



















# SHIPPING AND MARINE MONITORING SUMMARY

## BAFFINLAND SHIPPING

### Contents

- 1** Baffinland Shipping Activities
- 2** Addressing Concerns
- 3** Shipping Route
- 4** Potential Effects on the Environment
- 5** Marine Monitoring Programs
- 6** Communications





# BAFFINLAND SHIPPING ACTIVITIES

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation ('Baffinland' or the 'Company') will begin its shipping activities once certain minimum requirements have been met, including no presence of landfast ice along the entire Northern Shipping Route, and confirmation that the Pond Inlet floe edge has been closed.

Baffinland will continue to implement mitigation measures throughout the shipping season in direct response to Inuit input. The trigger to commence the beginning of the shipping season is the presence of a continuous path of 3/10<sup>ths</sup> or less ice concentrations between the entrance of Eclipse Sound and Milne Port, which is typically expected to occur by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Baffinland will continue to provide regular updates to the community through the Shipping Monitor program based in Pond Inlet as well as through the shipping Facebook page. As we approach the start of the season we provide a 72hr notice to the community when we anticipate to begin shipping.

The final shipping schedule will depend on prevailing ice conditions. Once initiated, shipping will continue through October, with all vessels planning to depart from Milne Port by October 31st.

## What you've shared with us

Through valuable conversations with local community members, Baffinland has heard a number of primary concerns related to shipping through the Northern Shipping Route.

The potential for shipping to interfere with local hunting

The potential for dust to impact the marine environment including water and sediment quality, and marine organisms

The potential for vessels to affect marine mammals

The potential for shipping activity to harm the health of the marine ecosystem

# ADDRESSING CONCERNS

## How has Baffinland addressed these concerns?

Baffinland is committed to continuing to monitor any potential effects of shipping activities. Here are some of the measures we will be implementing to manage and mitigate potential issues:

1. Baffinland vessels will not break through landfast ice and will wait for confirmation that the floe edge has been closed before entering Eclipse Sound. The trigger to commence the beginning of the shipping season is the presence of a continuous path of 3/10<sup>ths</sup> or less ice concentrations between the entrance of Eclipse Sound and Milne Port, which is typically expected to occur by July 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. Convoys and larger vessels will be used opportunistically to further reduce total underwater sound exposure and reduce the total number of vessel transits. Baffinland introduced the use of convoys, where vessels travel in groups, throughout the shipping season. This reduces the total underwater sound exposure, potential interactions with hunters, and limits the number of overall vessel transits through the area.
3. Vessels will follow the approved Northern Shipping Route, unless deviations are required to ensure safe sailing conditions. We have a notification system that alerts Baffinland staff if any Baffinland vessels are travelling above the speed limit (maximum of 9 knots) or outside of the approved Northern Shipping Route by more than 1 nautical mile (nm).
4. A maximum of three vessels can be anchored or drifting at Ragged Island at any one time. Vessels are only permitted to drift within the established drifting zone and Ragged Island, which is strictly for safety purposes.
5. Ensuring that all Baffinland vessels follow the Standing Instructions to Masters which provides information to vessel captains on speed limits, the shipping route, and anchorage locations.
6. No grey water, sewage or ballast water will be discharged in Eclipse Sound by ore carriers. Ballast water is only discharged by ore carriers at Milne Port after compliance testing.
7. Baffinland enforces “no-go zones,” which include the western shoreline near Bruce Head and Koluktoo Bay to minimize interference with hunting activities.
8. Baffinland works with community members, Hunters and Trappers Organizations and Hamlets to ensure that all concerns related to shipping activities are considered. Full-time Shipping Monitors will be available in the Baffinland Pond Inlet office to support daily tracking and viewing of vessels passing through Eclipse Sound all the way to Milne Port.
9. Baffinland will conduct marine mammal shore-based monitoring throughout the shipping season to monitor narwhal relative abundance, calving rates, and behaviour.
10. Baffinland will continue to implement dust suppression and mitigation measures, as well as monitor dust concentrations in Milne Inlet and surrounding areas.
11. The use of scrubbers is prohibited within the Regional Study Area.
12. Vessels turn off the main engine at anchorage and only use auxiliary power, unless warranted for safety reasons, to reduce sound exposure.
13. Baffinland conducts voluntary salinity testing on board each ore carrier calling to Milne Port prior to discharging ballast water. All Project vessels are required to conduct a ballast water exchange prior to arriving at Milne Port and all vessels with a treatment system on board are required to treat ballast water in addition to conducting an exchange.

**It is important to remember that the health and safety of people is always Baffinland's top priority. In some situations, the vessel captains may need to deviate away from standard operating procedures to ensure safe passage.**

# SHIPPING ROUTE



## HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

If you are on the water and have an immediate concern, **contact our shipping monitor via VHF radio channel 26.**

**Visit the Baffinland office** and speak with our shipping monitors or **view vessel tracks** in the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO) building, 2nd floor.

