



## 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> Kugaaruk Sealift Improvement Project	
<b>Proponent:</b> Tetra Tech Inc.	
<b>Location:</b> Kitikmeot	
<b>Comments Due By:</b> January 24, 2025	<b>NIRB #:</b> 24XN057

**Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:**

<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 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	_____

**Please describe the concerns indicated above:**

DFO has reviewed the Kugaaruk Sealift Improvements Project, NIRB File No: 24XN057, which outline works and activities which have the potential to impact fish and fish habitat (e.g. blasting, excavation, infilling below the high water mark).

The use of explosives in or near aquatic environments can cause harm to fish by rupturing the swim bladder and/or damaging other internal organs, and damaging incubating eggs. It could also result in physical and/or chemical alterations to fish habitat.

**Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?**

Based on the information that was submitted, DFO recommends the proponent to complete and submit a request for review form ( <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>) as the application meets the criteria for a site specific review, as described on DFO's website ( <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-003-eng.html>).

In order 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>).



DFO asks that the proponent to please review and implement any relevant [Measures to protect fish and fish habitat \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](#). By doing so, you ensure that any works, undertaking or activities where impacts to fish and fish habitat can be avoided.

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](#)) to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment. By doing so, works, undertakings or activities where impacts to fish and fish habitat can be avoided.


In addition, the Proponent should follow the Guidelines for the Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters (Wright and Hopky, 1998). The Proponent should use a blasting threshold limit of 50 kPa for instantaneous pressure change in order to appropriately mitigate effects of blasting on fish as recommended in Cott and Hanna (2005).

It is also the proponent's *Duty to Notify* DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to ([DFO.ARCETriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ARCETriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))

Cott P and Hanna B. 2005. Monitoring Explosive-based Winter Seismic Exploration in Waterbodies, NWT 2000-2002. Pages 473-490. In: Proceedings of the Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Effects Monitoring Workshop: Approaches and Technologies. Battelle Press. Columbus. 601 p + index.

**Do you support the project proposal? Yes ☒ No ☐ Any additional comments?**

DFO does not have any additional comments.

<b>Name of person commenting:</b>	<u>Anna-Maija LaFlamme</u>	<b>of</b>	<u>DFO</u>
<b>Position:</b>	<u>FFHPP Biologist</u>	<b>Organization:</b>	<u>Department of Fisheries &amp; Oceans</u> <u>Canada</u>
<b>Signature:</b>	<u></u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>1/24/2025</u>