



Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

DEC 12 2011

Mr. Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

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Dear Mr. Akavak:

I am writing to advise you what the Minister is considering with respect to his recommendation to the Governor in Council regarding a listing decision for the Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, and to request the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's approval decision. This request is being made in accordance with subsection 3.9 of the 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 the *Species at Risk Act* (MOU).

In April 2010, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population as special concern. In accordance with this assessment, the Minister is considering recommending to the Governor in Council that the Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population be added to Schedule 1 of the Act as a species of special concern.

Your response will correspond with subsection 3.14 of the MOU. To help inform your decision, please find attached the following best available information.

1. Excerpt of COSEWIC status report, English and Inuktitut;
2. Response Statement, English and Inuktitut;
3. Consultation Summary, English and Inuktitut;
4. Socio-Economic Analysis, English and Inuktitut; and
5. NWMB information briefing notes presented to the Board last year.

I hope the Board will be able to provide public notice at its March 2012 meeting, with public consideration as per clause 3.13 at its subsequent meeting. The Board would then begin its decision making process immediately thereafter. Please let me know if these timelines are acceptable.



I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the species at risk listing process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'VP' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Virginia Poter
Director General
Canadian Wildlife Service

Enclosures

cc: Sharon Ashley – Director General, Ecosystems Management, Fisheries and
Oceans Canada
Eric Kan, Area Director, Eastern Arctic Area, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dale Nicholson, Regional Director, Ecosystems Management, Fisheries and
Oceans Canada
Ray Ratynski, Regional Manager, Species at Risk, Fisheries and Oceans Canada