



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 24YN026

Project Name: The “Estimating the abundance of the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation” project
Proponent Name: Government of Nunavut
Project Type: Research Region: Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Regions
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125939
Comment Deadline: **July 11, 2024**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Estimating the abundance of the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation” project is located within all three regions: Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani (South Baffin), within the municipal boundaries of the communities of: Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Nauyasat, Igloodik, Sanirajak, Kinngait, and Kimmirut. The Proponent intends to conduct research to estimate the population abundance of the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation and characterization of polar bear movements between surrounding subpopulation boundaries. The program is proposed to take place from July 2024 to August 2024. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of 2 helicopters for aerial surveys as well as travel between sites
- Use of dart guns and biopsy darts to collect DNA samples (<5mm diameter) from polar bears from 0-15 meters distance
- Set up and use of steel posts with barbed wire to collect hair samples from bears
- Hiring and training of local community members to lead community-led hair snare stations within municipal boundaries of the communities of Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Nauyasat, Igloodik, Sanirajak, Coral Harbour, Kinngait, and Kimmirut

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **24YN026** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Mia Beattie, Impact Assessment Officer toll-free at (867) 983-4622 or mbeattie@nirb.ca.