QUEBEC REGION (including NUNAVIK) – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE POSSIBLE LISTING OF:

- NORTHERN BOTTLENOSE WHALE (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population)
- BOWHEAD WHALE (Eastern Canada-West Greenland population)
- KILLER WHALE (Northwest Atlantic-Eastern Arctic population)

The following is an overview of all communications and feedback, including those from organizations representing Inuit interests and rights under the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA).

NORTHERN BOTTLENOSE WHALE

Consultation effort and results: Although a small portion of the Northern Bottlenose Whale range is within the territory covered by the NILCA, the presence of this species is considered to be exceptional, if not non-existent, in this region. Nevertheless, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) was notified in writing on June 28, 2013 that consultations would be held regarding several species, including the Northern Bottlenose Whale. No response was received. Public consultations took place on the Species at Risk Public Registry regarding the potential listing of Northern Bottlenose Whale from November 28, 2013 to February 28, 2014; no in-person consultations were held in Nunavik regarding Northern Bottlenose Whale during that time.

BOWHEAD WHALE AND KILLER WHALE

Consultation effort (both species):

- On September 4, 2014, the NMRWB was notified in writing of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessment of Bowhead Whale and Killer Whale. Consultations were discussed by a DFO representative at two NMRWB meetings in October 2014 and March 2015. On November 18, 2014, the NMRWB confirmed in writing its interest in consultations. The NMRWB did not consider that posting a notice in the local newspaper was sufficient to ensure meaningful participation of Nunavik Inuit in the consultation process. The NMRWB recommended that significant efforts be made by DFO to inform and engage the public and all relevant organizations.
- For both Bowhead Whale and Killer Whale, Indigenous stakeholders received a survey about their interest in responding to the consultation. A consultation guide in French, English and Nunavik Inuktitut was developed (Factsheet and Questionnaire). Consultation material was sent by email and/or by mail to all Inuit communities (14), the local Inuit hunters and trappers associations (LNUKs) and their regional association (RNUK), as well as Makivik. For the Killer Whale, consultation material was also sent to all coastal Innu communities (7), the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI) and the Mamu Innu Kaikusseht Agency. DFO solicited opinions on listing and offered in-person meetings if desired. There was telephone follow-up with the Indigenous stakeholders and organizations that did not respond.
- Several ENGOs interested in marine mammals and/or the environment were informed about the consultation via email on January 26, 2015 (David Suzuki Foundation, Conseil régional en environnement de la Côte-Nord, Fondation de la Faune du Québec, Greenpeace, Group for

Research and Education on Marine Mammals, Canadian Boreal Initiative, Nature Québec, Marine Mammal Observation Network, Réseau québécois des groupes en environnement, World Wide Fund for Nature, ZIP Côte-Nord).

- On February 12, 2015, public notices announcing the consultation were placed in the Gazette, La Presse and La Presse +, and the Nunatsiaq News. The consultation was also publicised in Infoceans (February-March 2015 issue) and via Twitter (January 26 and March 11, 2015).
- The consultation period ran from January 15 to March 15, 2015. An extension was granted until March 31, 2015.

Results – Bowhead Whale:

NMRWB:

- Bowhead Whales are a food source for the Inuit;
- The Inuit see the listing as the start of a process to ban the hunt;
- It was requested that the IFMP and SARA processes be integrated so that there are not two independent consultations;
- According to the Inuit, the number of Bowhead Whales is increasing;
- The Board questions whether it is appropriate to consider listing based on COSEWIC's 2009 assessment, recognizing that a new population estimate will soon be available.

INDIGENOUS CONSULTATIONS (LNUKs, Communities, general public):

- Disagree with listing:
    - Akulivik (LNUK): *"Present **Bowhead** harvest practices requires a lot of financial resources just by planning the hunt, additional regulations or up-listing of Bowhead would not help the hunters. The proposed up-listing do not have merit/warrant."*
    - Kuujjuak (LNUK): Anticipates a negative impact; believes that the listing would result in limiting their access to Bowhead as food.
- No interest in the consultation: Inukjuak (even though the species is present on their territory, they do not feel concerned by the species)
- No response:
    - Aupaluk, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Kangirsuk, Kuujjuarapik, Puvirnituq, Quaqtaq, Salluit, Ivujivik, Umiujaq, Tasiujaq,
    - Makivik,
    - General public (Inuit).

INDUSTRY: The Shipping Federation of Canada is not interested in the listing process, but wants to be involved in the development of the management plan, in the event of listing.

ENGOS: No response

GENERAL PUBLIC: In favor of listing - 3

Results – Killer Whale:

NMRWB:

- Killer Whale play an important role in the livelihoods of Inuit, indirectly as a competitor for traditional foods.
- The Inuit "do not eat Killer Whale" and do not feel concerned by the SARA process.
- The Killer Whale is considered to be a nuisance; it is one of the beluga's predators.
- The number of Killer Whale sightings is increasing, giving the impression that their population is increasing as well.

ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIONS (LNUKs, Communities, general public):

- Disagree with listing:
  - Akulivik (LNUK): *"The population stocks would only be reduced by nature and not by man. (…) The proposed up-listing do not have merit/warrant."*
  - Kuujjuaq (LNUK): Does not support listing, but does not anticipate positive or negative impacts associated to the listing.
- No interest in the consultation: Inukjuak (even though the species is present on their territory, they do not feel concerned by the species)
- No response:
  - Aupaluk, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Kangirsuk, Kuujjuarapik, Puvirnituq, Quaqtaq, Salluit, Ivujivik, Umiujaq, Tasiujaq;
  - Makivik;
  - Essipit, Betsiamites, Uashat-Maliotenam, Mingan, Natashquan, La Romaine, Pakuashipi, FNQLSDI
  - General public (Inuit, Innu)

ENGOS: No response

GENERAL PUBLIC: In favor of listing - 1