



## COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

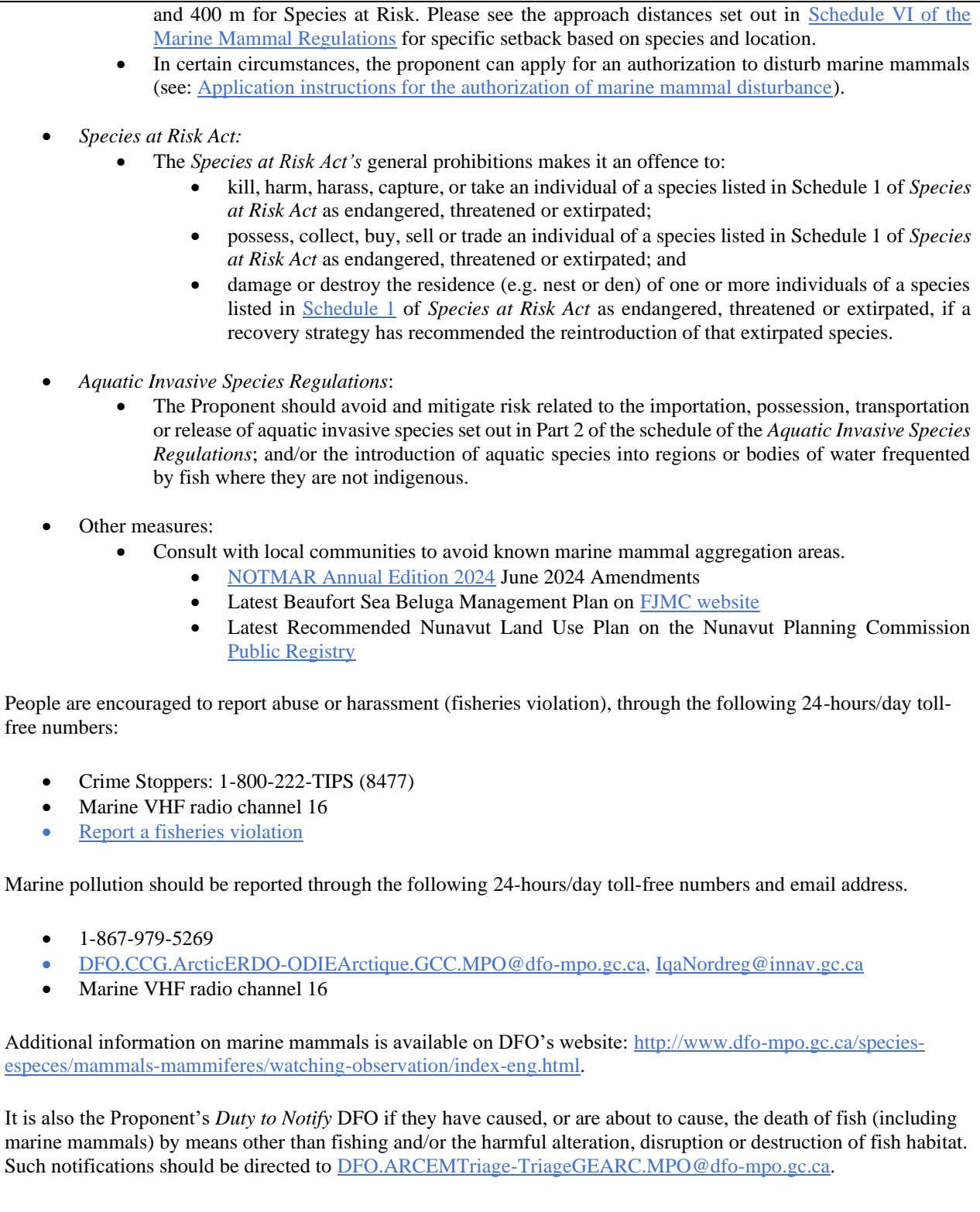
The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

