



NIRB Uuktuutinga Ihivriuqhikhamut #126155 Monitoring Program Pilot in Ahiaq MBS

Uuktuutinga Qanurittuq: New

Havaap Qanurittunia: Scientific Research

Uuktuutinga Ublua: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Period of operation: from 2026-02-22 to 2027-07-24

**Havauhikhaq
Ikayuqtinga:** Danica Hogan
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Hivayautit Nampanga:: 867-669-4754, Kayumiktukkut Nampanga::

QANURITTUT

Tukihinnaqtunik havaariyauyumayumik uqauhiuyun

Qablunaatitut: Danica Hogan, Canadian Wildlife Service, 5019 52 St, PO Box 2310, Yellowknife, NT, X1A2P7, Danica.Hogan@ec.gc.ca, 867-669-4754. Number of personnel and/or visitors that will be covered under the permit: 5-6 (to be determined but no more than 6) Project Objectives: Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary is one of the pilot sites for developing and implementing monitoring protocols as part of the Ecological and Conservation Monitoring Program (ECOMaP), a program aimed at monitoring the status and effectiveness of the Protected and Conserved Areas Network managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada. The goal of this project is to develop and implement monitoring protocols for priority species as identified by the Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee (ACMC), which includes species at risk, light geese, and other birds. Arctic PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring) is one of the few survey protocols that monitor shorebirds, and other non-colonially nesting birds, in the Arctic. The goal of PRISM surveys is to find out which bird species are there, if they are breeding or not, how many there are, and what habitats they are using. Adopting this protocol inside the MBS will enable us to compare population trends inside the MBS with those generated for the same region outside the MBS, which will provide valuable information about the value of the MBS to several groups of birds. Additionally, we intend to develop and implement sustainable long-term monitoring protocols to assess light goose use of the MBS using aerial survey techniques, such as colony perimeter mapping and transect-based aerial surveys. Light goose colony trends and use of the MBS is the primary concern of the Ahiak ACMC and information from these surveys will be used to help inform management decisions. In 2025-2026, we plan to focus on project development and fuel caching for a summer 2026 field season. In 2026-2027, we plan to focus on conducting on-the-ground PRISM surveys for shorebirds and landbirds, and aerial surveys for light geese. Project Location: Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary We plan to base the field work out of pre-existing camp and fuel cache sites: Karrak Lake (67 14.230N, 100 15.550W) or Perry River Cabin (67 42.400N, 102 11.117W), with fuel caches at these locations and other caches located within the MBS based on field logistics, likely at other pre-existing sites such as Ellice River Cabin (67 42.499N, 104 08.349W) or McNaughton Lake (67 21.690N, 98 4.110W). We will provide other fuel cache location information when available and prior to caching. Exact survey locations are still to be determined as the protocol is in development. All survey locations will be within MBS boundaries and we will provide the Ahiak ACMC with updates as the project develops. Proposed date and duration of visit to each protected area: -Fuel caching: 1-2 weeks in March/April 2026, pending weather -Field work: 2-3 weeks in June/July 2026, pending weather Method of Transportation: For fuel caching, drums will be delivered via Twin Otter aircraft. At the end of the project, drum clean up will also be done via Twin Otter aircraft. Projected number of hours is to be determined. During field work, personnel will transit to and from survey locations via helicopter (Bell 407 or similar). The light goose surveys will also use the same helicopter. Projected number of hours is to be determined. Summary of Activities and Rationale: The Arctic PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring) protocol for surveying shorebirds and other non-colonially nesting bird consists of rapid ground surveys at a random sample of plots that are accessed by helicopter. Surveys involve two observers walking systematically over a 12-hectare plot and recording all birds and nests they see. This allows us to determine bird density (how many there are), species diversity (how many different types of birds there are), which habitats they are using, and how a given nesting season may compare to previous years. Travel between survey plots will be done via helicopter, and otherwise the work is conducted on foot. Surveys typically take 1-2 hours to complete per plot, and plots are only visited once in a given season. Results from these surveyed plots will be used to calculate density estimates of shorebirds and other non-colonial birds within the MBS and allow us to compare population trends inside the MBS with survey data collected outside the MBS in the same region. This will provide valuable information about the value of the MBS to several groups of birds, and allow us to assess the health of the MBS as compared to areas outside the MBS. We also intend to develop and conduct surveys to assess light goose use of the MBS using aerial survey techniques. Goose survey methods are still being finalized, but the general techniques involve goose colony mapping via helicopter flown at a height so as to minimize disturbance to the geese, and transect-based aerial surveys flown at heights that minimize disturbance to the geese. The Ahiak ACMC identified light goose colony trends and use of the MBS as a priority and information from these surveys will be

