SUBMISSION TO THE NWMB FOR

Information: Decision: X

Issue: Approval of Recovery Strategy for the Ivory Gull pursuant to the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA)

Background: The Ivory Gull is a seabird found only in the Arctic that was listed as *Endangered* on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* in 2009.

Ivory Gulls are medium-sized, pure white gulls that nest in the High Arctic in Nunavut, and migrate to Davis Strait in the winter. The population in Nunavut has declined by more than 70% since the 1980s, as confirmed by local ecological knowledge (LEK) and survey work by the CWS and High Arctic communities. Ivory Gulls also nest in Greenland, Norway and Russia, and populations there seem to have declined a little, but not as much as in Canada.

Community Contact and Consultation

The CWS collected LEK on Ivory Gulls around southern Baffin Island in 2000 (Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Pangnirting) and in the High Arctic in 2001 and 2004 (Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet). Since 2002, the CWS has been surveying all known colonies (2002-2006, 2009), as well as annual surveys at Seymour Island (2002-2011).

Aside from LEK work, CWS has consulted with communities on the status and uplisting of Ivory Gulls by FAX and email (2005-2011), and in community presentations in Resolute Bay (January 2006, August 2008, June 2009, November 2009), Arctic Bay (December 2005) and Grise Fiord (Jan 2006). We have also presented results on the Ivory Gull in Nunavut to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board almost annually between 2001-2007. After consultations with communities, we received a support letter for the uplisting from the Iviq HTO in Grise Fiord (but nothing from Arctic Bay or Resolute Bay). In 2007, the NWMB approved the recommendation to uplist this species to *Endangered* (Resolution 2007-161).

On the Recovery Strategy for this species, CWS met and consulted with the Resolute Bay HTA in March 2011 and received written approval for the strategy. Information packages were sent to Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord in May

2011, and Arctic Bay has indicated support for the strategy (August 2011), but no response has been received yet from the Iviq HTA.

Recovery Strategy: The draft recovery strategy for Ivory Gull addresses most of the issues that were highlighted in the Status Report. The recovery plan recommends several research and management activities relevant to Nunavut. Those that the CWS has been working on since 2009 include:

- 1) establish critical habitat as a 2 km radius around the centre of all colonies that have had a gull present at least once since 2002. Establishing these sites as critical habitat means that no activities that directly result in the destruction of that habitat can occur within 2 km;
- 2) survey all known colonies once every three years to determine if the population is changing;
- 3) continue to work with Greenland to minimize illegal shooting of gulls;
- 4) conduct local knowledge study on Ivory Gulls in Grise Fiord;
- 5) monitor for evidence of Ivory Gulls killed during winter oil spills;
- 6) continue international cooperation and increase efforts to inform the public, government and industry of the Ivory Gull status; and
- 7) conduct satellite telemetry study to determine migration and wintering areas.

Other activities suggested in the Recovery Strategy include:

- 8) investigate possibility of minimizing predation by bears and foxes at some colonies;
- 9) survey areas north of known colony locations to look for new colonies;
- 10) sample eggs and feathers to examine whether contaminants continue to be a threat to Ivory Gulls.

In 2009-11, CWS continued its work on points 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7.

Recommendations:

The Ivory Gull Recovery Strategy is complete. The CWS seeks NWMB support of the Recovery Strategy.

Prepared by: Mark Mallory

12 August 2011

Canadian Wildlife Service, Iqaluit

Resolute Bay Hunters' and Trappers' Organization P.O. Box 61 Resolute Bay, NU X0A 0V0

24 March 2011

Canadian Wildlife Service Iqalult, NU

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RE: Field Work at Nasaruvaalik Island and Prince Leopold Island

On 21 March 2011, Mark Mallory presented information on the bird work conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service at Nasaruvaslik Island and Prince Leopold Island.

The Resolute Bay HTA supports the continued work at these sites.

Sincerely,

Philip Manik

Chair, Resolute Bay HTA

Resolute Bay Hunters' and Trappers' Organization P.O. Box 61 Resolute Bay, NU X0A 0V0

24 March 2011

Canadian Wildlife Service Iqaluit, NU

RE: Ivory Gull Recovery Strategy

Mark Mallory presented information on the Ivory Gull Recovery Strategy on 21 March 2011, which followed updates on this species from the Canadian Wildlife Service since 2002.

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The potential threats to Ivory Gulls in Canada are:

- · Illegal shooting
- · AP#CD1PCC1- olc
- Predation
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- Industrial activities
- · Astaye Verdos
- · Research and monitoring
- · かりかんかつかく イントン かりかんかくしつもくころしく
- Climate change
- * YCD 4 AND 446-00-000
- Contaminants
- · 121210) 00
- Oil pollution

The planned actions under the recovery strategy were identified as "what do we think needs to be done", as follows:

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Illegal shooting

Continue to work with Greenland to ensure communities do not shoot Ivory Gulls

 they are protected there but the laws may be ignored

CAPCECD1PCC10-06CC

Predation

 Investigate feasibility of protecting certain colonies during breeding season to keep predators (bears, foxes) away until chicks leave

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Industrial activities

- · Continue to work with mining companies to keep 2 km away from colonies
- · Critical habitat will be 2 km buffer around known colonies

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Research and Monitoring

· Conduct LEK study in Grise Fiord

- Use satellite transmitters at Seymour Island to determine key migration and winter areas
- Reduce surveys to 1 every 3 years
- · Survey Princess Marie Bay and Alexandra Fiord for unknown colonies
- · Continue international cooperation

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Climate change

- Little we can do directly on this
- Continue to encourage activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions

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Contaminants

 Continue to sample eggs or feathers to determine if contaminants in Ivory Gulls are changing and if they threaten health

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Oil spills • Monitor for evidence of Ivory Gulls killed by oiling during the winter off of Newfoundland - increased shipping
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The Resolute Bay HTA has the following opinion on the Ivory Gull Recovery Strategy:
We support the Recovery Strategy
We do not support the Recovery Strategy
We have no opinion on the Recovery Strategy
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Sincerely,

Philip Manik 5 V Chair, Resolute Bay HTA

From: HTO Manager [mailto:hto_ab@qiniq.com] Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2011 9:36 AM

To: Mallory, Mark [Iqa]

Subject: RE: Ivory Gull Recovery Strategy

Hi Mark:

Your letter was supported at our last night's regular meeting, formal letter will follow sometime this week

Jack

^{*} Letter not received by CWS at the time the briefing material was drafted