



ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), along with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) are proposing a short-term marine protection measure in the Qikiqtait Study Area as a first step towards establishing long-term protection. The protection measure being proposed is a Marine Protected Area (MPA) by Ministerial Order (or "Order") under the Oceans Act, s35.1(2), which would freeze the footprint of ongoing activities in the Qikiqtait Study Area for a period of up to five years. While the Order is in place, the Government of Canada will work collaboratively with Inuit and northern partners to consider long term protection priorities, including supporting an Inuit Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). This proposal was developed in collaboration with Inuit and northern partners and aligns with the conservation priorities of the Government of Canada and QIA, as outlined in their 2022 Prospectus, which focuses on a regional approach to conservation in the Qikiqtani Region. This proposal for a Ministerial Order MPA in Qikiqtait requires the negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) within the Nunavut Settlement Area. An IIBA between the Government of Canada and QIA is currently being negotiated and will be completed prior to establishment in 2025. The Qikiqtait Study Area is located within the Belcher Islands Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (DFO, 2011) in southeast Hudson Bay. The community of Sanikiluaq, which is adjacent to the proposed MPA, has long recognized the importance of this area, and has advocated for Inuit stewardship and Inuit-led governance for many years (<https://qikiqtait.ca/vision/>). The Qikiqtait Study Area was also identified in the Qikiqtani Inuit Association's (QIA) 2022 Prospectus on regional conservation as contributing to a network of protected areas planned across the Qikiqtani Region. Ecologically significant features of the area include: unique recurring polynyas and upwellings, nutrient-rich waters from nearby river plumes and estuaries, a productive benthic invertebrate community, and the presence of importance species such as Common Eider, Arctic Char, and a wide range of marine mammals. Under the Order, any activity that has occurred in the Qikiqtait Study Area over the 12 months prior to designation, or that is authorized to occur, would be allowed to continue and new activities would be prohibited, with some exceptions. Activities that would be permitted in the Qikiqtait MPA by Ministerial Order include: hunting and trapping, fishing, harvesting of marine plants, marine navigation, activities carried out by the department of National Defense and Canadian Coast Guard, tourism, recreational and educational activities, travel over sea ice (motorized and non-motorized methods of travel), Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and community-based research activities, scientific research and filming. The Order would not apply with respect to the rights of Inuit as provided for in either the Nunavut Agreement or the Nunavik Agreement. In 2023/24, the Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq Working Group identified a preliminary list of activities occurring in the Qikiqtait Study Area, including annual sealift operations, icebreaking activities, marine research vessel activity, subsistence and traditional wildlife harvesting, recreational activities, and tourism. Additional activities were informed through community consultations and stakeholder engagement, including the harvesting of Eider Duck down, harvesting of marine plants, as well as media and filming activities. There is currently no oil and gas development in the area, nor mining operations. Partner input, community consultations, and industry and stakeholder engagement informed the list of ongoing activities in this area. In-person consultations with the community of Sanikiluaq regarding the proposed Qikiqtait MPA took place in November 2023 and in April 2024, facilitated by two important groups; the Sanikiluaq Qikiqtait Steering Committee (SQSC) formed by community members in 2018 to advance protection of the proposed Qikiqtait MPA, and the Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq Working Group, established in September 2021 to advance conservation measures in the Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq study areas. The Working Group includes members from QIA, the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of Canada. These two rounds of consultations consisted of daytime meetings between the Hamlet Council, Hunters and Trappers Association, the SQSC and the Working Group, along with an open public meeting taking place in the evening. Discussions focused on developing conservation objectives for the proposed MPA, determining the ongoing activities in the area, inclusion of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in future management and monitoring and community concerns and priorities regarding emerging commercial fisheries around Sanikiluaq. In September 2024, the Working Group sought community input on a "What We Heard" report summarizing the feedback provided by Sanikiluaq community members during these consultation processes. In October 2024, letters in support of the proposed regulation were received from the Sanikiluaq Hamlet Council, the Hunters and Trappers Association and the Arctic Eider Society. In addition, a letter of support has been received from the Government of







	representatives	Steering Committee	
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Sanikiluaq Qikiqtait Steering Committee	2024-04-18
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Sanikiluaq Hamlet Council	2024-04-16
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Sanikiluaq Hamlet Council	2024-04-17
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization Representatives	Sanikiluaq Hamlet Council	2024-04-18
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization Representatives	Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association	2024-04-16
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association	2024-04-17
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association	2024-04-18
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Community members	Sanikiluaq Community	2024-04-17
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Arctic Eider Society	2024-04-16
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Arctic Eider Society	2024-04-17
ᑲᓂᓯᓗᐅᐅᑦ	Organization representatives	Arctic Eider Society	2024-04-18







