

Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population)

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was notified of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) assessment for Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population) in the fall of 2011 and DFOs intent to consult in Nunavut. The Board was also updated on the state of consultations for this and other species in September 2012 and again in March 2013. The Northern Bottlenose Whale was one of several species which was part of an abridged listing process approved by the Board in June 2013.

The following outlines all communication with industry, Nunavut Government and organizations created under the Nunavut Land Claim.

Nunavut Land Claim

Contact via: phone calls, emailing of materials and several hard copy mailings of materials beginning December 2011 and ending November 2013. Ad in *Nunatsiaq News* in November of 2013 informing public of public consultation period and link to Species at Risk website.

Pangnirtung HTO: No comment.

Clyde River HTO: No comment.

Qikiqtarjuaq HTO: Provided comments (October 2012) that HTO thought the Northern Bottlenose Whale population was healthy even though harvesters rarely saw them and even fewer harvested them. Did not state if they did or did not support listing.

Iqaluit HTO: No comment.

Nunavut Government

Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: Comment was made (2012) that due to a reduction in long line use, Northern Bottlenose Whale were no longer threatened by the commercial fishery. The department was supportive of creating a management plan, which seems to support listing (Special Concern species require a management plan). No other comments received.

Industry

Arctic Fishery Alliance: Asked for additional time to provide comments, but didn't. No statement received as to agreement or disagreement with listing.

Baffin Fisheries Coalition: No comments for or against listing. BFC did submit a report commissioned by the Marine Institute of Newfoundland and Labrador which discussed the COSEWIC and SARA processes.

Pangnirtung Fisheries, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Niqitaq Fisheries,

Nunavut Offshore Allocations Holders Association: No comment.

Summary:

Despite sending information numerous times via Express Post and email and trying to contact organizations to elicit a direct response by telephone, there were very few responses. No group or individual in Nunavut spoke for or against listing. Considering the length of time over which industry and Hunters and Trappers Organizations were repeatedly contacted (*i.e.*, more than 2 years) as well as the number of times they were contacted (at least 7 times for communities and 5 times for industry, excluding phone calls which most often were not answered or returned), it is probably very fair to say that there is very little interest in this species. There were no comments received from the public on the

possible listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale despite the ad in *Nunatsiaq News* which pointed people to the Species at Risk public registry website where they could comment on listing.

A list of materials sent, where, when and how, appears in Appendix A.

Appendix B presents information on responses received in two DFO regions (Central and Arctic, Newfoundland and Labrador) consulting on the listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population).

APPENDIX A:

CONTACT WITH HTOs:

December 2011 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community

July 2012 – Letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) again asking if these species were important to the community

October 2012 – Emailing of all information previously sent (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) and advising I would be phoning to seek answer as to importance and use of these species by community

November-December 2012 – Calls to all HTOs see if these species were used or important to community. Messages left with Iqaluit HTO, no answer/answering machine at any other.

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email notifying that public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale was now open on the Species at Risk public registry website (link to site provided), that ad had recently appeared in *Nunatsiaq News* informing the public of the same information, and, provided copies of English, French and Inuktitut information sheet.

CONTACT WITH INDUSTRY:

December 2011 – Letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking for expression of interest in these species

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired

November 2013 – Email notifying industry that public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale was now open on the Species at Risk public registry site (link to site provided), that ad had recently appeared in *Nunatsiaq News* outlining this same information, and, provided copies of English, French and Inuktitut information sheet.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

December 2011 – Email of letter to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community

August 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) stating I would like their opinion on listing and that I could meet with them if desired.

September 2013 – Express Post letter with information on four fish species and Northern Bottlenose Whale (fact sheets and COSEWIC assessments) saying I had not heard of any concerns, asked for opinion on listing and I could meet with them if desired.

November 2013 – Email notifying that public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale was now open on the Species at Risk public registry website (link to site provided), that ad had recently appeared in *Nunatsiaq News* informing the public of the same information, and, provided copies of English, French and Inuktitut information sheet.

CONTACT WITH PUBLIC:

Ad placed in *Nunatsiaq News* in November 2013 (English, French and Inuktitut) which advised people of the three month public consultation period for Northern Bottlenose Whale and identified the Species at Risk public registry website as a location with more information and a questionnaire on the listing process.

APPENDIX B: Total responses received in two DFO regions (including Central & Arctic – Nunavut) consulting on Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population). Not specified means some form of comments were received, but it was not stated if they supported listing or not.

Breakdown of Responses by Category

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

List - 0

Do not list – 0

Not specified – 2 (1 possibly supporting listing)

Aboriginal Organizations:

List – 0

Do not list – 0

No concerns – 1

Not specified – 1

Industry

List – 0

Do not list – 0

Not specified – 1

Summary of all Responses

List – 0

Do not list – 0

Not specified or no concerns with possible listing – 5