



NIRB File No.: 19YN029
NPC File No.: 149121

June 18, 2019

Michel Gosselin
Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski,
Université du Québec à Rimouski
310, allée des Ursulines
Rimouski, QC G5L 3A1

Sent via email: michel_gosselin@uqar.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski's "Diversity of pelagic primary producers in coastal habitats and the potential for harmful blooms in Eastern Canadian Arctic" Project Proposal

Dear Michel Gosselin:

On May 24, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski's (ISMER) "Diversity of pelagic primary producers in coastal habitats and the potential for harmful blooms in Eastern Canadian Arctic" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **19YN029**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On May 24, 2019 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. On May 30, 2019 the NIRB released formal correspondence requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On June 7, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Diversity of pelagic primary producers in coastal habitats and the potential for harmful blooms in Eastern Canadian Arctic” project is located within the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, approximately 10 kilometers (km) south of Iqaluit. The Proponent intends to conduct scientific research to identify and describe microscopic algae species that are present in Koojesse, Peterhead, and Tarr Inlets in the Frobisher Bay region. The program is proposed to take place over one, four (4) day period each year from August 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Transportation of personnel by chartered boat (Polar Outfitting) to approximately 23 sampling locations within Frobisher Bay;
- Collection of algae samples using various techniques including:
 - sampling from the water column using a plankton net;
 - sampling of ocean floor sediment using a grab sampler;
- Use of Secchi disk to measure water turbidity at each sampling locations;
- Collection of conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD) at each sampling locations;
- Use and storage of chemicals for preservation of samples;
- Accommodations and use of laboratory facilities at the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) in Iqaluit; and
- All waste generated would be back hauled to the NRI for proper disposal.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125471.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-Technical Project Proposal Summary in English, French, and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting proposed travel and research sampling locations*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB’s online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by ISMER’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 28, 2019**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125471.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4607 or cbarker@nirb.ca or Sophia Granchinho, Manager, Impact Assessment, at (867) 857-4829 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Cory Barker
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, French and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, French and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Appendix A

Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 149121) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 7, 2019).
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Wildlife - General

4. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
5. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife or disturb large groups of animals. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife including intersecting with the movements of marine mammals.
6. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
7. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

8. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.

Ship-Based Activities

9. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including waste water) or sediment into any marine waters.
10. The Proponent shall manage all wastes (including domestic, garbage and debris) on board the vessel prior to final disposal at approved port facilities.
11. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Other

12. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated

public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.

13. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
14. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.