



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

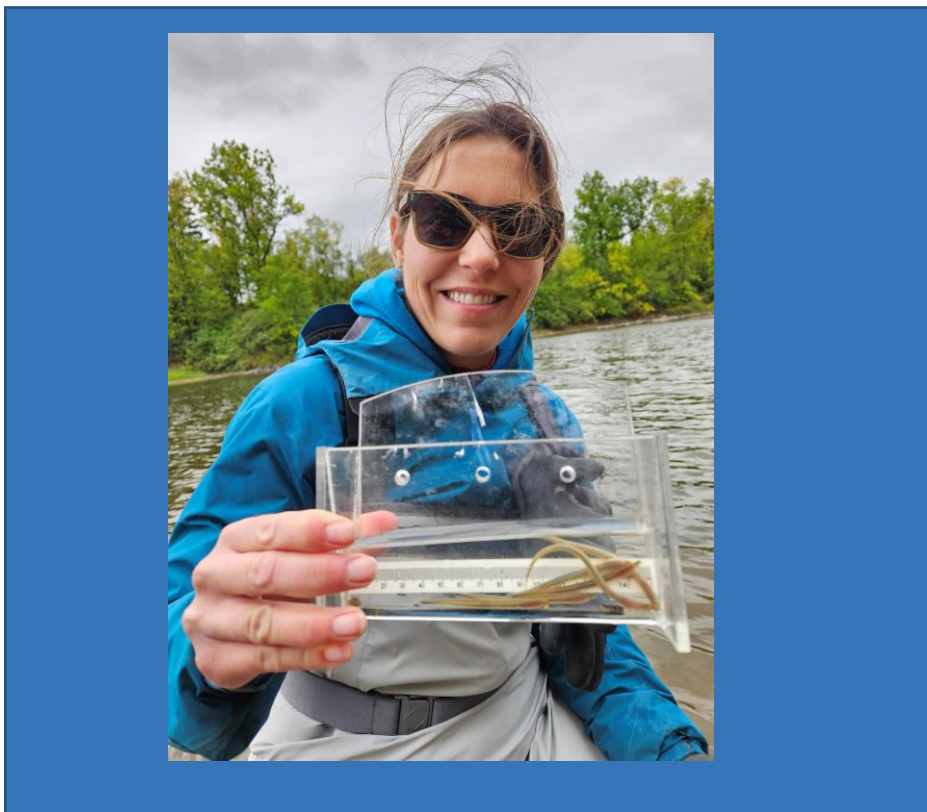
# Species at Risk Program

**Thorny Skate (*Amblyraja radiata*)**



Picture: [Sharksandrays.com](http://Sharksandrays.com)

Canada 



# Introduction

**Kristy Pagura**

Senior Species at Risk Biologist

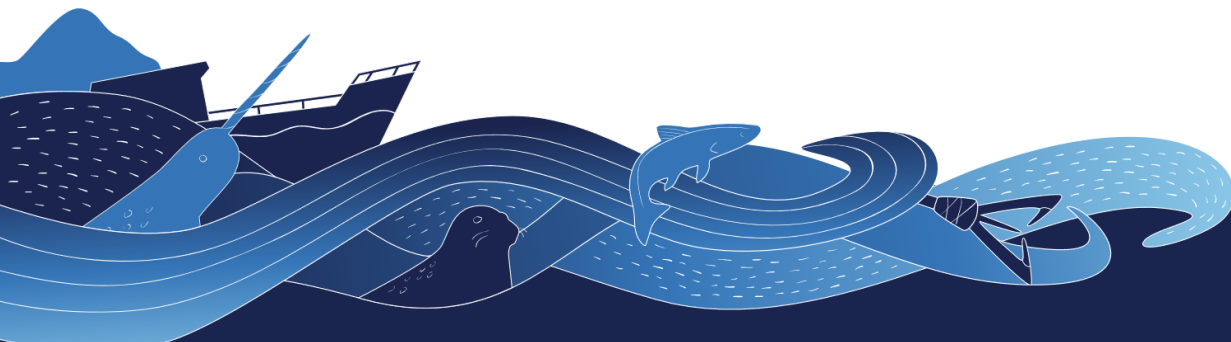
Species at Risk Program

Telephone: 431-275-1162

Email: [Kristy.Pagura@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Pagura@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Arctic Region

