



NIRB File No.: 24VN054
NPC File No.: 150574

January 30, 2025

Jesslene Jawanda
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
3B-630 Queen Elizabeth Way
Iqaluit NU X1A 0H0

Sent via email: jesslene.jawanda@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Opportunity to Address Comments Received Regarding Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Sarvarjuaq Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order" Project Proposal

Dear Jesslene Jawanda:

On January 6, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) circulated the public notice of the screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Sarvarjuaq Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order" project proposal, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by January 27, 2025. On or before January 28, 2025, the NIRB received comments from the following parties:

- *Government of Nunavut (GN)*
- *Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)*
- *Transport Canada*
- *Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association*

All comments received by the NIRB can be accessed from the NIRB's Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126016.

Comments submitted by GN suggests that the GN was prevented from conducting an adequate assessment because of the lack of clarity of the boundaries.

The lack of clarity with the boundary affects the GN's ability to properly assess the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts from the proposed project, and resolving this issue promptly is critical for effective project review.

Additionally, the GN is requesting additional information regarding the potential of the oil and gas resources in the proposed Sarvarjuaq Marine Protected Area.

The NIRB would like to provide Fisheries and Oceans Canada with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s).

The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **Monday February 3, 2025 by 12:00 p.m. (noon) Mountain Standard Time**. If Fisheries and Oceans Canada determines that more time required to supply a written response, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the NIRB's Public Registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at 867-983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard PAg, CTAJ
Senior Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Lauren Candlish, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 Jorgan Aitaok, 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
 Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
 Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
 Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut
 Jonas Azonaha, Government of Nunavut
 Margaret Friesen, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
 Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
 Marcus Bermann, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
 Environment and Climate Change Canada
 José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 Natural Resources Canada
 Transport Canada