Email us at :  
[shipping@baffinland.com](mailto:shipping@baffinland.com)

Call us at:  
**(867) 899-1807**

For shipping updates visit:  
[www.baffinland.com](http://www.baffinland.com)

- > Operation
- > Shipping & Monitoring



# POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Baffinland monitors the marine environment for all potential effects from Baffinland shipping. Shipping may affect marine mammals:

- Distribution and abundance
- Behaviour
- Habitat

Shipping could potentially affect the local marine environment by:

- Introducing aquatic non-indigenous or invasive species
- Altering the quality or quantity of fish habitat
- Altering water quality near Milne Port



# MARINE MONITORING PROGRAMS

## What are we doing to monitor the marine environment?

Baffinland has been monitoring for potential project related effects on the marine environment every year since 2013 and while not all monitoring programs are required each year, we ensure that monitoring efforts meet or exceed industry standards. We report our results each year through the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) annual report as well as with the Marine Environment Working Group (MEWG) that has member representation from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO) and other HTA's.

To monitor potential effects from shipping on the marine environment, Baffinland will be running a number of different monitoring programs throughout the shipping season.

The marine monitoring programs will:

- Measure the effects that shipping is having on the marine environment
- Assess the accuracy of predictions of effects
- Determine if adaptive mitigation measures need to be developed.



**Marine Mammal Aerial Surveys**

The Aerial Clearance Survey is done at the end of the season (October), if ice is present, when the last ships are leaving to ensure that no Narwhal are entrapped in ice.



**Marine Environmental Effects and Aquatic Invasive Species and Habitat Offset**

Monitors water and sediment quality including metals, benthic infauna, epifauna and epiflora, fish abundance and health (focus on Arctic char) including contaminant analysis, and ballast water compliance testing. This program takes place at Milne Port from the end of July to the third week of August.



**Ship-based Observer Monitoring**

Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) based off of the icebreaker MSV Botnica and MSV Fennica monitor for potential ship strikes on marine mammals in the Regional Study Area and document the relative abundance of marine mammal and seabird species in the Project area relevant to icebreaking operations. This program takes place for two weeks in mid to late October.



**Aquatic Invasive Species Ballast Water Monitoring (DFO Collaboration)**

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans in collaboration with Baffinland ran a two-week pilot program in 2023 that focused on biological sampling of ballast water. This program is intended to monitor for the introduction of invasive species through ballast water discharges and will include training workshops in the community of Pond Inlet. In 2024, this program will run for two-to-two week periods in September and October.



### Bruce Head Shore-based Monitoring

Investigates narwhal response to shipping along the Northern Shipping Route by observing them from the top of Bruce Head. This program takes place the month of August for 4 weeks.

# COMMUNICATIONS

In order to provide better communications about Baffinland vessel activities, full-time Shipping Monitors will be available over the entire shipping season working from the Baffinland Pond Inlet office located in the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO) office building (2nd Floor). If you have questions, comments or concerns about Baffinland vessels, please contact Baffinland by visiting one of our Shipping Monitors, or provide your concern to a representative from the MHTO who can then relay the message to Baffinland.

In addition to interacting directly with Shipping Monitors, vessel traffic in 2024 may be monitored through a variety of methods including:

1. Accessing the Baffinland website ([www.baffinland.com](http://www.baffinland.com)) and following the path to "Operation>Shipping & Monitoring", access also available in the Baffinland Pond Inlet office;
2. Visiting the Pond Inlet Baffinland office to observe live tracking of vessels through the Automatic Identification System (AIS) monitoring station, and learning more about the type of vessels that Baffinland requires for its operations;
3. Announcements about upcoming vessel activity including convoys will be made on the local Pond Inlet radio at regular intervals;
4. Listening to periodic announcements of daily and upcoming vessel activity including convoys on marine VHF radio channel 26;
5. Accessing the Baffinland shipping Facebook page for shipping related updates and ship tracks at [www.facebook.com/ShippingBaffinland/](https://www.facebook.com/ShippingBaffinland/)



# QUESTIONS? HERE IS HOW YOU CAN REACH US

## **Baffinland Head Office**

Peter Akman

**Head of Stakeholder Relations**

[communications@baffinland.com](mailto:communications@baffinland.com)

**+1 289 834 0744**

**360 Oakville Place Drive**

**Suite 300**

**Oakville, Ontario**

**L6H 6K8**

If you have questions, comments or concerns about Baffinland vessels, please contact us by visiting one of our Shipping Monitors at the Baffinland Pond Inlet office (in Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO) building, 2nd floor), contact us via marine VHF radio channel 26, or provide your concern directly to the MHTO. For specific vessel operation concerns, if possible, please indicate the name of the vessel, location, the date and time of observation, as well as any details about your concern. Please provide photos and video if available.

Cortney Oliver

**Senior Manager, Environment and Social Governance**

[Cortney.Oliver@baffinland.com](mailto:Cortney.Oliver@baffinland.com)

**+1 289 834 1121**

**Pond Inlet Shipping Monitors**

[Shipping@baffinland.com](mailto:Shipping@baffinland.com)

**+1 867 899 1807**