McNaughton-milunet Tahikmi (67 21.690-Tunungani, 98 4.110-Oalikheani). Pipkaeneaktogut ahenik okhokyoanik kaneveoyut inigiyaenik hivonikhiyotit kahakpata kanegeaktinagilo. Homenigit naonaeyaevit inigiyaet nalonaektaoyageakaktut huli havaohikhak ihoakhaktaohimakmat. Tamaeta naonaeyaevet inigiyaoyut iloaneneaktut MBS-mi kikligiyaeni, pipkaeneaktogolo ukoniga Aheakmi ACMC-konik kanogilivaleayotininik havak ihoakhaktaovaleanigani. Atoliktayomayok ubloanik hivitoniganiklo atoni polakveoyup monagiyoayomi nonami: -Okhokyoanik kanevikhat: Ataohikmit malguknut saneonikni March-mi/April-milo 2026-mi, hilakeomakpat -Manikami havakvikhak: Malguknit Pigahunut saneonikni June-mi/July-milo 2026-mi, hilakeomakpat Aolagotikhat: Okhokyoat kaneyokhani, katakyoet akyaktaoneaktut malgolinoakut tikmeakut. Inikat havak, katakyoet kiklimaktinigit havagiyaoneaktolo Malgolinoakut tikmeakut. Nahogiyaoyut ikaknigit nalonaekneakut. Manikami havaktilogit, havaktut avatknogakneaktut talvuga talvangalo naonaeyaoviknit inigiyaoyunit halikaptakut (Bell 407-mik ayikotaniklunet). Kagoknik naonaeyaotit atokneaktolo tavomiga halikaptamik. Nahogiyaoyut ikaknigit nalonaekneakut. Naetomik Okaoheoyhut Huliyotit Huklo Atoktaoniginik: Ukeotaktomi PRISM-goyok (Havak Nonami Hilakyoamilo Takyup Hinani Tikmiyanik Amigiyotit) havaohikhak naonaeyageagani takyup hinani tikmiyanik aheniklo ataotimoyoetonik ivavaktonik tikmiyanik pikaktok kilamik manikami naonaeyaotininik kitonilika inikhani tiktaovaktonik halikaptakut. Naonaeyaot ilakaktok malguknik ihivgeokhiyiknik pihokhotik ihoakhagekximayhomi 12-hectere-yomi nonami naonaeyakhogit tamaeta tikmiyat ubloelo takoyamiknik. Una naonaegotigiyakut amigaenginik tikmiyat (kaveoniginik talvani), umayut amigaenigit (kaveoniginik alatket tikmiyat talvani), kitut nunagiyaoyut atoktaenik, kanoklo ivaveoyok ilagani ukeop naonaeyageagani atoktakhimayoni ukeoni. Aolagotit akungani naonaeyaevit nonat halikaptakut tiktaovakneaktut; aheagut, havak tiktaoneaktok pihoklotik. Naonaeyaotit ataohimit malguknut ikaknikni inikpakneaktut atoni inikhami, inikhat tiktaovakneaktut ataohelotik ilaenani ukeop. Kanogiliyotit ukonanga naonaeyaktaoyonit inikhanit atoktaoneaktut nahaktaoyagani amigaeniginik nalaotakniginik takyup hinani tikmiyanik aheniklo katiyoetonnik tikmiyanik iloani MBS-mi talvani nonami. Una pipkaeneaktok atoknikateaktonik hivonikhiyotiknik atolakniginik MBS-mik atahenaogitomi ikayoktigenit tikmiyalikiyonit pipkakmatigolo atolaligeagani aneaknaeniga MBS-goyup ihomagikpata alat nonat aheani MBS-goyup. Piyomayogolo naonaeyaptikni ilitokhageagani kagut atokniginik MBS-mik atoklota tikmeakut naonaeyaotininik notaonikhanik. Ulut naonaeyaknigit atoktaoyut iniktiktaohimaktut, kiheani atoktaoginaktut piyotikaktut ulut amigaeniginik nonaoyamut ileogakniginik halikaptakut kulvahiknikaklotik mikinikhamik kimalatigitagani ulut avatknogagotaoyolo tikmeakot naonaeyaotit kulvahikneaktut kimalatigitpalagitagani ulut. Aheakmi ACMC-mi tikoaktaoyut kagoet amigaenigit kanogileoknigit atoknigilo MBS-mik atokaktokhak Hivonikhiyotilo ukonanga naonaeyaotininik atoktaoneaktut kaoyimayomik monagiyeoyut ihomaleokpageagani. Hivonikhami upalogaeyaotit talvani monagiyaoyomi nonami: Okhokhanik kaneneakhotik upingami 2026, upalogaektogut havagiyaagani PRISM-mi hogayanik naonaeyaotininik kagokniklo naonaeyaotininik aoyami 2026-mi. Havaoheoyok naonaeyaotilo aolanikateakata, upalogaektogut atovageagani naonaeyaotit talimanit Kulinut ukeot natkagat, nahogilogit atolikoyaoyut Aheakmi ACMC-konit kahakpatalo ihoakotikhat. Inikat, kigolik unipkak toneokhaktaoneaktok Aheakmi ACMC-konut, Okhoktumi Agonahokatit Nanigeaktoktilo Katimayenut, Ikaloktuteamilo Agonahoaktit Nanigeaktoktilo Katimayenut.