<b>Project Proposal Title:</b>	<b>Field Research Program for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project</b>																				
<b>Proponent:</b>	<b>West Kitikmeot Resources Corp.</b>																				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Kitikmeot Region</b>																				
<b>Comments Due By:</b>	<b>January 22, 2025</b>	<b>NIRB #:</b>	<b>24YN049</b>																		
<p><b>Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> no concerns</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> water quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> terrain</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> air quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> human health issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> other: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land	<input type="checkbox"/> water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities	<input type="checkbox"/> terrain	<input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> human health issues	<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	_____
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<p><b>Please describe the concerns indicated above:</b></p> <p>DFO understands that West Kitikmeot Resources Corp. plans to conduct a field research program at Grays Bay, NU, in support of advancing the design and assessing biophysical and socio-economic impacts of the ‘Grays Bay Road and Port’ project. The research program encompasses a broad scope, including a geotechnical drilling program (marine and land-based) which usually require water withdrawal, as well as marine mammal surveys conducted by aerial surveys and vessel-based surveys.</p> <p>Direct fish mortality can occur during water withdrawal activities through entrainment/impingement. Entrainment occurs when a fish is drawn into a water intake and cannot escape. Impingement occurs when a fish is held in contact with the intake screen and is unable to free itself. In addition, excessive amounts of water withdrawn from waterbodies can impact fish through oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat and/or reductions in littoral habitat.</p> <p>Finally, marine mammal surveys could disturb the animal’s normal life processes. The following marine mammals may use the area in the vicinity of the proposal location and could be disturbed during the surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowhead Whale (<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>) Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort population</li> <li>• Bowhead Whale (<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>) Eastern Canada – West Greenland population</li> <li>• Ringed Seal (<i>Pusa hispida</i>)</li> <li>• Beluga (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>) Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population</li> <li>• Beluga (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>) Eastern Beaufort Sea population</li> </ul>																					
<p><b>Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?</b></p>																					

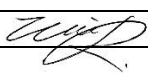


- the death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- effects to listed aquatic *species at risk*, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*;
- the importation, possession, transportation or release of aquatic invasive species set out in Part 2 of the schedule of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* which are prohibited under sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Regulations;
- the introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous, which is prohibited under section 10 of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*;
- the disturbance of marine mammals, which is prohibited under Section 7 of the *Marine Mammal Regulations*.

- *Fisheries Act*
  - To comply with the *Fisheries Act*, it is recommended that the Proponent follow DFO's protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice which can be found on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesures-eng.html> and <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-pratique-eng.html>). Proponents are also asked to respect the NU in-water works restricted activity timing windows ([Projects Near Water - Nunavut Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/projects-near-water-nunavut-restricted-activity-timing-windows-for-the-protection-of-fish-and-fish-habitat-dfo-mpo.gc.ca)). By doing so, impacts to fish and fish habitat can be mitigated or avoided.
  - The Proponent should refer to DFO's Interim Code of Practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater available at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/codes/screen-ecran-eng.html> when using fish screens, if water intake flow rate is up to 0.150 m³/s, or 150 liters per second (L/s). The Proponent should also follow the Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries In Canada [Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/framework-for-assessing-the-ecological-flow-requirements-to-support-fisheries-in-canada).
  - If the proposal meets the criteria for a site-specific review (e.g., withdrawing water from freshwater source during the Restricted Activity Period), as described on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-003-eng.html>), the Proponent should complete and submit the request for review form available on the DFO website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>).
- *Marine Mammals Regulations*:
  - Section 7 of the *Marine Mammal Regulations (Fisheries Act)* prohibits the disturbance of marine mammals. Generally, disturbance is interpreted as disruption to an animal's normal life processes, resulting from intentional human activities (e.g., to pursue, accompany, overtake, encircle, approach repeatedly, hunt, disperse, drive or herd individuals or groups of marine mammals). This applies equally to divers, kayaks, motor boats and aircraft. Disturbance response thresholds vary among individuals, species and locations.
  - If marine mammals are encountered, and remain in the area, effort should be made to avoid disturbing them by rerouting, slowly navigating around their location at a reduced speed and maintaining their distance. Marine mammals should not be approached, in general, within 100 m





Do you support the project proposal? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Any additional comments?			
Name of person commenting:	William Richmond	of	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Position:	Biologist	Organization:	DFO
Signature:		Date:	January 7, 2025