



Mr. Daniel Shewchuck
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

I am writing to you concerning the proposed additions of three whales to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). They are the Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait – Baffin Bay – Labrador Sea), the Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland), and the Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic – Eastern Arctic). All three have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife Species (COSEWIC) as Special Concern.

On the advice of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister of the Environment will be considering recommending to Governor in Council that these species be added as Special Concern to Schedule 1 of SARA. I am therefore writing to request the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's approval decision on each of these additions. This request is in accordance with the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, Articles 5.2.34 (f) and 5.3.16. It is also in accordance with subsection 3.9 of the 2008 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 SARA.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is sharing the best available information and the consultation summaries for these species. You will find these documents attached, for your consideration.

If the Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland), the Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic – Eastern Arctic) and the Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait – Baffin Bay – Labrador Sea) are added to the List under SARA as Special Concern, SARA's prohibitions will not apply. Listing a species as Special Concern supports appropriate management, to prevent it from becoming Threatened or Endangered. SARA requires the development and publication of a management plan with measures appropriate for the conservation of the species. It will be developed in cooperation with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and other authorized wildlife management boards as well as provincial and territorial governments, to the extent possible. The cooperation of other Indigenous Peoples and organizations that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans considers will be directly affected must also be sought.

When you send your decision to the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment, please copy me (julie.spallin@canada.ca) and Ms. Julie Stewart, Director Integrated Species at Risk, at julie.stewart@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the conservation of species at risk.

Sincerely,

Julie Spallin
Director General, Wildlife management
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada

cc. Kate Ladell,
A/Director General, Biodiversity Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada