

# **SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**



## **FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Peary and Dolphin- Union Populations of Caribou as Endangered or Threatened.

## **Background:**

In April, the USFWS released a petition from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) requesting that the Peary and Dolphin Union caribou populations be listed as threatened or endangered under the United States' Species Act (1973). Although these populations are not found in the United States, there is a division of the US Government that is dedicated to foreign species; over 1,800 species that do not occur in the US are currently listed as at-risk under their Species Act.

The listing process in the USA involves a petition where the USFWS asks interested parties to submit information concerning species biology, range, habitat requirements, population trends, and other relevant information which is used in an assessment of the species status. If it is determined that a listing is warranted, the assessment results are posted for one-year during which time the public is invited to provide comments on the report. These comments are then considered in making a final ruling as to whether or not the species is listed.

## **Overview:**

In the petition, it is stated that a potential listing is supported because of the negative effects that climate change may have on habitat, feeding, and movement patterns resulting from changing weather patterns. The USFWS believes that international climate change regulations are not strict enough to effectively mediate this threat to the species.

In response to the first stage of the listing process, NWMB wildlife staff submitted information to the USFWS relevant to the management of Peary and Dolphin-Union caribou in Nunavut. This information will be considered during the species assessment. During the next stage of the listing process, NWMB wildlife staff propose to prepare a submission opposing the listing of the species by the United States in partnership with the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (GN-DoE) and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)<sup>1</sup>. Staff believe that a joint submission will be more influential and will demonstrate a cooperative approach to wildlife management in the Territory.

Staff will keep the Board updated on this situation as it unfolds, and will seek Board approval of any draft submission.

**Prepared By:** Rebecca Jeppesen, Wildlife Management Biologist  
**Consulted:** Adam Schneidmiller, Director of Wildlife Management  
**Date:** May 24, 2010

---

<sup>1</sup> This approach has been proposed by NWMB staff, no confirmation has been received to date from GN-DoE or NTI.