hearing submissions must be filed by May 18th 2010. [Learn more...](#)

RULES FOR THE NWMB'S PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE LEGAL LISTING OF THE CUMBERLAND SOUND BELUGA POPULATION AS A THREATENED SPECIES UNDER THE FEDERAL SARA

March 19th, 2010

THE PURPOSE of this NWMB hearing is to publicly consider the proposed legal listing, pursuant to the federal *Species at Risk Act*, of the Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species.

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 Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species. 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 hearing shall be open to the public, with notice provided to the public at least 45 days prior to the commencement of the hearing. Part of the hearing may be conducted in camera, where the NWMB considers that confidential or sensitive matters may be disclosed or discussed.
2. Any interested person or body may file with the NWMB a written submission and supporting documentation¹ in response to the EC Proposal, or otherwise regarding concerns with the proposed listing of Cumberland Sound as a threatened species – duly translated into Inuktitut or English as the case may be – by no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 18th 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 written submissions and supporting documentation 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. The NWMB shall provide simultaneous English and Inuktitut translation at the hearing, to the extent reasonably possible.

¹ "Supporting documentation" refers to one or more studies, articles, opinions or other documents separate from a person's or organization's written submission, filed as additional evidence and/or argument in support of that person's or organization's submission.

7. A quorum of NWMB members shall be present at the hearing.
8. 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 at the hearing.
9. 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.
10. All parties and other participants at the hearing are required to treat one another and the NWMB with respect.
11. The NWMB shall provide a reasonable opportunity for oral presentations from each of the parties at the hearing by their choice of official, expert or counsel.
12. Any member of the NWMB, the NWMB's Director of Wildlife or the NWMB's legal counsel may ask relevant questions of any party at the hearing.
13. Any party may ask relevant questions of any other party at the hearing.
14. The NWMB shall provide members of the public in attendance at the hearing a reasonable opportunity to make statements and to ask questions of the parties and the NWMB.
15. Every person at the hearing wishing to speak or ask a question shall raise his or her hand, and shall only speak once the NWMB Chairperson has recognized him or her.
16. The NWMB Chairperson reserves the right to place reasonable time limits on presentations, statements and questions.
17. The NWMB shall make an audio recording of the hearing available upon request.



Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

LCY 19, 2010

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LC# 19, 2010

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