



Mr. Robert Moshenko
Vice-Chair
Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
P.O. Box 433
Inukjuak, QC
J0M 1M0, Canada

Dear Mr. Moshenko,

I am writing to you concerning the potential addition of Thorny Skate to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Thorny Skate has been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Special Concern.

On the advice of the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change is considering recommending to Governor in Council that this species be added as Special Concern to Schedule 1 of SARA. I am therefore writing to request the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board's decision on this potential addition. This request is in accordance with the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, Articles 5.2.4 (f) and 5.5.6. We have also sent a letter requesting the decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) in accordance *Nunavut Agreement*, Articles 5.2.34 (f) and 5.3.16.

To support your decision-making, please find attached a "best available information" package, prepared by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The package includes information on the species, SARA, and a summary of consultation responses received from Canadians.

Additionally, as part of obligations under both the NILCA and the *Nunavut Agreement*, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change must respond within 60 days to listing decisions rendered by the NWMB and NMRWB. Given that the two boards may not be able to provide decisions concurrently, and the Minister must take both decisions into account before finalizing his recommendation and responding, we ask for your agreement to vary the deadline by which a response from the Minister is required. We propose that a revised deadline for the Minister to accept or reject the boards' decisions be **120 days** after both boards' decisions have been received. Please let us know your response to this request at your earliest convenience.

Please send both your response to the request to vary the Ministerial response deadline, as well as your decision regarding the potential addition of Thorny Skate to Schedule 1 of SARA as a species of Special Concern, to the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, and copy myself and Ms. Erin Groulx, Director Integrated Species at Risk (erin.groulx@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the conservation of species at risk.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wren
Director, Wildlife Management
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada

c.c. Nicole Bouchard
A/Director General, Biodiversity Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Erin Groulx
Director, Governance & Listing
Fisheries and Oceans Canada