

**SUBMISSION TO THE  
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**FOR**

**Information:**

**Decision: X**

**Issue:** A decision is needed to approve/not approve adding Thorny Skate to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) as a species of Special Concern.

**Background:**

The Thorny Skate was assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a species of Special Concern in 2012. Article 5.2.34 (d) (i) of the *Nunavut Agreement* states that the NWMB shall, at its discretion, approve SARA listing recommendations for species found within their area of responsibility.

The best available information for listing for Thorny Skate as Special Concern under SARA was shared with the Board on **DATE**. This package for Thorny Skate included the communication pieces used during community consultations, a summary of the consultations that took place within the Nunavut Settlement Area, the COSEWIC Executive Summary for Thorny Skate, the Cost Benefit Analysis of listing Thorny Skate as a species of Special Concern, and the Response Statement from the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on the COSEWIC assessment.

COSEWIC is an independent advisory panel to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change that meets twice a year to assess the status of wildlife species at risk of extinction. Their criteria for the Special Concern designation can be found here in subsection Special Concern (following Section E): <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-act-accord-funding/listing-process/quantitative-criteria-guidelines-status-table-2.html>. A species of Special Concern is a wildlife species that may become Threatened or Endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Species listed as Special Concern are not subject to SARA prohibitions, and there is no requirement to identify or protect critical habitat; however, a SARA management plan must be prepared within three years of listing. A management plan is a document that identifies the conservation activities and other measures needed to ensure that a species of special concern does not become Threatened or Endangered. Management Plans are developed in cooperation and collaboration with Wildlife Management Boards, Indigenous organizations, and others to the extent possible.

**Recommendation:**

The NWMB approve addition of Thorny Skate to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) as a species of Special Concern.

**Prepared by:**

TBD

**Date:**

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