

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*:

Nunavut Agreement, Article 12, Section 12.2.5: In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA* which states:

NuPPAA, s. 88: The purpose of screening a project is to determine whether the project has the potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts and, accordingly, whether it requires a review by the Board...

To determine whether a review of a project is required, the NIRB is guided by the considerations as set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.2(a) and (b) of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 89(1) of *NuPPAA* which states:

NuPPAA, s. 89(1): The Board must be guided by the following considerations when it is called on to determine, on the completion of a screening, whether a review of the project is required:

- (a) a review is required if, in the Board's opinion,
 - i. the project may have significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts or significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities,
 - ii. the project will cause significant public concern, or
 - iii. the project involves technological innovations, the effects of which are unknown; and
- (b) a review is not required if, in the Board's opinion,
 - i. the project is unlikely to cause significant public concern, and
 - ii. its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

It is noted that under Article 12, Section 12.4.2(c) and s. 89(2) of the *NuPPAA* provides that the considerations set out in s.89(1)(a) prevail over the considerations set out in s. 89(1)(b) of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister. The contents of the NIRB's report are specified under *NuPPAA*:

NuPPAA, s. 92(1): The Board must submit a written report to the responsible Minister containing a description of the project that specifies its scope and indicating that:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

Where the NIRB determines that a project may be carried out without a review, the NIRB has the discretion to recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval of the project proposal pursuant to paragraph 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA* as follows:

NuPPAA, s. 92(2) In its report, the Board may also

- (a) recommend specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of a project that it determines may be carried out without a review.

PROJECT REFERRAL

On February 16, 2022, the NIRB received a referral to screen Aqqiumavvik Society's "Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on Arctic Nesting Geese – a Key Towards Inuit Food Sovereignty in Arviat, Nunavut" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 87 of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal and assigned it file number **22YN010**.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. Screening Process Timelines

The following key stages were completed for the screening process:

Date	Stage
February 16, 2022	Receipt of project proposal and positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Commission.
February 16, 2022	Request to complete Public Registry online and provide information pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
February 23, 2022	Receipt of online application from Proponent
March 4, 2022	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
March 9, 2022	Public engagement and comment request
March 21, 2022	Receipt of public comments
April 4, 2022	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

2. Project Scope

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125673.

Project:	Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on Arctic Nesting Geese – a Key Towards Inuit Food Sovereignty in Arviat				
Region:	Kivalliq				
Location:	Kuugaarjuk Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Kuugaarjuk MBS)				
Closest Community:	Hamlet of Arviat	Distance (approximate)	40 kilometres (km)	Direction	Southwest
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct scientific research to assess the viability of an increased harvest of geese and eggs in a changing climate to contribute to food security in Arviat.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	April to September; 2022 to 2026				

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepts the scope of the project as set out by the Aqqiumavvik Society in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- Establishment of a mobile base camp near the nesting area(s) to support research activities;
- Use of ATVs to transport personnel and sampling equipment/samples between the nesting colonies within Kuugaarjuk MBS and around Arviat;
- Mapping goose nest locations and abundance by counting the number of nests and measuring eggs to determine species within a 30-metre radius within Kuugaarjuk MBS and around Arviat;
- Monitoring goose population health by collecting samples of 50 adult lesser snow and Ross's geese (some birds may be collected outside the Kuugaarjuk MBS) to assess contemporary pathogens, potential contamination from plastics and other contaminants, and pre-breeding nutrient levels; and
- Banding representative samples of snow and Ross's geese to determine current harvest and survival rates (some banding may occur outside the Kuugaarjuk MBS).

3. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB proceeded with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

4. Public Comments and Concerns

Notice regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal was distributed on was distributed on March 9, 2022, to community organizations in the Hamlet of Arviat, as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and the NIRB's proposed project-specific

terms and conditions, and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by March 21, 2022, 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.

On or before March 21, 2022, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)**
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)**

a. Summary of Public Comments and Concerns Received during the Public comment period of this file

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB:

CIRNAC:

- Recommendation of prioritizing employment, training and procurement of local Inuit and Inuit-owned businesses, in which the Hamlet of Arviat would have opportunity priority.
- Continued consultation with the Hamlet of Arviat, the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization, community members, and other organizations which may have an interest in the project's activities within or in close proximity to the project area, regarding potential employment, training and procurement, incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit, Traditional, and Community Knowledge into project activities, and to provide the interested parties with updates.

