



**NIRB File No.: 24YN031**  
NPC File No.: 150430

August 13, 2024

Giannina Hattich  
University of Turku  
Turku Southwestfinland, Finland

Sent via email: [gshatt@utu.fi](mailto:gshatt@utu.fi)

**Re: Notice of Screening for University of Turku “ISOLATED: Impact of Stability On Plasticity and Adaptation Potential of Diatoms” project proposal**

Dear Giannina Hattich:

On June 17, 2024 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen University of Turku’s “ISOLATED: Impact of Stability On Plasticity and Adaptation Potential of Diatoms” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On June 17, 2024 the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **24YN031** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

<b>Project:</b>	ISOLATED: Impact of Stability On Plasticity and Adaptation Potential of Diatoms
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot Regions
<b>Location:</b>	Kane Basin, Queen Elizabeth Islands, Pond Inlet, Buchan Gulf, Davis Strait, East Baffin Island and Bellot Strait
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct marine water sampling to collect phytoplankton samples at various sites around Baffin Bay.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	August 2024 to September 2024

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Collection of water samples to identify the plasticity of the thermal response within the diatom species *T. hyalina* along the temperature gradient within Baffin Bay and clarify the adaptation potential of Arctic diatoms to rising sea surface temperatures:
  - Use of a plankton net to gather samples of plankton
  - Collection of 11 L of seawater at each sampling location to assess environmental parameters such as nutrient levels, salinity, temperature and PH, as well as environmental DNA (eDNA)

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125973](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125973) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Application*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Project Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by University of Turku project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 23, 2024**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125973](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125973).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983 4612 or [tkuliktana@nirb.ca](mailto:tkuliktana@nirb.ca)

Sincerely,



Tundra Kuliktana  
Screening Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

## Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

### General

1. University of Turku (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150430), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 17, 2024).
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

### Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

4. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the appropriate authorizing agency.
5. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

### Waste Management

6. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

### Marine-Based Activities

7. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed (e.g. Navy Board Inlet, Lancaster Sound, Milne Inlet, Bellot Strait).
8. The Proponent shall not visit cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds during the late afternoon or early evening hours during the months of August and September.
9. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.

10. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
11. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
12. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 500 metres of a walrus haul out while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft.
13. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.

### **Other**

14. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.