



AUG 09 2019

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
c/o Taqialuq Sataa
tsataa@nwmb.com

Dear Mr. Schewchuk:

I am writing to follow up on former Minister LeBlanc's letter to you dated April 26, 2018, to inform you that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will seek the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) approval for the final drafts of recovery documents for aquatic species at risk (SAR) as described in Article 5.2.34 (d) (i) of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA), and in accordance with the approval process in the NLCA.

This is the culmination of a series of communications, starting in 2016, between you and my predecessors requesting the NWMB approve the final drafts of the 1) Action Plan for Blue Whale, Northwest Atlantic population; 2) Amended Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish, and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish; and 3) Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish. The final drafts of these recovery documents are ready for your approval, in accordance with the NLCA, and are enclosed with this letter. The two Wolffish documents have been translated into Inuktitut. For the Blue Whale Action Plan, due to the species' rareness in waters adjacent to Nunavut, only the Executive Summary has been translated.

I would appreciate if these three documents could be placed on the agenda for the NWMB's September 2019 meeting. Following review, please convey your approval to my Office at the earliest opportunity following the meeting. The same process will now be applied to all applicable forthcoming DFO SAR recovery strategies, action plans and management plans.

I also want to reiterate DFO's desire to work with Environment and Climate Change Canada and the NWMB to update the 2008 MOU, "A Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk Act*" to reflect relationships as we move forward together in recovery planning and implementation for species at risk.

I thank you for your ongoing support in the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk, and I look forward to your continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jonathan Wilkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" and last name "Wilkinson" clearly distinguishable.

Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

Enclosures:

1. Action Plan for Blue Whale, Northwest Atlantic population [English only]
2. Executive Summary of the Action Plan for Blue Whale, Northwest Atlantic population [Inuktitut]
3. Amended Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish, and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish [English and Inuktitut]
4. Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish [English and Inuktitut]



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