

Purpose and Rules for the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board Written Public Hearing to Consider Approving the Proposed Designation of the Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) as a Species of Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA)

THE PURPOSE is to conduct a Written Public Hearing on the request received from the Government of Canada for a decision from the Board to consider the approval of the proposed designation of the horned grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) as a Species of Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act ("SARA") in accordance with the Board's authority under s. 13.2.2 (f) of the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement* ("EMRLCA").

The purpose of this Written Public Hearing is specifically the following:

To obtain relevant information on this species and positions of Parties in order to inform the Board's decision with respect to the proposed designation of the horned grebe (Podiceps auritus) as a species of Special Concern under the SARA within the Eeyou Marine Region.

The Proposal, along with other documents comprising the best available information to date is available for review or download from the Board's website (https://www.emrwb.ca/public-hearing-horned-grebe/).

HEARING RULES:

- 1. The hearing shall be conducted by way of a Written Public Hearing. Information may be filed by anyone with full Party status, including residents of the coastal Cree communities of the Eeyou Marine Region. Parties with full Party status include those identified in Section 14.6.2 of the EMRLCA, namely:
 - Government of Canada
 - Cree Nation Government
 - Eeyou Istchee Local Cree Bands
 - Eeyou Istchee Local Cree Trappers' Associations
 - Regional Cree Trappers' Association
 - Any individual Cree of the Eeyou Istchee
- Only documents submitted before the deadline will be considered by the Board.
 Documents submitted after the deadline will not be accepted unless persuasive written reasons are provided to the Board explaining late submission.

- 3. The requirement for translation of submissions and supporting documentation filed with the Board does not apply to individual members of the public.
- 4. For all others who file supporting documentation with the Board, the requirement for translation does not apply to such documents over ten (10) pages in length, if each supporting document that is not translated is accompanied by a concise, translated summary (English) at least two (2) pages in length.
- 5. The Board shall ensure that all submitted documents are made publicly available, subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns.
- 6. The Board will conduct all meetings and deliberations on the matter. Those with observer status under the EMRLCA 13.1.2, may have technical advisors attend such meetings and deliberations. The Board reserves the right to hold in-camera meetings with their legal counsel, with the exclusion of observers, at any time throughout the hearing and the decision-making process.
- 7. The Board will independently exercise its authority under the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement.
- 8. Relevant information and statements must be sent to wildlife@eeyoumarineregion.ca by March 14, 2025.