







# Consultation Purpose

Discuss a proposed new Ministerial Order MPA in Qikiqtait

Share information on proposed approach

Discuss and learn about the uses of the areas





# Why is protection being pursued?

Sanikiluaq Community Conservation Planning Process

In 2019, Sanikiluaq considered developing Qikiqtait as a blend of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA) to protect both the marine and terrestrial areas.

Government of Canada

Committed to international conservation efforts to conserve 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025. Ministerial direction to advance work, grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives, and to support the implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Inuit desire regionally and at the community level to protect Inuit connection to the land and marine areas, Inuit culture and Inuit self-determination in the conservation economy, as laid out in QIA's 2022 Prospectus 'A Regional Conservation Approach'.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

In February 2023 Qikiqtait was identified as a marine area under consideration for conservation.







# How can we protect Qikiqtait?

- One way to support short-term conservation goals is by creating a Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order with DFO under the *Oceans Act*.
- This tool can be used as a first step on the path towards identifying long-term management and conservation needs for Qikiqtait.
- The long-term vision for Qikiqtait is to pursue the establishment of an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area.



# Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order

- This is a temporary protection measure designed to protect an area in the short-term, for a period up to 5 years.
- This provides more time to develop our understanding of the ecosystem and community priorities for the region.
- Most importantly, this provides more time to learn how Inuit want to conserve, protect and manage the area for the long-term.



# Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order

- An MPA by Ministerial Order protects an area by prohibiting any new activities from starting during the period of the Order, up to five years, to maintain the environment's current state. This means that the only activities that will be allowed during the period of the Ministerial Order-will be:
  - All rights secured through the *Nunavut Agreement* are respected within the boundary of the Nunavut Settlement Area
  - All on-going activities, or authorized activities, taking place 1 year prior to designation
  - Research activities consistent with the conservation objectives of the MPA
  - Safety, security and emergency activities
  - Certain activities carried out by a foreign national, entity, ship or state



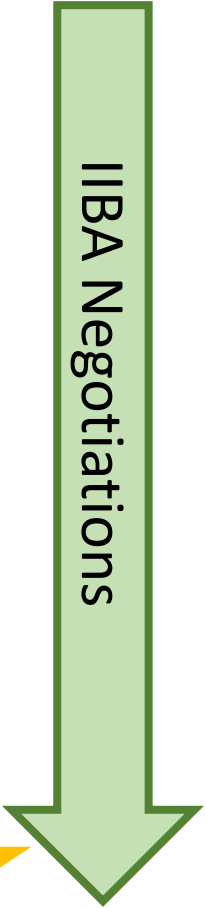
# What does this mean for you?

- We recognize the Nunavut agreement as the superior legislation.
- Traditional harvesting within the Nunavut Settlement Area is a protected right under the Nunavut Agreement, and will not be impacted.
- Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) negotiations are currently underway to secure resources and benefits for these areas.



# Steps to creating a Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order

- Identify a potential area
- Gather information about the area
- Consult with communities (fall 2023 and winter 2024)
- Develop regulatory (legal) documents
- Seek feedback from Canadians (online posting in Canada Gazette I)
- Seek NWMB and other approvals under the *Nunavut Agreement*
- Designate MPA following successful IIBA negotiations







## Long-term plans

QIA has expressed a desire for long-term protection in Qikiqtait.

The Ministerial Order will give us time to learn about the area and determine how to support long-term conservation priorities of Inuit and the community of Sanikiluaq

Inuit Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) are a big part of that conversation.





# QIA's Vision for an IPCA

- Inuit-Led Protected and Conserved Areas are a preferred protection mechanism because they advance reconciliation and Inuit self-determination.
- IPCAs will enable Inuit to determine how conservation is established, governed, managed and operated.
- Qikiqtani IPCAs (Q-IPCA) are clearly defined marine and/or terrestrial areas by QIA as conservation areas, that may be recognized by Canada via supporting agreements and funding, and may include support using federal legislation and tools.
- The Regional Governance Model includes a Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council and each community in the Qikiqtani region will have a community level committee for governance and management of protected areas.
- Inuit-led governance is where Inuit Qaujjimajatuqangit plays a central role in decision making, based on Inuit-laws, customs and traditions.





