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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Mosha Cote, Jared Ottenhof, Wynter Kuliktana, and Lauren Juranek:

RE: NPC File # 150312 [Early Career Training Cruise]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. Marine-based scientific research: This project involves marine research and the USCGC Healy transit of the Northwest Passage from Kugluktuk, Canada, to Nuuk, Greenland.
 - The proponent intends to use this cruise to train early career scientists, undertake seafloor mapping, and collect seabed grab samples and relatively short (<10 m) core samples to improve an atlas of seabed sediments currently in development.
 - Deploy several xCTD devices to obtain additional underway temperature and salinity data and collect other data during transits. Water collected at select sites will be stored onboard and returned to individual laboratories for analysis of water isotopes (d18O), dissolved gasses, including oxygen (O₂), methane (CH₄), nutrient content, microplastics, RNA/DNA, and phytoplankton pigments.
2. Associated NPC File No.: 149490, and 149502; NIRB files: 21YN017 and 21YN0293
3. Location: Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Regions [marine areas]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal, including the proposal regarding the

transiting of the Healy from Alaska to Baffin Bay and across the Northwest Passage (conformity determination issued April 8, 2021). This conformity determination still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE Nos.: 21YN017 and 21YN029).

The NPC has determined that the above-noted project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the extension of the research route along the Northwest Passage to include the marine areas near the community of Kugluktuk. It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal requires screening by the NIRB under section 12.4.3 of the Nunavut Agreement as amended because it is for a component or activity that was not part of the original or previously amended proposal and its inclusion is a significant modification of the project.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150312>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the NUPPAA.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 447-4563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SA' with a stylized flourish.

Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission