



**NIRB File No.: 24YN036**  
NPC File No.: 150442

August 14, 2024

Camille Berthod  
Université du Québec à Rimouski - Institut des sciences de la mer  
310, allée des Ursulines  
Rimouski Quebec G5L 3A1

Sent via email: [Camille.berthod@uqar.ca](mailto:Camille.berthod@uqar.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Camille Berthod’s “The truncate softshell clam as an indicator of eco-geochemical conditions around the community of Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut” project proposal**

Dear Camille Berthod:

On July 17, 2024 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen UQAR-ISMER’s “The truncate softshell clam as an indicator of eco-geochemical conditions around the community of Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On August 12, 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 **24YN036** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

***Project Scope:***

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125988](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125988).

<b>Project:</b>	The truncate softshell clam as an indicator of eco-geochemical conditions around the community of Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani Region

<b>Location:</b>	Qikiqtarjuaq				
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Qikiqtarjuaq	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	50 kilometres (km)	<b>Direction</b>	North, Northwest, South, Southeast of Qikiqtarjuaq
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct research by examining the microplastics in softshell clams and understand how the components of the ecosystem are changing.				
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	August to September, 2024				

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

- Marine-based scientific research aiming to quantify marine ecosystem health nearby the community of Qikiqtarjuaq
- Sampling of oceanographic (sea surface/subsurface, inorganic carbon, oxygen) and biological data (phytoplankton, invertebrates).
- Use of boat to collect samples at 8 locations

***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/125988](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125988) and include:

- *Commission Application*
- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *DFO License*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Nattivak HTA Approval*

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 UQAR-ISMER’s 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/125988](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125988).

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  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institution  
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans 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. UQAR-ISMER's (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.: 150442), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, August 12, 2024).
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

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

6. 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.

### Waste Management

7. 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.

### Fuel and Chemical Storage

8. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.

### Wildlife – General

9. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
10. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
11. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

## **Marine-Based Activities**

12. 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).
13. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.
14. The Proponent shall anchor large vessels, such as cruise ships at least 500 metres away from seabird and seaduck breeding colonies except Ivory gull breeding sites which requires a setback distance of 2,000 metres. Further, the Proponent shall ensure small launch vessels (e.g., zodiacs, kayaks) maintain a distance of 100 metres from the seabird colonies.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 500 metres of a walrus haul out while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft.
18. 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.

## **Heritage Sites**

19. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.

## **Other**

20. 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.
21. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.