Fisheries and Oceans Canada



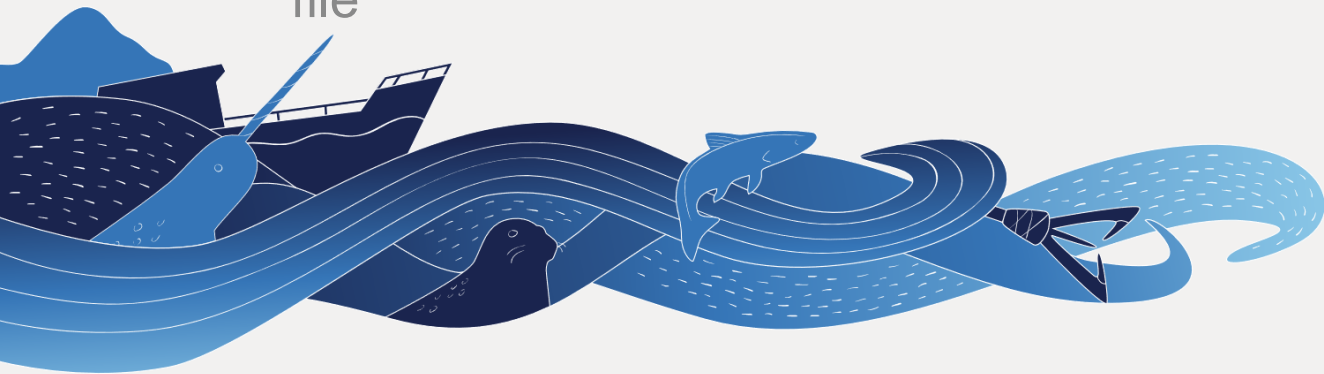
Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Canada

