



January 21, 2026
NPC File No. 151017

Mosha Cote

Manager-Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
959 A Nunavut Dr.
Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0
By email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Yellowknife, NT
By email: DFO.ARCENTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Maryse Mahy

Ecologist Team Leader
Parks Canada (PC)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: Maryse.Mahy@pc.gc.ca;
Pc.Nunavut-ImpactAssessment.pc@canada.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut (Lands and Resource Management)
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: jottenhof@gia.ca; jnakoolak@gia.ca;
JSimic@gia.ca

Calvin Ehaloak

A/Manager, Public Registry
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
By email: cehaloak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kgillard@nirb.ca

Marie-Helene Forget

Takuvik, Université Laval
1045 avenue de la Médecine
Quebec City Quebec G1V0A6 Canada
By email: marie-helene.forget@takuvik.ulaval.ca

Dear Mosha Cote, Maryse Mahy, Jared Ottenhof, Calvin Ehaloak, and Marie-Helene Forget
:

RE: NPC File # 151017 [Seasonal surveys of physical, optical and biogeochemical properties in seawater along littoral to deep-ocean gradients in the Qikiqtarjuaq area, and physiological properties of phytoplankton in minimum light]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. **Primary Land Use:** Scientific Research
2. **Project summary:** Document the bottom-up control of microalgal primary producers, namely light and nutrients in sea ice and seawater, and microalgae (biomass, diversity and productivity), along coastal transects from the Broughton Island littoral or neighboring fjord heads to offshore, and during 4 expeditions conducted during 4 different seasons.
3. **Summary of modifications:**
 1. Additional incubations conducted in situ
 2. Deploy recently developed collectors (traps) thanks to divers beneath the ice to capture ice-associated algae that detach from the underside of the sea ice on a cleared area of 5mx5m to capture ice-associated algae.

3. Deploy a particle collector, to evaluate the particle composition and productivity.
4. Collect ice cores and measure under-ice light conditions to assess the impact of snow removal on algae physiology and capacity to export matter.
4. **Associated NPC File Nos.:** 148987, and 150538; **Associated NIRB File Nos.:** 14YN040
5. **Location:** Qikiqtani [Qikiqtarjuaq]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current project proposal including bottom-up control of microalgal primary producers and a determination was issued on December 11, 2018 and November 4, 2024 (NPC file 148987 and 150538) that it is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan.

In addition, works and activities associated with the current proposal were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 14YN040).

The portion of the above-noted project proposal located within NPC jurisdiction is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the inclusion of newly developed collectors does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the *Nunavut Agreement* do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151017>

This decision applies only to the component of this proposal located within NPC jurisdiction as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, RPP, MCIP
Manager Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission