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# Evaluation of natural bioremediation potential of Arctic beaches

New

Scientific Research

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Period of operation:

from 0001-01-01 to 0001-01-01

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from 0001-01-01 to 0001-01

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The warming Arctic climate results in annual reductions of sea-ice. With decrease in Northwest passage ice cover, the amount of shipping traffic is increasing. Unfortunately, a consequence of more shipping is an increased risk that shipping fuel will be accidentally released into the vulnerable Arctic environment. In southern latitudes, naturally occurring bacteria in the environment can consume shipping fuels as food sources. However, it is unknown if naturally occurring bacteria living in Arctic beaches can do this in the colder Arctic conditions. The objective of this research is to determine if naturally occurring Arctic bacteria have the ability to degrade shipping fuels under Arctic conditions. It is important to know this so that in the event of a future accidental shipping fuel spill in the Arctic, we will know exactly how to respond to minimize negative environmental impacts. Research to be conducted in Resolute Bay for this project will involve collecting beach sediment samples for microbial and chemical analysis in our laboratory at McGill University, as well as a field research portion that will take place over a two-month period in summer of 2019. Following consultation with the local Hunter and Trappers association, this field research has been planned so as not to interfere with hunting activities, and to have no negative impacts on environment or wildlife. Sampling chambers will be buried in the sediment of a beach in the Resolute Bay area in early July and will be retrieved in late August. These sampling chambers are approximately the dimensions of a small school ruler (2 cm x 10 cm), and contain an adsorptive material holding 0.1 mL of shipping fuel. The beach will remain fully accessible to the community, as the sampling chambers will be buried. The total volume of fuel will be removed together with the sampling chamber. After the two-month incubation, we will retrieve the sampling chambers and determine which beach bacteria were able to break down the shipping fuel, and how fast they were able to do so. Ultimately, our objective is to produce a catalogue of fuel degrading bacteria that are active on Arctic beaches, and to determine if their activity alone would be enough to clean up a spill, or if additional remediation treatments would be required. Nunavut residents will be employed as wildlife guides (protecting us from bears) and research assistants to guide us with installing the sampling chambers. Their valuable knowledge of local boating practices and beach usage will help us to choose the best locations for sampling. As the Whyte lab research group is in Resolute Bay every year, we look forward to giving annual presentations to the community on the importance and progress of our experiments.

Le réchauffement du climat de l'Arctique cause une réduction annuelle de la banquise. Avec la diminution de la couverture de glace du Passage du Nord-Ouest, le trafic maritime est en augmentation. Malheureusement, l'accroissement du nombre de navires augmente le risque que de l'essence soit accidentellement libérée dans les environnements vulnérables de l'Arctique. Aux latitudes méridionales, des bactéries indigènes des milieux naturels sont capables de consommer l'essence de navire comme source de nourriture. Toutefois, le fait que les bactéries indigènes des plages de l'Arctique peuvent en faire de même en conditions froides reste inconnu. L'objectif de ce projet de recherche est de déterminer si les bactéries indigènes à l'Arctique ont la capacité de dégrader l'essence de navire sous les conditions naturelles de l'Arctique. Il est important de savoir cela afin de répondre de la meilleure façon possible pour réduire les impacts négatifs sur l'environnement, dans le cas où un déversement accidentel d'essence surviendrait dans l'Arctique. Le projet de recherche sera effectué à Resolute Bay et impliquera la collecte d'échantillon de sédiments de plage pour des analyses microbiennes et chimiques dans nos laboratoires de l'Université McGill, ainsi qu'une portion de travail de terrain de deux mois à l'été 2019. Après une consultation avec l'association locale des Chasseurs et Trappeurs, le travail de terrain a été planifié afin de

ne pas intervenir avec les activités de chasse et afin d'avoir aucun impact négatif sur l'environnement, la faune et la flore. Des colonnes d'échantillonnage seront enterrées dans les sédiments de place à Resolute Bay au début du mois de juillet et seront collectées à la fin du mois d'août. Ces colonnes d'échantillonnage auront une dimension approximative d'une petite règle d'école (2 cm x 10 cm) et contiendront un matériel adsorbant supportant 0.1 mL d'essence de navire. La plage restera accessible à la communauté locale puisque les colonnes d'échantillonnage seront sous terre. Le volume total d'essence sera enlevé au même moment que les colonnes d'échantillonnage. Après une incubation de 2 mois, nous allons récupérer les colonnes d'échantillonnage et déterminer quelles bactéries de la plage ont été en mesure de dégrader l'essence de navire ainsi que la vitesse à laquelle elles ont été capable de le faire. Finalement, notre objectif est de produire un catalogue des bactéries dégradant l'essence qui sont actives sur les plages arctiques et de déterminer si leur activité à elle seule sera capable de nettoyer le déversement, ou si des traitements de remédiation additionnels seront nécessaires. Des résidents du Nunavut seront employés comme guides naturels (protection contre les ours) et comme assistants de recherche pour nous guider dans l'installations des colonnes d'échantillonnage. Leurs précieuses connaissances des pratiques de navigations locales et des usages des places nous aiderons à choisir les meilleurs endroits pour l'échantillonnage. Puisque le groupe de recherche du laboratoire Whyte est à Resolute Bay à chaque année, nous attendons avec impatience de donner des présentations annuelles sur l'importance et les progrès de notre recherche à la communauté locale.