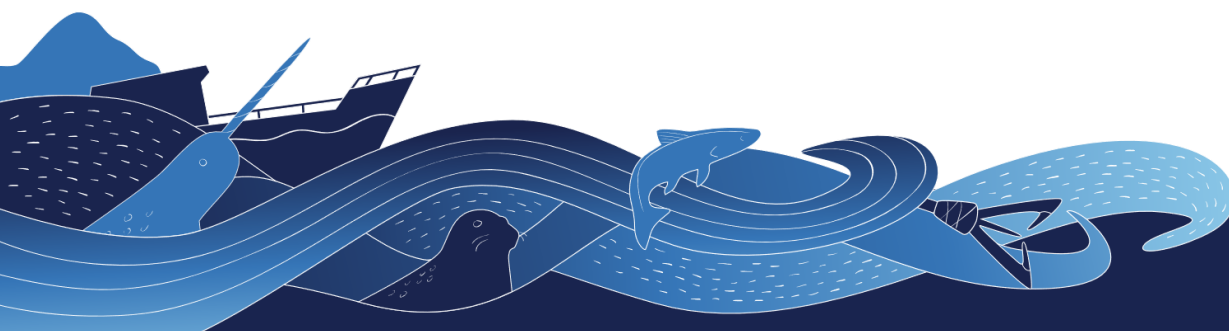
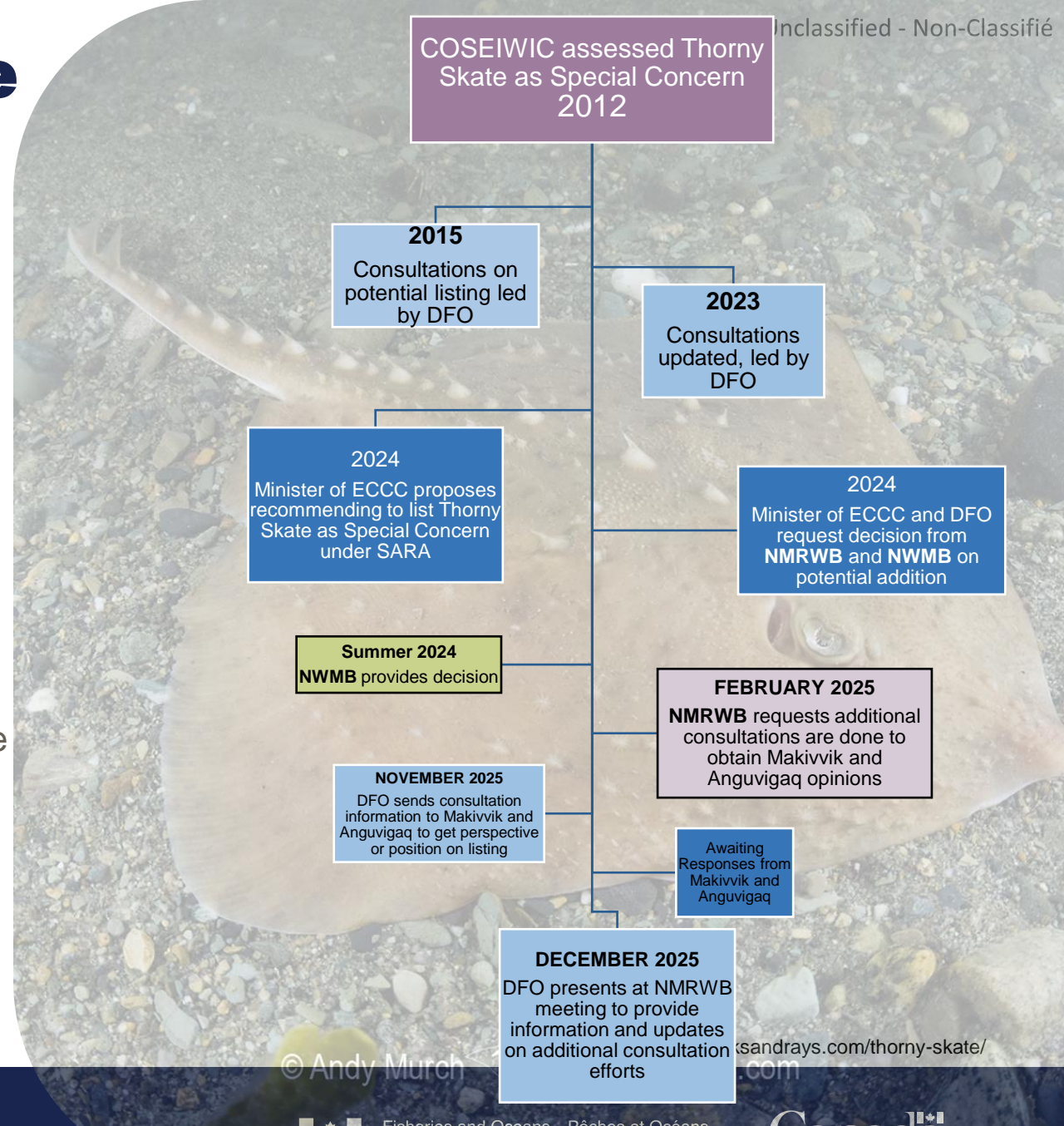
# Objectives

1. Provide brief overview of Thorny Skate
2. Inform Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) of DFO's efforts to address concerns impacting the board's ability to render a decision on whether to list Thorny Skate as Special Concern on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)
3. Responses
4. Next steps: what is required to advance the file



# 1. Overview of Thorny Skate

- In 2012, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed Thorny Skate as Special Concern
- Reason: These slow-growing, late-maturing fish have undergone severe population declines over the southern part of their distribution, including range contractions
- Consultations completed in 2015 led by DFO, and again in 2023
- In May 2024, letter sent to NMRWB requesting a decision with respect to adding Thorny Skate to Schedule 1 of SARA
- Consultation summary presented as part of the “best available information package” by DFO and ECCC included efforts and results
- NMRWB responded in Feb. 2025 indicating concerns with the consultations undertaken in Nunavik.
  - Key Nunavik Inuit organizations including Makivvik, Anguvigaq, and the communities of Nunavik