DFO:

- No concerns, as the proposal does not require an authorization, however, encouraged the proponent to follow measures from the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program, to comply with fish and fish habitat provisions of the *Fisheries Act*, which can be found on DFO's Projects Near Water website: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesures-eng.html>.
- It is the proponent's Duty to Notify DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to FisheriesProtection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or 1-855-852-8320.

b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Traditional, and Community Knowledge

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or traditional and community knowledge in relation to the proposed project.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NuPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts.

Accordingly, the assessment of impact significance was based on the analysis of those factors that are set out under s. 90 of the *NuPPAA*. The Board took particular care to take into account Inuit Qaujimaningit, traditional and community knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

The following is a summary of the Board's assessment of the factors that are relevant to the determination of significant impacts with respect of this project proposal:

Factor	Comment
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	The proposed project takes place within: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Kuugaarjuk MBS; and▪ Other habitats of far-ranging wildlife species such as migratory and non-migratory birds, Arctic fox, Arctic hare, and Species at Risk such as Polar Bears, close to the Hamlet of Arviat and the proposed route to the Kuugaarjuk MBS.
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	The project takes place within the Kuugaarjuk MBS, requiring special consideration.
The historical, cultural, and archaeological significance of that area.	The project takes place within the Kuugaarjuk MBS which holds cultural significance. However, the project is unlikely to result in significant impacts due to the nature of the research activities.
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	The project takes place within Inuit harvesting and traditional land use areas. Due to the nature of the project activities, any impacts are expected to be minimal and mitigatable. The project will likely result in positive effects due to the research objectives.
The nature, magnitude, and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.	Based on past evidence from projects with a similar scope of activities, the potential adverse impacts are considered to be well-known, with potential for localized impacts to the biophysical environment that are mitigable with due care.

Factor	Comment
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	The NIRB has not identified any past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects at this time; however, the mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB have been designed to reduce cumulative effects should projects occur in the area in the future.
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	No other relevant factors were identified.

Views of the Board

In considering the factors as set out above in the screening of the project proposal, the NIRB has identified a number of issues below and respectfully provide the following views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. In addition, the NIRB has proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

The NIRB has listed specific Acts and Regulations below that may be applicable to the project proposal, but this list should not be considered as a complete list and the Proponent is responsible to ensure that it follows all Acts and Regulations that may be applicable to the project proposal.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

Valued Component	Migratory and non-migratory birds, Arctic hare, Arctic Fox, and Species at Risk such as Polar Bears.
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects may be caused by noise and visual disturbance generated from the setup of a temporary camp, sample collection, and the transportation of personnel and equipment. Physical stress on individual birds is likely due to banding activities.
Nature of Impacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential impacts include short-term behavioral changes from sampling and data collection activities, and physical stress on individual birds captured during the banding process. ▪ Potential adverse effects would be considered reversible, mitigatable, and temporary.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent proposes to camp at established campsites recommended by local guides to reduce impacts on wildlife and to remove wastes for proper disposal.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 9 Wildlife – General – 16 through 18 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 19 and 20 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 23 through 27 Camps – 28 and 29

Related Acts and/or Regulations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> and <i>Migratory Birds Regulations</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/). 2. The <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/S-15.3/index.html). Attached in Appendix A is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut. 3. The <i>Wildlife Act (Nunavut)</i> and its corresponding regulations (http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html).
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Valued Component	Marine, Freshwater, and Terrestrial Ecosystems
Potential effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential adverse effects may be caused during a spill event or improper management of waste. ▪ Potential adverse effects may be associated with travelling through or towards the Kuugaarjuk Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) and other areas and when establishing a temporary campsite.
Nature of Impacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spills may occur during transportation re-fueling activities or equipment malfunctions, fuel container leaks, and if applicable, spills of chemicals used for sample preservation. Potential adverse effects would likely be negligible due to limited volumes spilled and stored. ▪ Habitat disturbance for all ecosystems may come from travelling through and to the project area(s), with greater potential impacts coming from motorized vehicle use. ▪ Potential adverse effects would be considered reversible, mitigatable, and temporary.
Mitigating Factors:	During sample collection and during the establishment of the temporary campsite, due care should be given to reduce disruption as described within the comment from DFO and when travelling through the Kuugaarjuk MBS and by following the attached Terms and Conditions.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	<p>Water courses/Water bodies – 6 through 8</p> <p>Waste Management – 9</p> <p>Fuel and Chemical Storage – 10 through 14</p> <p>Wildlife – General – 16 through 18</p> <p>Road and Ground Disturbance – 21 and 22</p> <p>Land-use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 23 through 27</p> <p>Camps – 28 and 29</p> <p>Other – 32</p>
Related Acts and/or Regulations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendation to follow direction from the Nunavut Water Board and the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program to comply with fish and fish habitat provisions of the <i>Fisheries Act</i>: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesures-eng.html. 2. The Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/).