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Inuinnaqtun: n/a

## Personnel

Personnel on site: 6

Days on site: 14

Total Person days: 84

Operations Phase: from 2019-07-02 to 2019-07-10

Operations Phase: from 2019-07-02 to 2019-08-15

Closure Phase: from 2019-08-09 to 2019-08-15

## Post-Closure Phase: from to

## Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε

Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε
Possible beach sites for microcosm deployment	Sampling sites	Municipal	n/a	n/a	All proposed sampling sites are within the community of Resolute Bay
PCSP Research facilities	Researching	Municipal	n/a	n/a	Located within Resolute Bay

## Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε

Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε
Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Phillip Manik	Hunter and Trappers Association	2019-02-01
Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Uluriak Amarualik	Hunter and Trapper Association	2019-09-22
Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε-Δε	Jason Carpenter	Nunavut Arctic College	2019-03-28

# ՀԱՅՈՒԹԻՒՆ ԱՐՅՈՒԹՈՒՆ ԳՐՈՒԹՈՒՆ

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## North Baffin

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<p>სესტრუქტორი დანართის მიზანის სამიზანობის მიზანის და მიზანის მიზანის</p>	<p>სესტრუქტორი დანართის მიზანის სამიზანობის მიზანის და მიზანის მიზანის</p>	<p>სესტრუქტორი დანართის მიზანის სამიზანობის მიზანის და მიზანის მიზანის</p>	<p>სესტრუქტორი დანართის მიზანის სამიზანობის მიზანის და მიზანის მიზანის</p>	<p>სესტრუქტორი დანართის მიზანის სამიზანობის მიზანის და მიზანის მიზანის</p>
<p>მუშაობის დანართის მიზანის მიზანის</p>	<p>A Physical / Natural Sciences Research Application has been submitted for this project. Decision is pending.</p>	<p>Applied, Decision Pending</p>		

## Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Arrival Description	Length of Use
Air	arriving in Resolute Bay with First Air	
Land	Transport around Resolute will be by truck or ATV	

## Project accommodation types

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Gasoline	fuel	4	20	80	Liters	Truck or ATV for transportation to sampling sites
Dichloromethane	hazardous	1	1	1	Liters	storage of samples for hydrocarbon analysis

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Researching	ፈርማ	1 litre	1 litre of dichloromethane will be used to store samples for transport back to McGill University in Montreal. NO hazardous waste will be left behind in Resolute Bay.	none
Sampling sites	ፈርማ	none	No hazardous waste will be produced at the sampling sites.	none required

The sampling chambers (“microcosms”) deployed in the beaches will be removed after 6 weeks of incubation. The microcosms are self contained and do not release any hazardous substances or chemicals to the environment. Their presence on the beach will not impact migratory birds or marine mammals in any way. All chemicals for analysis will be used solely within the laboratories of the PCSP research facilities. We will be staying at the PCSP research facilities in Resolute Bay, and will not be camping on the land. We will travel only as far as is easily accessible from the Research facilities by truck or ATV, so our environmental impact in terms of transport will be minimal. Absolutely no waste will be left behind by the research team. Everything we transport to the site can easily be transported away again. There is no possibility of creating a hazardous spill, because no liquid chemicals will be brought to the sampling sites. All chemicals will be used only in the laboratory or the PCSP facilities. Microcosms will be prepared in the lab before transport to the incubation sites. No noise-making equipment will be used, and care will be taken to not interrupt any community activities.

# **Additional Information**

**SECTION A1: Project Info**

**SECTION A2: Allweather Road**

**SECTION A3: Winter Road**

**SECTION B1: Project Info**

**SECTION B2: Exploration Activity**

**SECTION B3: Geosciences**

**SECTION B4: Drilling**

**SECTION B5: Stripping**

**SECTION B6: Underground Activity**

**SECTION B7: Waste Rock**

**SECTION B8: Stockpiles**

**SECTION B9: Mine Development**

**SECTION B10: Geology**

**SECTION B11: Mine**

**SECTION B12: Mill**

**SECTION C1: Pits**

**SECTION D1: Facility**

**SECTION D2: Facility Construction**

**SECTION D3: Facility Operation**

**SECTION D4: Vessel Use**

**SECTION E1: Offshore Survey**

**SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey**

## **SECTION E3: Vessel Use**

### **SECTION F1: Site Cleanup**

#### **SECTION G1: Well Authorization**

#### **SECTION G2: Onland Exploration**

#### **SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration**

#### **SECTION G4: Rig**

## **SECTION H1: Vessel Use**

### **SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea**

#### **SECTION I1: Municipal Development**

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#### **Miscellaneous Project Information**