# **Additional Information**

**SECTION A1: Project Info**

**SECTION A2: Allweather Road**

**SECTION A3: Winter Road**

**SECTION B1: Project Info**

**SECTION B2: Exploration Activity**

**SECTION B3: Geosciences**

**SECTION B4: Drilling**

**SECTION B5: Stripping**

**SECTION B6: Underground Activity**

**SECTION B7: Waste Rock**

**SECTION B8: Stockpiles**

**SECTION B9: Mine Development**

**SECTION B10: Geology**

**SECTION B11: Mine**

**SECTION B12: Mill**

**SECTION C1: Pits**

**SECTION D1: Facility**

**SECTION D2: Facility Construction**

**SECTION D3: Facility Operation**

**SECTION D4: Vessel Use**

**SECTION E1: Offshore Survey**

**SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey**

**SECTION E3: Vessel Use**



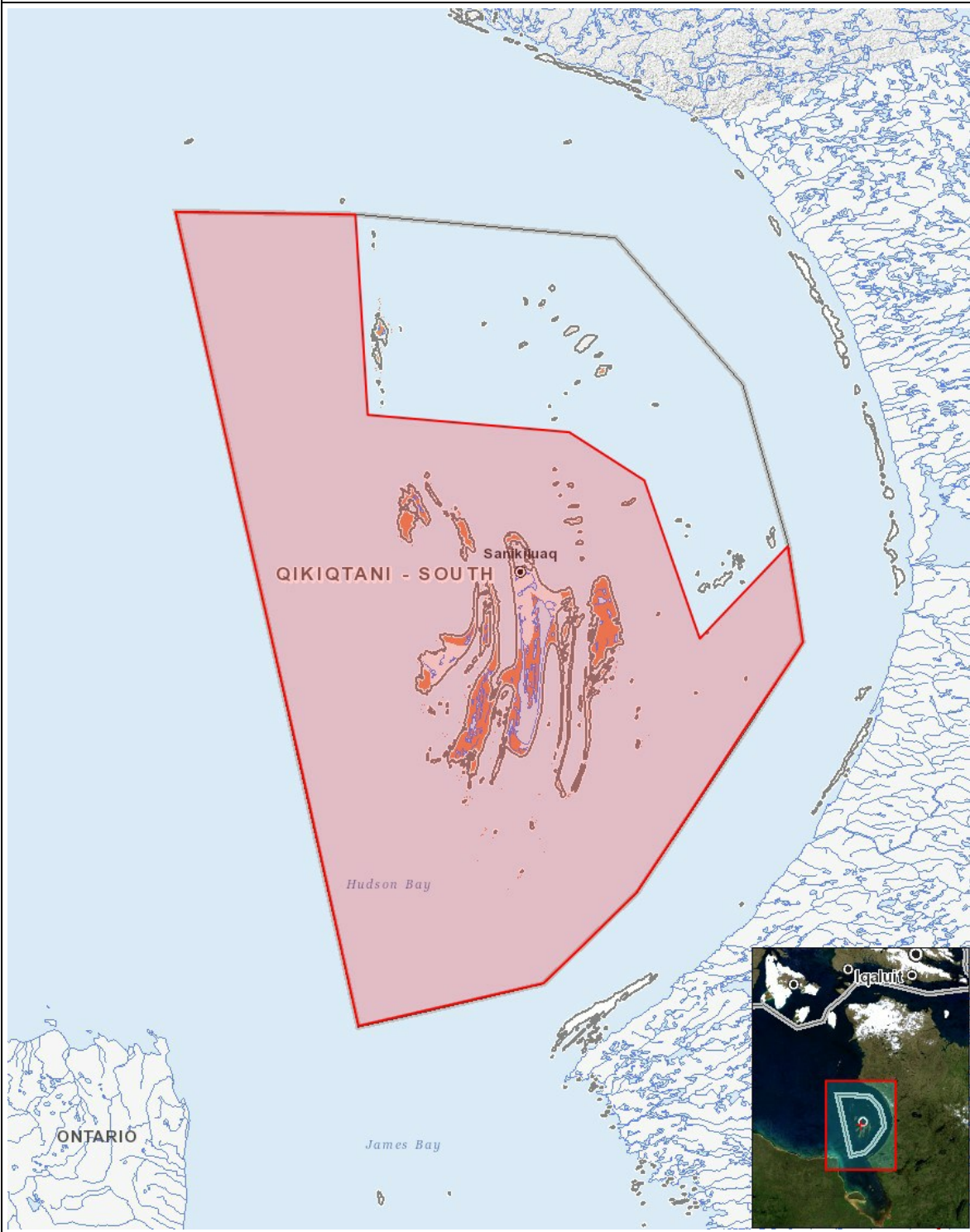


under the Oceans Act will prevent new activities in the area that may pose an ecological risk to its species and habitats. The proposed Order will also provide time for research to continue to collect information to support informed decision-making around long-term protection in Qikiqtait. This approach supports QIA's regional and integrated approach to conservation for the Qikiqtani Region and seeks to advance reconciliation and promote Inuit self-determination. A Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order under the Oceans Act also aligns with Canada's Inuit Nunangat Policy, which was jointly developed with Inuit to ensure that all new federal policies, programs, services, and initiatives that apply in Inuit Nunangat and/or benefit Inuit are designed to support Inuit self-determination, prosperity and wellbeing (individual and community) throughout Inuit Nunangat with the goal of socio-economic and cultural equity between Inuit and other Canadians. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and the Government of Canada have been negotiating a joint Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the proposed Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq MPAs as well as the Qikiqtait Nunangit, a terrestrial Inuit Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) to be established on Inuit Owned Lands by QIA. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has led the negotiations on behalf of the federal government, which also includes Environment and Climate Change Canada and Transport Canada. The IIBA negotiations are still ongoing. The Nunavut Agreement requires that an IIBA be negotiated and signed before areas can be conserved and protected. Negotiators have made significant progress on this IIBA and matters of Inuit-led governance and stewardship as they relate to these important