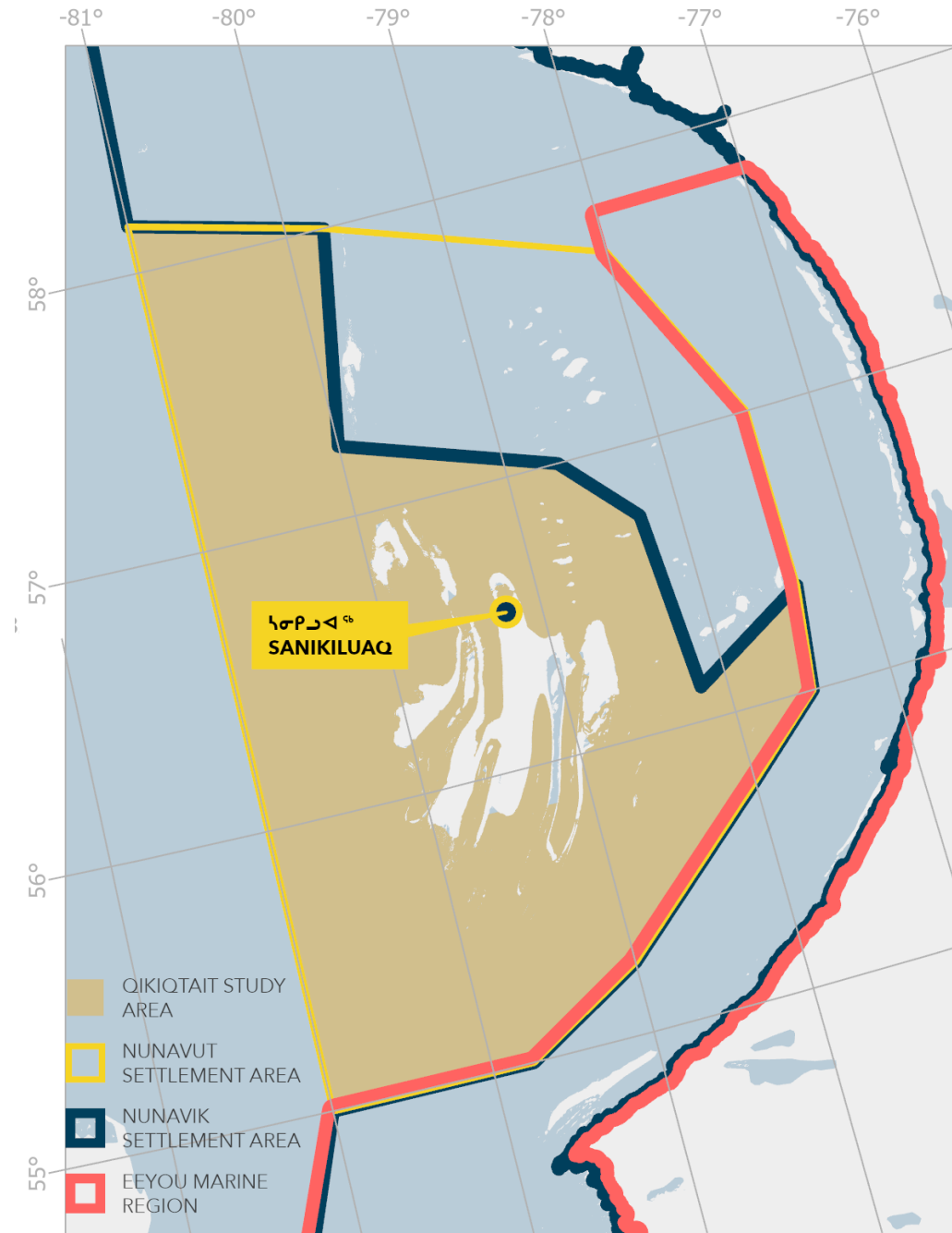


# Boundary of Qikiqtait Ministerial Order MPA

The map shows the boundaries of the Qikiqtait Study Area.

If established the boundaries will follow the Nunavut Settlement Area surrounding the Belcher Islands excluding the north-eastern portion where the Nunavik Settlement Area overlaps.

We recognize the signing of the Devolution Agreement and the boundaries of the long-term protection will be consistent with this Agreement.





# Conservation Objectives

A Marine Protected Area by Ministerial order requires Conservation Objectives.