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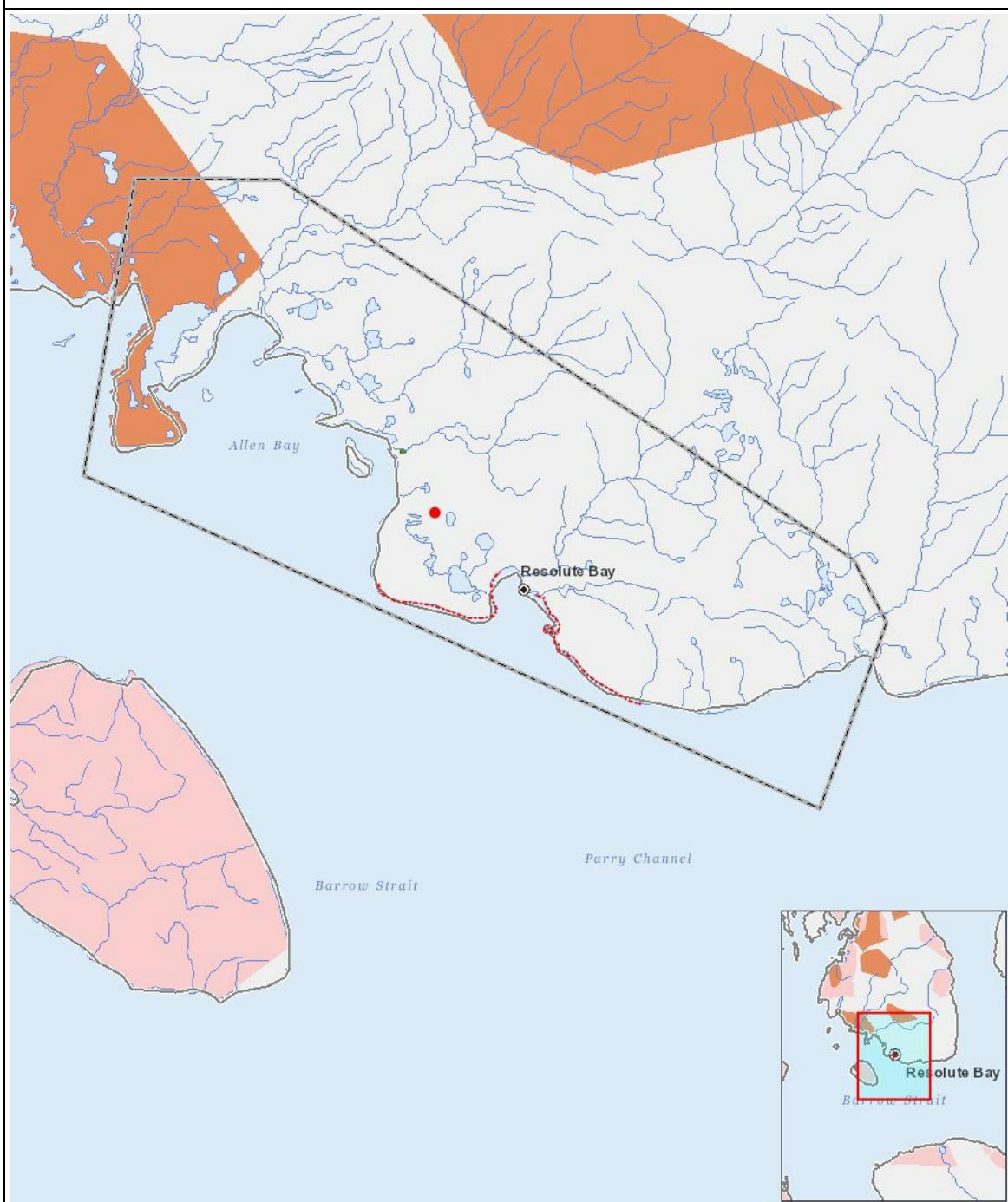
#### **Cumulative Effects**

# Impacts

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Physical															Biological															Socio-Economic																																																																															
Designated environmental areas					Ground stability					Permafrost					Hydrology / Limnology					Water quality					Climate conditions					Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes					Surface and bedrock geology					Sediment and soil quality					Tidal processes and bathymetry					Air quality					Noise levels					Vegetation					Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns					Birds, including habitat and migration patterns					Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning					Wildlife protected areas					Archaeological and cultural historic sites					Employment					Community wellness					Community infrastructure					Human health				
Researching	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	-																																																																	
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#### List of Project Geometries

- |   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
| 1 | polyline | Possible beach sites for microcosm deployment |
| 2 | polyline | Possible beach sites for microcosm deployment |
| 3 | point    | PCSP Research facilities                      |