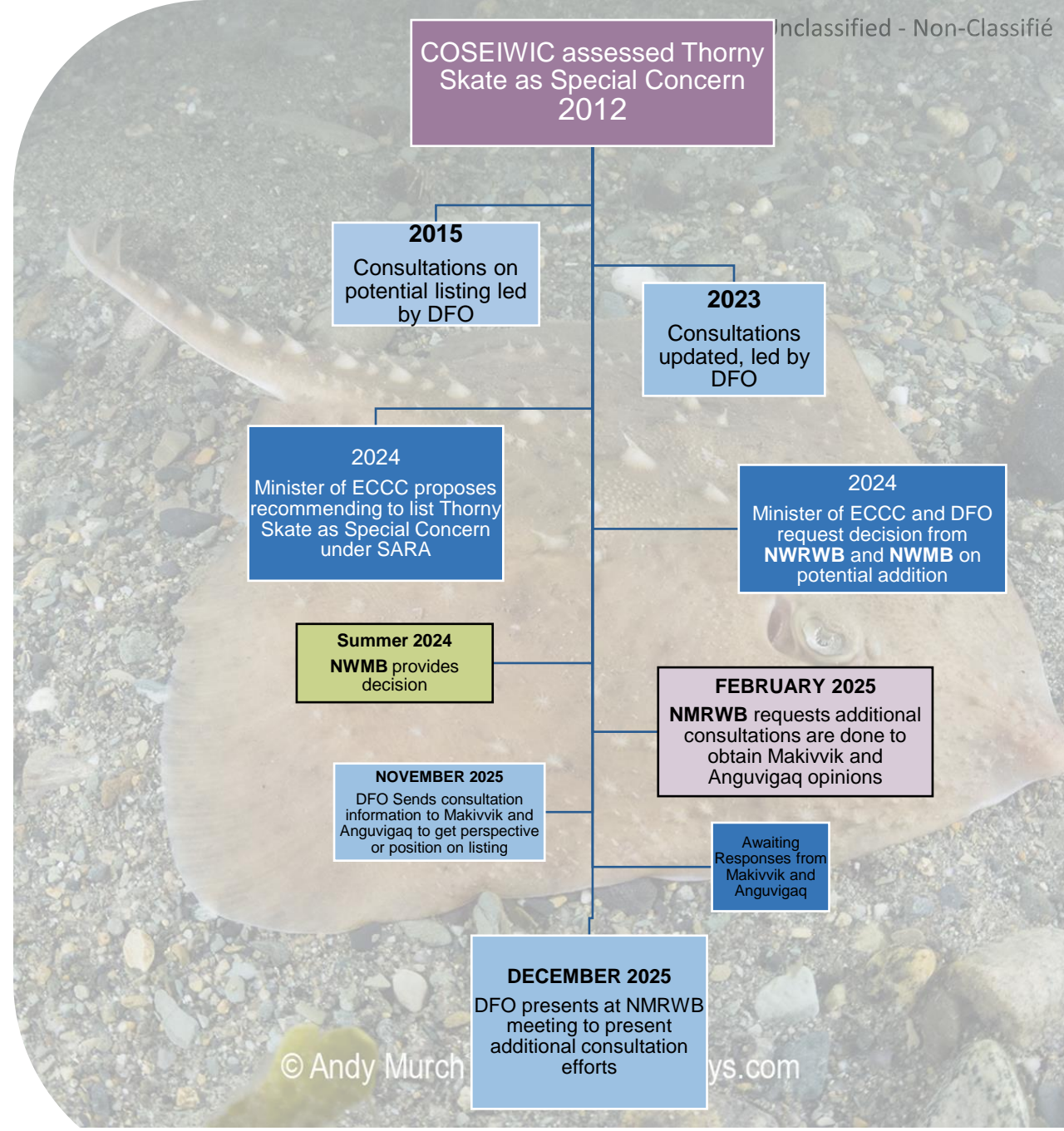
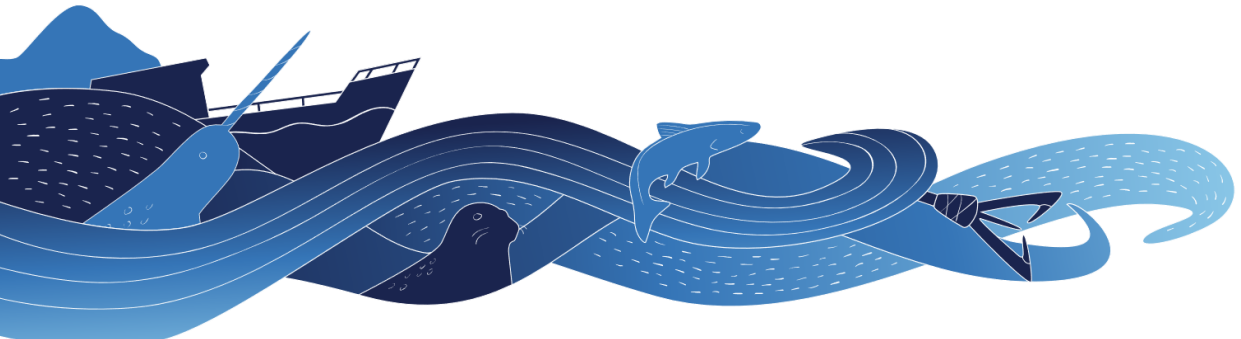


