

April 30, 2024

Mia Otokiak
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Canadian Wildlife Service’s “Seabird Surveys and Monitoring of Vessel Traffic within Akpait and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Areas” project proposal


Dear Mia Otokiak,

The Government of Nunavut (GN) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Canadian Wildlife Service's (CWS) "Seabird Surveys and Monitoring of Vessel Traffic within Akpait and Qaulluit National Wildlife Areas" project proposal, NIRB File # 24YN007.

The GN has reviewed the proposed project and related documents and has provided one (1) comment, which is appended to this letter.

The GN appreciates participating in the screening of this project through the NIRB process. Should there be any concerns or need for follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact me at jbuller@gov.nu.ca.

Qujannamiik,


Justin Buller

Justin Buller
Interim Avatiliriniq Coordinator
Government of Nunavut

GN: Palaeontology and Archeology	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Seabird Surveys and Monitoring of Vessel Traffic within Akpait and Qaulluit National Wildlife Areas
References	NIRB Notice of Screening No 24YN007
CONCERNS	
<p>The Canadian Wildlife Service is planning to carry out a seabird survey and vessel traffic monitoring project within Akpait and Qaulluit National Wildlife Areas. The project areas are located approximately 75 to 130 km from the community of Qikiqtarjuaq.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are nineteen (19) archaeological sites recorded within the proposed study areas. Two of them are located on Durban Island near the DEW Line site. This, however, does not preclude the presence of unidentified archaeological sites or cultural features as no systematic archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in this area.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>The Government of Nunavut recommends that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the research team exercises caution in their movements in the area to avoid archaeological sites; (2) the location of the proposed cabin on Durban Island should be visually inspected in order to avoid archaeological sites; (3) the applicant avoids conducting any sampling activities in the vicinity (50m buffer zone) of archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities should immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Archaeology Office within the Department. 	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
<p>All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected by law. The applicant must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage resource sites are disturbed during their activities. No person shall alter or otherwise disturb an archaeological site or remove any artifact from an archaeological site. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.</p>	