



NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 24VN053

NPC File No.: 150573

February 6, 2025

To: José Audet-Lecouffe
Acting Team Lead
Fisheries, Oceans Canada
301-5204 50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

Sent via email: jose.audet-lecouffe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and DFO.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Qikiqtait Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region

Dear Administrators:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Diane LeBouthillier, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Qikiqtait Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order" in the Qikiqtani Region, dated February 6, 2025.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4605 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Cassel Kapolak
Manager, Public Registry
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 24VN053 (February 6, 2025)

cc: Jesslene Jawanda, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Lauren Candlish, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Denis Ndeloh, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
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Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Distribution List