	3. The Nunavut Act (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/).
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Valued Component	Air Quality
Potential effects:	Greenhouse gas emissions from motorized vehicles
Nature of Impacts:	Emissions would contribute to Climate Change; however, some use is considered both necessary and reasonable.
Mitigating Factors:	Minimizing vehicle idling will reduce unnecessary emissions; Appropriate waste disposal.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Air Quality - 15
Related Acts and/or Regulations:	Not Applicable

Valued Component	Inuit harvesting and traditional land use activities
Potential effects:	The project takes place within Inuit harvesting and traditional land use areas. The project may result in positive effects due to the research objectives.
Nature of Impacts:	The Proponent intends to conduct scientific research to assess the viability of an increased harvest of geese and eggs in a changing climate to contribute to food security in Arviat.
Mitigating Factors:	Not Applicable
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 32 through 34
Related Acts and/or Regulations:	1. The <i>Nunavut Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/).

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Archaeological and Historical Sites
Potential effects:	Potential disturbance within the Kuugaarjuk MBS and potential positive effects from research objectives
Nature of Impacts:	The project takes place within the Kuugaarjuk MBS which holds cultural significance. However, the project is unlikely to result in impacts due to the nature of project activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The nature of the project activities is unlikely to result in impacts to archeological and heritage sites. Following the attached Terms and Conditions will further reduce the possibility of negative impacts.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Heritage Sites – 30 through 31
Related Acts and/or Regulations:	1. The <i>Nunavut Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/).

Significant public concern:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent's compliance with the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

General

1. Aqqiumavvik Society (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 149689), to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment, Nunavut Research Institute, and the NIRB (Online Application Form). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff, and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the appropriate authorizing agency.
7. The Proponent shall ensure that no disturbance of the stream bed, lakebed or the banks of any definable watercourse be permitted, except where deemed necessary for maintaining

project-specific operational commitments or approved by a responsible authority in cases of spill management.

8. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

9. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris, and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

10. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
11. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
12. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
13. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.

Air Quality

15. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

Wildlife – General

16. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
17. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
18. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

19. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs except as required for the purposes of the proposed research. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's Avoidance Guidelines. The Proponent's actions in applying the Avoidance Guidelines shall be in compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 and with the Species at Risk Act.
20. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds except as required for the purposes of the proposed research. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

Road and Ground Disturbance

21. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.
22. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles without prior testing the thickness of the ice to ensure the lake, river or stream is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

23. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
24. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
25. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.
26. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel, and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.
27. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

Camps

28. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located durable surfaces, such as gravel or sand that is consolidated and can withstand repeated, heavy use. Measures shall be put in place to prevent erosion, trail formation and damage to the ground.
29. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store materials on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use.

Heritage Sites

30. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
31. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the

prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

Other

32. 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.
33. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
34. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications produced as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf.

5. There are Polar Bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on Polar Bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at <http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the "Safety in Polar Bear Country" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~/_media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx.
6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Arviat (867) 857-2975; (867) 857-2976).

Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including Species at Risk, are encountered, or affected by the project.

Migratory Birds

8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.
9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to the Aqqiumavvik Society's "Understanding the impacts of climate change on Arctic nesting geese – a key towards Inuit food sovereignty in Arviat." The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated April 4, 2022 at Baker Lake, NU.

M. Kaviq Kaluraq

Kaviq Kaluraq, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut

APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the Species at Risk Act (SARA), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for SARA. SARA applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of SARA identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the species at risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of species at risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of SARA are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2019

Terrestrial Species at Risk ¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility ²
Migratory Birds			
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Vegetation			
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Arthropods			
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Terrestrial Wildlife			
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Marine Wildlife			
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO

¹ The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

² Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.

Terrestrial Species at Risk¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility²
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fish			
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO