

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Approval decision for the Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) (Atlantic population) Management Plan.

Background:

The Fin Whale (Atlantic population) was assessed by the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a species of Special Concern in 2005 and added to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk List in 2006. The NWMB was notified of the COSEWIC assessment and asked to make a decision on listing in 2006. As a species of Special Concern, the requirement under the *Species at Risk Act* calls for the creation of a Management Plan.

Article 5.2.34 (d) (i) of the Nunavut Agreement states that the NWMB shall, at its discretion, approve plans for management, classification, protection, restocking or propagation, cultivation or husbandry of particular wildlife, including endangered species. Details of how to achieve approval of management plans are not addressed under the 2008 "*A memorandum of understanding to harmonize the designation of rare, threatened and endangered species under the Nunavut Lands Claim Agreement and the listing of wildlife species under the Species at Risk Act*".

The proposed Fin Whale (Atlantic population) Management Plan (attached) has been completed and is now undergoing review as part of the federal government's approvals process. As part of this process, the NWMB is requested to review the proposed document. The Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board is also being requested to review the proposed Management Plan.

Recommendations:

The NWMB review the Fin Whale (Atlantic population) Management Plan and decide whether or not to approve it by October 2012.

Prepared by:

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Date:

02 August 2012