Conservation Objectives are very broad statements that describe what species or features in the protected area should be conserved. For a Marine Protected Area under the *Oceans Act* Conservation Objectives need to refer to protecting or conserving marine species, unique habitats, high biodiversity, and/or the ecosystem. These objectives are for the interim measure, and long-term objectives will be developed later.



# Proposed Conservation Objective

1. To support the conservation, protection, and understanding of the marine environment around the Belcher Islands, including the wildlife and other species, that is of immense value to Inuit and Inuit culture.
2. To support Inuit leadership in the conservation of Qikiqtait to ensure the continuity of Inuit culture, values, and practices, including accumulating and passing down Inuit knowledge as well as Inuit stewardship and governance.





# **November 6-9, 2023**

## **Survey Results on Proposed Conservation Objectives**

Surveys were filled in during community consultations in Sanikiluaq between November 6-9, 2023.

The majority of survey responses supported the proposed conservation objectives and did not have additions.



# Economic Activities Overview

- **Oil and Gas**
  - No current activities underway. Overall petroleum potential is deemed low to very low
- **Mining**
  - No current activities underway. Mineral potential in the offshore area is unknown
  - The Belcher Islands contain Iron Ore, Marble deposits, undiscovered carving stone sites
- **Commercial and Emerging Fisheries**
  - Commercial fisheries are being explored for sea cucumber, scallops and sea urchin
- **Commercial Shipping and Other Vessel Activities**
  - Some vessel activity under way.
  - General cargo, re-supply or sealift, tanker and tug/barge traffic, and icebreaking activities
- **Recreational and Tourism Activities**
  - Guided excursions for site seeing, recreational activities or fishing and hunting
- **Research Activities**
  - Benefits from research activities includes direct local employment or other benefits from accommodations, flights food etc



# Documented Activities within the Qikiqtait Study Area

## Subsistence & Traditional Use

- Harvested species includes Arctic char, Canada goose, Eider duck, Ringed seal, and cod for Sanikiluaq (info from NWMB).
- Other animals harvested include Beluga, marine invertebrates (mussels, scallops, sea stars, sea urchins, sea cucumbers), polar bear, reindeer/caribou, other fish such as (trout, whitefish, lumpfish, capelin, sculpin).
- Documented hunting areas include the Lukisee Islands, floe edges, Flaherty Island, and the large bay in Middle Island.
- Coastal lyme grass is harvested for basket making.

## Commercial Use

- Occasional commercial selling of eider down harvested in Sanikiluaq.





# Documented Activities within the Qikiqtait Study Area

## Scientific Research

- Collaborative research projects include the Arctic Eider Society, the Sanikiluaq Qikiqtait Steering Committee and external organizations.
- Many governmental and other organizations conducting research around this region such as Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Memorial University, University of Manitoba, Amundsen Science, Cree Nation Government, Government of NU etc.

## Marine Vessel Traffic

- Sealift: NSSI, ArcticSealift, M/V Mitiq
- During open-water season, local/small vessels transit throughout the Hudson Bay complex, including in and around the Qikiqtait area
- Search and rescue operations by boat, ATV and snowmobile

## Tourism & Recreational Use

- Sanikiluarmiut camp, snowmobile, hike, travel by ATV, travel by boat
- Guided tours offered for tourists







# Other Activities?

All activities that are happening can keep going if Qikiqtait becomes a Marine Protected Area (MPA) designated by Ministerial Order. **But, we need to know what you use the area for so we can record them!**

An MPA by Ministerial Order has a general prohibition meaning that no new or additional activities are to start after designation. Activities need to be documented as occurring, or authorized to occur, in the 1 year leading up to designation to continue to be allowed during the Ministerial Order.

All rights secured through the *Nunavut Agreement* are respected within the boundary of the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Activities that will be allowed without documentation include:

- Research activities consistent with the conservation objectives of the MPA
- Safety, security and emergency activities
- Certain activities carried out by a foreign national, entity, ship or state





# Other Activities?

Activities allowed under the Nunavut Agreement by beneficiaries, can continue in the Study Area of this MPA, even if it cannot be shown these activities are happening right now.

We have a survey to learn more about the activities and identify anything that is currently happening.

We will need to confirm that any activities reported in the survey have occurred in the year prior to designation.



