

NOTICE

OF NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is provided on January 8th 2010 that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed legal listing, pursuant to the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA), of Polar Bear as a "*species of special concern*".

Dates and times of the hearing:

The hearing will be held from April 13th to 15th 2010 inclusive, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The NWMB may also hold one or more evening sessions from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location of the hearing:

The hearing is scheduled to take place in Iqaluit, at the Navigator Inn.

Issue to be considered at the hearing:

The issue under consideration at the hearing will be the proposed legal listing, under SARA, of Polar Bear as a "*species of special concern*".

"*Species of special concern*" means a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

One of the purposes of SARA is to manage "*species of special concern*" to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened. If a species is listed as a "*species of special concern*", Government must prepare a management plan for the species and its habitat, in cooperation with – among others – the NWMB, the Government of Nunavut and every Inuit organization directly affected by the management plan. That plan must include measures for the conservation of the species.

The filing of submissions to be considered at the hearing:

The NWMB has received a written *Proposal for NWMB Decision* from the Government of Canada's Department of the Environment – Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS Proposal). The CWS Proposal and additional documents relevant to the hearing are available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the NWMB at the coordinates set out at the end of this notice.

The NWMB is inviting interested organizations or persons, including any member of the public, to file written response submissions to the CWS Proposal, or otherwise regarding the proposed listing of Polar Bear as a species of special concern, by no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 8th 2010.

The NWMB will make publicly available all of the written materials filed with it, subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns.

Attendance and participation at the hearing:

The hearing will be open to the public, although part of the hearing may be conducted in camera, where the NWMB considers that confidential or sensitive matters may be disclosed or discussed.

The NWMB will provide a reasonable opportunity for oral presentations from the parties at the hearing, by their choice of official, expert or counsel. The NWMB, as well as the parties, may ask relevant questions of any party at the hearing.

The NWMB will provide members of the public in attendance at the hearing a reasonable opportunity to make statements and to ask questions of the parties and the NWMB.

The NWMB will make its decision following the public hearing, and after having considered all relevant submissions, presentations and statements.

How to obtain more information:

To receive more information about filing or obtaining submissions or other relevant documents, to obtain the rules applying to the hearing or the agenda for the hearing, or to receive information about attendance as a member of the public or as a party at the hearing, please contact the NWMB:



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