© Andy Murch

sandrays.com/thorny-skate/

# 2. Additional Consultation Efforts

- DFO acknowledges NMRWB’s requests for additional consultations to obtain Makivvik and Anguvigaq’s perspectives and opinions before NMRWB can provide a decision with respect to the potential listing of Thorny Skate as Special Concern under SARA
- DFO submitted information packages to Makivvik and Anguvigaq via email November 21, 2025 and followed up by phone
  - Info brochure, executive summary, links



# 3. Responses

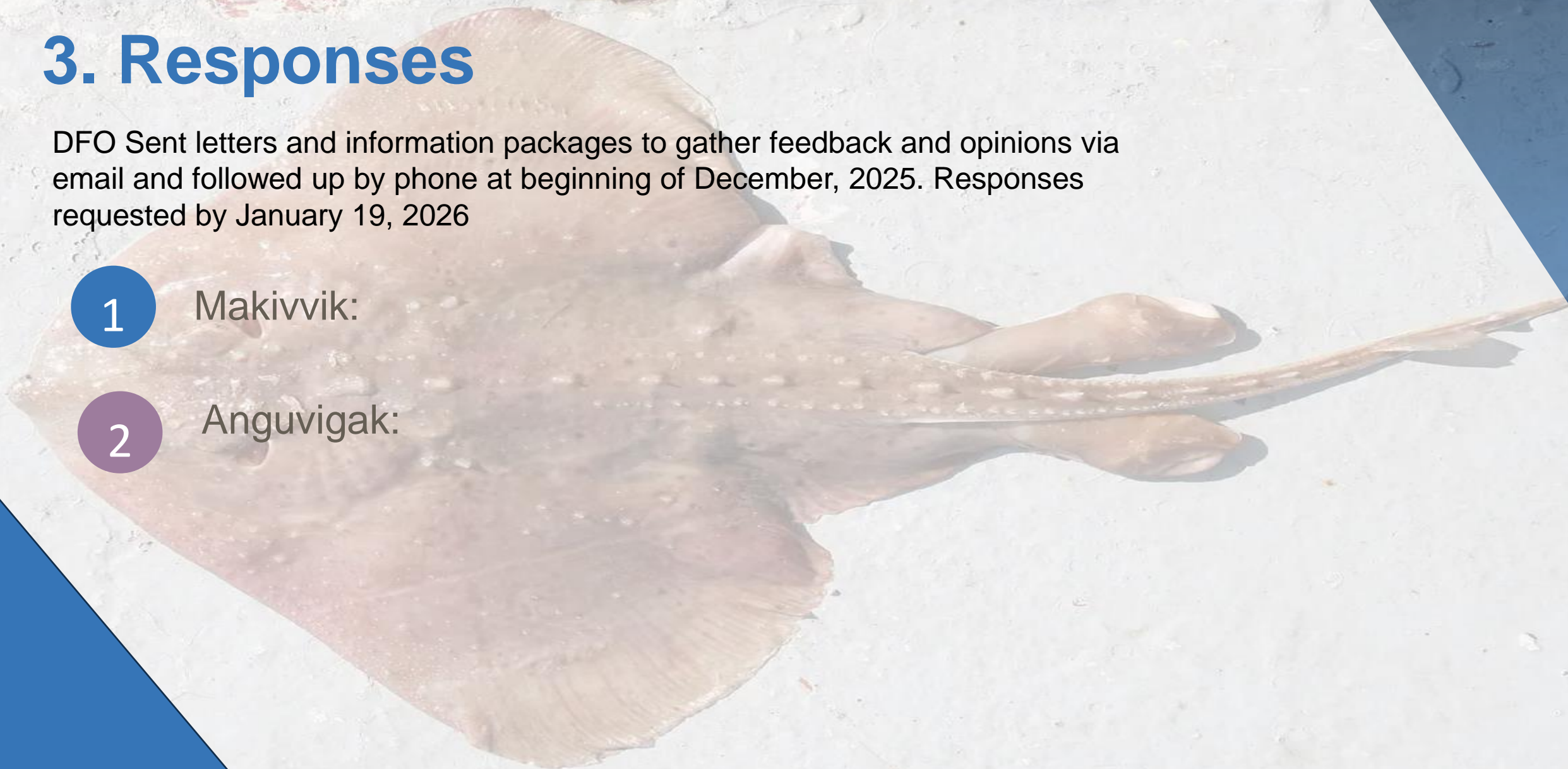
DFO Sent letters and information packages to gather feedback and opinions via email and followed up by phone at beginning of December, 2025. Responses requested by January 19, 2026

