

Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population)

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was notified of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) assessment of Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population) in October of 2009 and DFOs intent to consult in Nunavut. The Board was updated on the state of consultations for all species in Nunavut, including Bowhead Whale, in September 2012. The Board was notified of the upcoming consultation for Bowhead Whale in August 2014.

The following outlines all communication and results from the public, Nunavut Government and organizations created under the Nunavut Land Claim during the consultation period.

Nunavut Land Claim

Contact via: phone calls, emailing of materials and several hard copy mailings of materials beginning January 2015 and ending April 2015. All materials provided in English and Inuktitut. Ads in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015. Final email in March notifying of upcoming end of consultation period. Follow up phone calls to those HTOs which had not responded.

HTOs

Disagree with listing: Coral Harbour, Clyde River, Repulse Bay.

No concerns with listing: Arviat, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Resolute Bay.

Bowhead not found in their area, no comment: Ominghaktok, Sanikiluaq.

No response: Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Taloyoak, Whale Cove.

Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board: No comment, but materials primarily sent as "for your information".

Nunavut Government

Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing: No comment.

Summary:

There was no support for listing Bowhead Whale in Nunavut while three HTOs stated that Bowhead Whale should not be listed. Despite sending information numerous times via Express Post and/or email and trying to contact organizations by phone, there were few responses (44% response rate from HTOs contacted). There was no interest in a face to face meeting from any HTO. There were no comments received from the general public in Nunavut despite the ad in *Nunatsiaq News* which pointed people to the Species at Risk public registry website where they could have commented on listing.

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

Appendix B presents information on responses received in three DFO regions (Central and Arctic, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador) consulting on the listing of Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population).

APPENDIX A: Date of contact and materials sent to Nunavut.

CONTACT WITH HTOs:

January 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Bowhead Whale (fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment) stating consultations were beginning and DFO would like their opinion on listing and that in person meetings could be arranged if desired. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Express Post letter with information on Bowhead Whale including fact sheet, questionnaire and link to species assessment asking if these species were used by or considered important to the community. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

February 2015 – Email to HTOs reminding them of the consultation on Bowhead Whale. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Express Post letter with information Bowhead Whale (fact sheets and questionnaire) stating that only a few HTOs had been heard from and again asked for an opinion on possible listing before the consultation period ended. Included link to the SARA public registry where information was available in both English and Inuktitut.

March 2015 – Email informing that the consultation period was over, but that DFO would still be accepting any comments on listing. Provided links to Species at Risk public registry website and provided internet link to COSEWIC status report on Bowhead Whale. Provided copies of Bowhead Whale fact sheet and questionnaire that had been sent previously.

March-April 2015 – Phone calls to/messages left with HTOs that had not yet responded to determine if they had looked at materials and had any comments regarding the possible listing of Bowhead Whale.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT INUIT WILDLIFE SECRETARIAT, NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC., QIKIQTAAALUK WILDLIFE BOARD:

January 2015 – Express Post FYI notice of intent to consult along with information on Bowhead Whale including fact sheet, questionnaire and COSEWIC reason for assessment (same information as sent to HTOs).

January 2015 – Emailed same information as that sent to HTOs to NWMB Wildlife Biologist to further inform the Board of the consultations.

CONTACT WITH NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT:

January 2015 – Express Post of letter to Fisheries and Sealing, Department of Environment, with information on Bowhead Whale including fact sheets and COSEWIC reason for assessment asking if there was any opinion on listing.

CONTACT WITH PUBLIC:

Ad placed in *Nunatsiaq News* in January 2015 (English, French and Inuktitut) which advised people of public consultation period for Bowhead 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 all DFO regions (including Central & Arctic – Nunavut) consulting on Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland 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

Aboriginal Organizations:

List – 0

Do not list – 5

Not specified – 1

No concerns – 8

Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g., World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club):

List – 1

Do not list – 0

Stakeholders

Not specified – 2

Public:

List – 3

Do not list – 0

Summary of Canadian Responses

List – 4

Do not list – 5

Not specified or no concerns with possible listing – 11

Non-Canadian responses:

List – 1

Do not list – 0