



Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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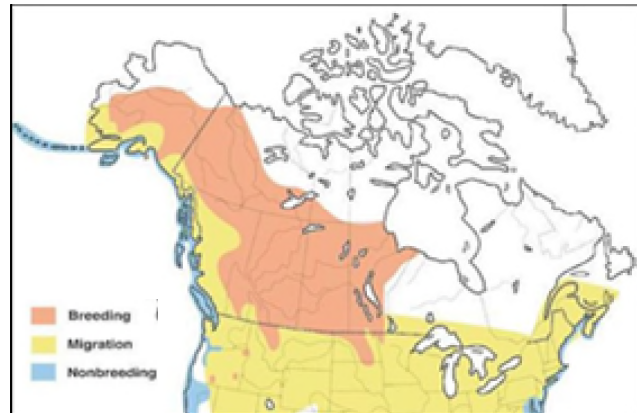
Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Request for decision of approval of the *Management Plan for the Horned Grebe* (*Podiceps auritus*), *Western population, in Canada* under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).



Horned Grebe – Species of Special Concern



Distribution of the Horned Grebe in North America
(adapted from the Cornell Lab – Birds of North America's
Website, Stedman, 2018)

Background:

- The North American Horned Grebe is a small water bird whose population is divided into two distinct populations: the Western Population (most individuals), and a small long standing breeding population on the Magdalen Islands in Quebec.
- The Western population is the subject of the Management Plan.
- The Horned Grebe, Western population is found breeding in Canada from the Yukon to the extreme northwestern part of Ontario.
- In Nunavut, the range extends only into the southwestern corner of the mainland.
- Approximately 92% of the breeding range is in Canada, but also extends into Alaska, Montana and North Dakota.
- The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed the Horned Grebe as a Species of Special Concern in 2009 and was listed on Schedule 1 of Canada's *Species at Risk Act* in 2017. A species of Special Concern is sensitive to changes in its environment, but is not currently in danger of becoming extinct. The Horned Grebe was listed as Special Concern because of long-term and short-term declines and no evidence to suggest this trend will be reversed in the future.

- Threats include:
 - Wetland loss and degradation, and droughts (climate change), reducing the availability of breeding sites
 - Fisheries bycatch and oil spills
 - Diseases, collisions with power lines and wind turbines
 - Increased nest predation by crows, ravens, magpies, gulls, mink and foxes
- As required under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), a management plan must be developed for species listed as Special Concern.
- The management plan is a plan that identifies the goals and objectives for maintaining sustainable population levels for Horned Grebe. A summary of the management plan is attached.

Consultation:

- The draft Management Plan for the first Jurisdictional Review was distributed on September 5th, 2019 to the Government of Nunavut, Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.
- An email was also sent to the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization with a PowerPoint, factsheet and Management Plan on September 16th, 2019.
 - Arviat HTO responded on November 20th, 2019 acknowledging that the Horned Grebe item was received as information. The board noted that there are not many Horned Grebe around Arviat and that it does not affect this region.
- 'Support to post request' was sent to Government of Nunavut in November 2020.
 - The Government of Nunavut indicated they had no issue with the document being posted for public comment period.
- The proposed recovery document was posted on the Species at Risk Registry on May 6th 2021 for a 90-day public comment period which ended August 4th 2021.
 - An email was sent on May 18th, 2021 (in English and Inuktitut) to the Government of Nunavut, NWMB, Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Arviat HTO and the Hamlet of Arviat.
 - The email comprised of a Summary document and the Proposed Management Plan. ECCC considered comments received during this 90-day public comment period and revised the document accordingly.

Next Steps:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada is now prepared to post the recovery document on the Species at Risk Registry as final.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada is providing the recovery document to the NWMB for final approval decision as per the NLCA s. 5.2.34

Recommendation:

- That the NWMB approve the final Management Plan for the Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Western population, in Canada under the federal Species at Risk Act as per the NLCA s.5.2.34.