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SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD (NWMB)

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Proposed Management Plan for the Peregrine Falcon
anatum/tundrius



Background: The Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* is a medium to large sized falcon. It breeds in Alaska, Greenland and throughout the North American mainland. In Canada, it breeds in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island and the island of Newfoundland (see Figure 1). The Peregrine Falcon is under provincial and territorial jurisdiction, however it is also protected under other acts and regulations such as the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

The Peregrine Falcon was originally assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as three different subspecies: *anatum* subspecies (Endangered in April 1978, Threatened in April 1999 and in May 2000); *tundrius* subspecies (Threatened in April 1978 and Special Concern in April 1992); and the *pealei* subspecies (Special Concern in April 1978, April 1999 and November 2001). In April 2007 COSEWIC reassessed the Peregrine Falcon as two separate units combining the *anatum* and *tundrius* subspecies into one subspecies and the *pealei* remaining a separate subspecies. The *anatum/tundrius* subspecies

was assessed by COSEWIC as Special Concern and it was listed as Special Concern on Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act* in 2012.

The Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* was downlisted to Special Concern because populations of this species have shown continuing increases in size since the 1970s and have reached near-historic numbers. This recovery has resulted from reintroductions of the species across much of southern Canada and natural increases following the ban of harmful pesticides (such as DDT) in Canada. The use of these harmful pesticides continues on the wintering grounds of this species but does not appear to be at levels that significantly affect reproduction. There is still concern regarding the unknown effects of new pesticides regularly used in Canada.

Management Plan:

Under SARA, there are no requirements to restrict harvest or regulate habitat for species that are listed as Special Concern. There is a requirement to develop a management plan within 3 years of a species being listed.

The proposed management plan objective is to have a self-sustaining population of Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* in its entire home range in Canada within the next 10 years. Many conservation measures are already in place, however this plan also presents a number of additional conservation measures with regards to reducing threats to the species, evaluating the impacts of those threats, strengthening the protection of nesting sites and improving our knowledge of these populations, particularly those populations located in the North.

Currently there are several research projects looking at the effects of climate, the effects of accumulated contaminants, and reproductive behaviour and survival rates of Peregrine Falcons in Nunavut. There is also a study looking at the effects of alternate food sources provided to young Peregrine Falcons on their nesting growth and survival.

In an effort to meet the management objective, the proposed management plan recommends four general strategies: reduce threats and assess their impacts; improve the protection of nesting sites; improve knowledge regarding northern populations of the species in Canada; and regularly assess the Canadian population trend and its productivity.

It is further suggested that there should be special attention given to northern regions, where some threats such as climate change may give rise to a higher level of concern. It is believed that the proportion of the Canadian population nesting in the north could be much larger than originally believed and therefore more knowledge is necessary regarding northern populations.

Community Consultation:

Environment Canada's proposed method of consultation on the proposed management plan for Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* is to send out information packages, this September, to 23 Nunavut communities within the range of the species. The information will provide information about the proposed management plan and give communities an opportunity to provide information/ask questions and to decide whether in person meetings will be required. Information packages will be comprised of:

- a letter to the HTO/HTA (in English and Inuktitut)
- a plain language summary of the proposed management plan (in English and Inuktitut)
- a copy of the complete proposed management plan (in English only)
- a narrated powerpoint presentation summarizing the proposed management plan (in English and Inuktitut)
- a questionnaire/response form for the HTO/HTA to indicate whether they support/do not support/are indifferent to the proposed management plan (in English and Inuktitut)

The communities we plan to consult are: Arctic Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Bathurst Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pangirtunq, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, Sanikiluaq, Taloyoak, Umingmaktok and Whale Cove. We will be asking for their response by October 30th, 2014 so that we may present the results at the NWMB quarterly meeting in December to ask for a final decision.



Figure 1. This is Figure 1 adapted from the COSEWIC Assessment and Status Summary for Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius*. It indicates the breeding distribution of the *anatum/tundrius* subspecies in North America. The question marks indicate areas where their range is unconfirmed but possible.

Prepared by:

Lisa Pirie
Canadian Wildlife Service, Iqaluit

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