areas. Inuit stewardship and governance will be grounded in Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, and aligned with a sustainable regional protected area model. This progress highlights Canada's journey toward reconciliation with Inuit and support for Inuit self-determination. Additional benefits will be seen through the Qikiqtani Project Finance for Permanence, also referred to as Sinaa. Sinaa is an innovative conservation financing model that leverages government and private funding to support the long-term protection of lands and waters including a shared commitment to working toward the Qikiqtani Regional Conservation Vision. In October 2023, QIA, the Government of Canada and Pew Charitable Trusts signed an Agreement in Principle to advance Sinaa. Sinaa aims to protect and conserve marine and terrestrial areas through the establishment of federal conservation tools and Inuit Protected and Conserved Areas. The Sinaa agreement names Qikiqtait (marine and terrestrial) as one of the conservation areas that will be designated by QIA as an Inuit Protected and Conserved Area in the future. The Government of Canada has committed \$200 million to the agreement. Some of the benefits that will be seen by Inuit as a result of the agreement include the expansion of QIA's Nauttiqsuqtiit program into more Qikiqtani communities, which provides increased employment for Inuit in the region. Further information about this agreement can be found on QIA's website: [https://www.qia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-11-07-summary-of-aip-closing-condition\\_draft.pdf](https://www.qia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-11-07-summary-of-aip-closing-condition_draft.pdf)

### **Cumulative Effects**

The establishment of conservation areas in Canada are intended to mitigate the cumulative impacts of human activities and climate change. Establishment of the proposed Qikiqtait MPA will have no significant adverse effects on the ecosystem or Inuit harvesting activities. The proposed MPA will have no significant adverse socio-economic effects and will enhance and protect the existing and future well-being of Inuit. There will be an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement that supports the Qikiqtani Inuit Association's vision for Inuit-led governance and stewardship for the proposed Qikiqtait MPA. Inuit stewardship and governance will be grounded in Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, and align with a sustainable regional protected area model.





List of Project Geometries

1	polygon	Qikiqtait MPA Boundary
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