



Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Pêches et Océans Canada

2011-04-06

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
P.O. Box 1379  
Lot 924 Parnaivik Building  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
X0A 0H0

Enclosed find English and Inuktitut versions of "Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Atlantic Cod (Arctic lakes population) under the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* March 2011".

According to the MOU signed between the NWMB and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada, this information should be submitted by us to you by approximately April 15 (mid-April according to 3.8 of the MOU) for further distribution.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Sam A. Stephenson, Ph.D.  
Species at Risk Program  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
501 University Cres.  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N6

Sam.Stephenson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca  
204-984-0577 Fax 204984-2403

**Summary of consultations on the potential listing of Atlantic Cod (Arctic lakes population) under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)  
March 2011**

**NUNAVUT**

**Amaruq Hunters and Trappers**

The Iqaluit (Amaruq) HTA indicated they neither support nor do not support listing of Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes population) primarily because they stated Inuit rarely fish these lakes and therefore the populations are seen as having little direct importance to them. However, they would not like to see the lake populations of Atlantic Cod disappear.

**Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers**

During an HTA Board meeting held in Pangnirtung on January 26, 2011, participants indicated they did not support adding the Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes population) to the *Species at Risk Act* list as a species of Special Concern. Reasons given included Inuit only very rarely harvest these fish, they do not see any evidence of declines in the populations they know of and they believe there are many more lakes with these types of fish in them. They also did not feel it necessary to protect Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes population) in these three lakes which are rarely fished while other similar lakes containing cod would still be open to fishing. While the members of the HTA did not want the populations to disappear, they felt there was no reason to protect these three populations, at this time.

**Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment**

Following a meeting with staff at the Department of Environment (DoE) in Iqaluit on January 28, 2011, the DoE submitted comments on behalf of the Government of Nunavut and was not supportive of listing. They stated that the re-assessment by COSEWIC did not include adequate Aboriginal traditional knowledge, there was little new scientific information, the only change being the separation of lake and marine populations in different designated units and that the social and economic impacts of any harvest restrictions were unknown. They, however, supported the development of a management plan and research on the distribution of Atlantic Cod in other similar lakes on Baffin Island. They also inquired why Atlantic Cod in these particular lakes are considered for listing but not other similar lakes that they believe contain Atlantic Cod.

**NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION**

The World Wildlife Fund-Canada indicated they supported listing of Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes population) under SARA as a species of Special Concern because a management plan would help to ensure that the current population is managed sustainably and a relatively unexploited Arctic Lakes population (*i.e.*, compared to marine Atlantic cod populations) could provide an opportunity to study natural processes. The geographic isolation of the Arctic Lakes population has led to a distinct genetic structure which may be important to species and system adaptation prospects.

Prepared by: Sam Stephenson, Species at Risk group, DFO, Winnipeg