1

Makivvik:

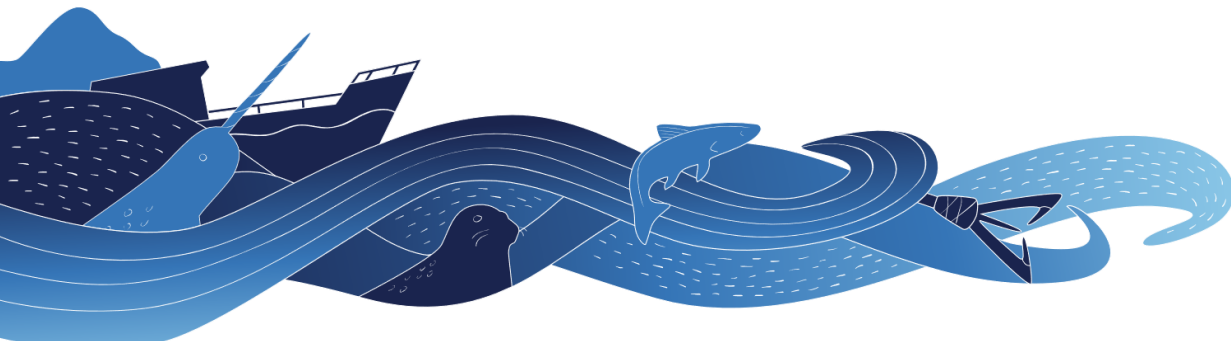
2

Anguvigak:



## 4. Next Steps

- DFO proposes to supplement the existing “best available information” package with a consultation summary of the perspectives and opinions of Makivvik and Anguvigak to NMRWB. **Target: as soon as possible**
- DFO requests that NMRWB submits a response for a decision regarding the potential listing of Thorny Skate (*Amblyraja radiata*) as a species of Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)
  - as per letter dated on May 21, 2024 to NMRWB
- The Minister must take both decisions (NWMB and NMRWB) into account before finalizing her recommendation and responding. NWMB has provided their decision.



# Thank you!

## Contact Information



**Kristy Pagura**

Senior Species at Risk Biologist

Species at Risk Program

Telephone: 431-275-1162

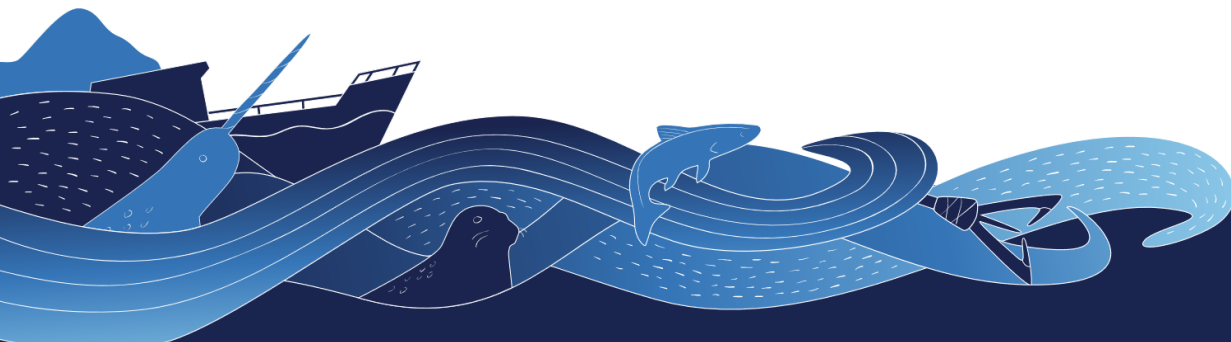
Email: [Kristy.Pagura@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Pagura@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Arctic Region

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

501 University Crescent Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N6

Government of Canada



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Canada