

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status updates and *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) listing process for the Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Atlantic Redfish, Deepwater Redfish and Northern Bottlenose Whale.

Background:

As per 3.3 of the Harmonized Listing Process, DFO has previously informed NWMB of COSEWIC assessment results for these four marine fish species (Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Atlantic Redfish and Deepwater Redfish) and the Northern Bottlenose Whale. DFO originally did not intend to proceed with the listing process for species that occur in Nunavut and Nunavik waters until an MOU had been developed and approved to harmonize the SARA listing process with the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement. However, DFO subsequently decided these species, not normally captured in Inuit subsistence fisheries, could be moved forward. In September of 2011, DFO asked for the Board to consider the possibility of an abridged listing process (as per 2.2 of the Harmonized Listing Process) for these species. DFO suggested that consultations could be streamlined as there were no records or subsistence use of these species.

As part of this process, DFO sent letters to Hunters and Trappers Organizations adjacent to the areas where these species are found to ask for their input on whether or not these species were important to their communities or members. No responses were received. Emails were sent requesting their interest in these species. No responses were received. Following discussions with Board members at a meeting the following year, it was suggested that phone calls be made to try to elicit some comments.

The original materials were resent and phone calls were made. Despite repeated attempts and several messages left with the Amaruq (Iqaluit) Hunters and Trappers, there have been no comments received from this HTO. There was no response from the Pangnirtung HTO and without an answering machine, there was no way to leave a phone message. The Nangmoutaq (Clyde River) HTO said they would respond once they discussed the issue, but ultimately they did not. The manager of the Nativak (Qikiqtarjuaq) HTO said that redfish and grenadiers are caught only in the commercial fishery. He stated that they felt that bottlenose in the water of Nunavut Settlement Area are healthy, even though harvesters rarely see them.

The fishing industry was also asked to identify the importance of these species to their operations. The Baffin Fisheries Coalition and Pangnirtung Fisheries replied that they wished to be consulted further.

Note that if there is an abridged process, there will still be consultations regarding these species, but they would be limited in nature as there seems to be little interest in them, especially based on response, or lack of response, from HTOs.

If Northern Bottlenose Whale or Roughhead Grenadier are listed as species of Special Concern, a management plan will be required. Listing would have no effect on Inuit harvesting.

Should Roundnose Grenadier, Atlantic Redfish or Deepwater Redfish be listed as Threatened or Endangered species, automatic prohibitions would come into effect which could have an impact, particularly on the fishing industry.

DFO is continuing the development of our best available scientific information as well as the socio-economic advice for the potential listing of the previously mentioned marine fish species and the Northern Bottlenose Whale.

DFO is in the process of determining which aquatic species currently on hold may be moved forward in regards to further discussions with the NWMB, including the timing of such consultation.

Recommendations:

That the NWMB consider the information presented by Central and Arctic Region DFO and provide the Board's position on the proposed abridged listing process for Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Acadian Redfish, Deepwater Redfish and Northern Bottlenose Whale by September 20, 2013. The decision required is as follows: agree with abridged listing process or not.

Prepared by:

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Date: January 31, 2013