



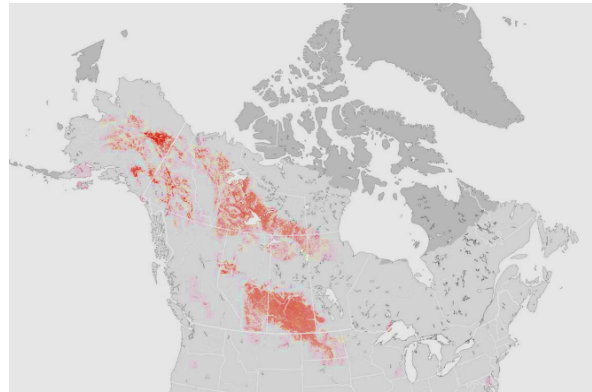
## Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

Information:

**Decision: X**

**Issue:** Request for decision on the proposed listing and amending of Horned Grebe under the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*



### Background:

- Horned Grebe was first listed on Schedule 1 of SARA in 2011 as two different populations:
  - Western (Special Concern)
  - Magdalen Island, Quebec (Endangered)
- In 2023, the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) proposed that the two populations should be combined and this new designatable unit was assessed as Special Concern.
- It is recommended the populations are combined and assessed as one because there is no longer sufficient evidence to support two separate populations.
- By combining the populations, this has triggered the need for a new listing decision, however there is no other significant change.
- If listed, a new national Management Plan would be required for this species.
- In Nunavut, the species has only been observed in the southwestern corner, bordering Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.
- More information on the status of the species, distribution, habitat and threats is contained within Appendix A

**Consultations:**

Date	February 5, 2022	August 2025	September 2025 (anticipatory)
Contact method	Initial consultation package emailed	Consultation package emailed again	Follow up phone calls
Who was contacted	Kivalliq Inuit Association, Kivalliq Wildlife Board, NWMB, NTI, GN	Kivalliq Inuit Association, Kivalliq Wildlife Board, NWMB, NTI, GN	Those who have not previously responded

- Consultation packages contained a fact sheet and a questionnaire (in Inuktitut and English; Appendix B), [links to the species accounts on the Species at Risk Registry which contained the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada \(COSEWIC\) Assessment and Status Report](#) and [information on the federal consultation process](#).
- Organizations were asked to provide their formal position on the proposed listing (i.e. oppose, support, or are indifferent) and any other comments, concerns or information that they feel should be considered.
- The known range of Horned Grebe in Nunavut range is not within 50km of any HTO or hamlet, therefore no additional partners were contacted on this matter.
- In Nunavut, CWS received support on the proposed amendment from the Government of Nunavut. No other response had been received at this time.
- In the territories, CWS, at the time of writing, received support on the proposed amendments from the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resource Boards in Northwest Territories. In the Yukon, no comments were received from either the Wildlife Advisory Council (North Slope) or the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

**Next Steps:**

Following the Board's decision, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Governor in Council that takes into account the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's assessment, consultations, including those with wildlife management boards authorized for that species by a lands claims agreement (including the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board), and the regulatory impact analysis statement. The final decision or final decision as varied, as arrived at through 5.3.16 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, must be respected in the Minister's recommendation to the Governor in Council.

As part of the federal regulatory process, a 30-day comment period follows the publication of the proposed decision in Canada Gazette, Part 1. The final step in the process is for the Governor in Council to make a final listing decision. If the Governor in Council decides to list a

species, it is at this point that it becomes legally included on Schedule 1. The decision and the regulatory impact analysis statement will be published in the next edition of the Canada Gazette, Part II.

**Decision:**

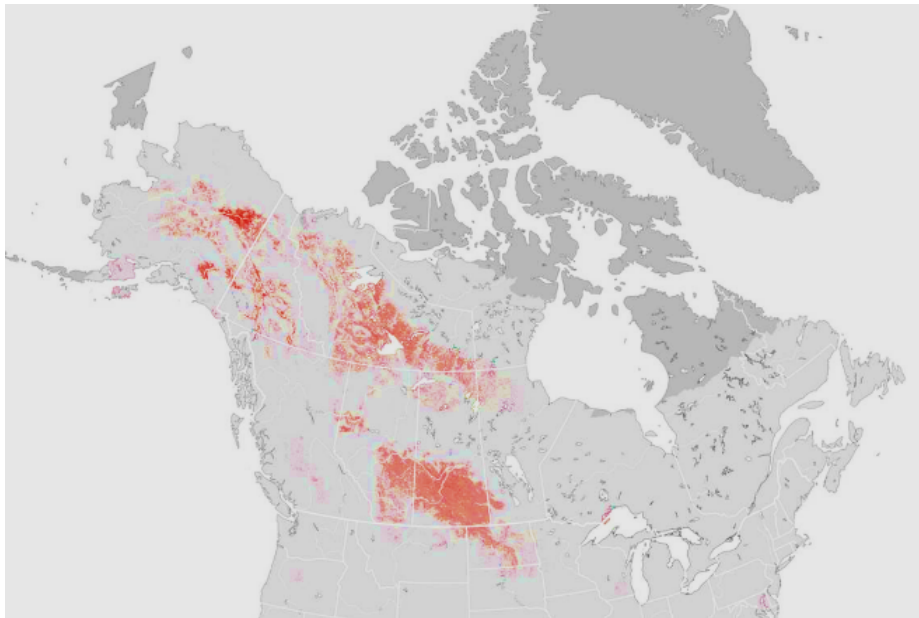
We are requesting a decision from NWMB on the proposed listing of the combined population of Horned Grebe under the federal *Species at Risk Act* as per the *Nunavut Agreement* s.5.2.34(f) and 5.3.16-5.3.23.

Prepared by: Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region  
Date Drafted: 2025-08-22

## Appendix A

### Range and distribution

- Approximately 92% of the Horned Grebe's breeding range occurs in Canada
- They are found in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean.
- Their range in Nunavut sits in the southwest, bordering the Northwest Territories and Manitoba.
- Prior to the combining of the two populations, it was the Western population (Special Concern) that occurred in Nunavut.



*Figure 1 Breeding range and distribution of Horned Grebe in Canada.*

### Habitat

- Horned Grebe primarily breed in prairie and boreal ecological areas.
- They occupy small to moderately sized freshwater wetlands with mixture of vegetation for nesting and open water for foraging.

### Threats on breeding grounds

- Permanent loss of wetlands due to agriculture, aquaculture, and energy production
  - Mostly in the prairies
- Ecosystem modifications, particularly wetlands
  - Invasive aquatic plants that reduce the amount of open water needed for foraging
  - Excess nutrients in wetlands due to agriculture
- Climate change

- Temporary drying of wetlands
- Risk of mortality due to collisions with powerlines and wind turbines