



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 24YN025

Project Name: The “**Kinngait beluga and walrus biopsy, tagging, camera, and drone work**” project
Proponent Name: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani Region
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125972
Comment Deadline: **June 24, 2024**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Kinngait beluga and walrus biopsy, tagging, camera, and drone work” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 200 kilometres (km) from Kinngait. The Proponent intends to conduct scientific research on beluga and walrus around Kinngait. The program is proposed to take place from September to October 2024. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Sampling of skin and blubber of walrus and beluga using airguns;
- Tagging animals with satellite tracking tags using crossbows;
- Use of drones for imagery;
- Deployment of hydrophones to monitor marine mammal presence

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **24YN025** 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 Keith Morrison, Manager, Impact Assessment toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or kmorrison@nirb.ca.