



Central and Arctic Region  
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program  
867 Lakeshore Road  
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August 9, 2022

*Your file    Votre référence*

08MN053

*Our file                      Notre référence*

07-HCAA-CA7-00050

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
**Attention: Kaviq Kaluraq, Chairperson**  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU  
X0B 0C0

Dear Kaviq Kaluraq,

**Subject: Fisheries and Oceans Canada response to Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) comment M&AE #25 for Baffinland Mary River 2021 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)**

We understand that the QIA is requesting Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) provide communities and co-management partners with information on “what level of population declines are needed before DFO considers it to be an “imminent negative impact to the marine environment” and “how DFO anticipates responding to the significant declines in the Eclipse Sound summer stock area (2021 AMR, p.566).

As additional information continues to be collected, DFO agrees that the decline or displacement of narwhal of the Eclipse Sound summer stock are significant and appear to be persistent. DFO’s preferred approach is to address such impacts through ongoing NIRB processes where possible, for consideration through a project assessment. Thus, while the reconsiderations of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 005 are ongoing in relation to the Production Increase Proposal Renewal and Phase 2 Development Proposal, DFO’s position is that concerns should be raised through these processes in accordance with NuPPAA, to be considered by the NIRB and responsible Ministers in decision-making

As such, DFO has relied on the evidence it and others have provided to the NIRB as part of the original Production Increase Proposal process,-subsequent extension and the recently concluded Phase 2 expansion reconsideration process to identify major concerns, including the Eclipse Sound stock reductions. DFO has provided expert advice to the NIRB regarding what measures that the NIRB should consider for inclusion as

conditions, most recently in our final written submission in the Phase 2 reconsideration process. We would note that the QIA, MHTO, and others also provided advice on to the NIRB on this issue.

DFO remains very concerned with the status of the Eclipse Sound summer stock, and will be providing advice to the NIRB in this respect during the current PIP renewal reconsideration. Should the current process be unable to respond to those and others concerns and advice, DFO remains open to working with the MEWG on further strategies and issuing directions associated with condition 183 in the project certificate, pending inclusion of condition 183 by NIRB for the PIP renewal reconsideration.

If you or any other parties have any questions, please contact Dan Coombs at 867-669-4927 or by email at [Daniel.Coombs@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Daniel.Coombs@dfo-mpo.gc.ca). Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,



C. Thomas Hoggarth  
Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Cc: Edyta Ratajczyk- Fisheries Biologist, DFO  
Alasdair Beattie – Team Lead, DFO  
Stephanie Martens- Regional Manager, DFO