Personnel

Personnel on site: 6

Days on site: 21

Total Person days: 126

Operations Phase: from 2026-02-22 to 2027-07-24

Hulilukaarutit

| Inigiya | Hulilukaarut Qanurittuq | Nunannga Qanurittaakhaanik | Initurlinga qanuritpa | Initurlinga utuqqarnitat unaluuniit Ingilraaqnitat Uyarannguqtut akhuurninnga | Qanitqiyauyuq qanitqiamut nunallaat kitulluuniit ahiruqtaliyainnit nuna |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary Boundary | Researching | Crown | Land status of Ahiak MBS is a combination of Crown and Inuit Owned Surface Lands. We will be surveying approximately 70-75 sites within the boundaries of Ahiak MBS. Each survey site is 300m x 400m and will take 1-2 hours to complete. We will not revisit survey sites again in the same season, thus disturbance to wildlife will be minimal. We will also survey the extent of the goose colony within the boundaries of Ahiak MBS. | N/A | In Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary. |
| Karrak Lake Field Camp | Camp | Crown | Existing field camp and cabin site location. We will base our field camp from here. | N/A | within Ahiak Migrator Bird Sanctuary |
| Perry River Cabin and Fuel Cache | Camp | Crown | Existing cabin and fuel cache location. We may use this as an alternate camp location and fuel cache. | N/A | within Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary |
| Ellice River Cabin and Fuel Cache | Fuel and chemical storage | Crown | Existing fuel cache location. We may cache a small amount of fuel | N/A | within Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------|---|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | | | at this existing cache location and clean up once field work is complete. | | |
| McNaughton Lake Old Cabin Site and Fuel Cache | Fuel and chemical storage | Crown | Existing fuel cache location. We may cache a small amount of fuel at this existing cache location and clean up once field work is complete. | N/A | within Ahiak Migrator Bird Sanctuary |

Nunaliin Ilauyun, Aviktuqhimayuniitunullu Ikayuuhiarunguyun

| Nunauyuq | Atia | Timiuyuq | Upluani Uqaqatigiyaungmata |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ikaluktuttiak | Chair | Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee (ACMC) - to be discussed at next meeting in March/April 2025 | 2025-03-31 |
| Urhuqtuuq | ACMC members | Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee (ACMC) - to be discussed at next meeting in March/April 2025 | 2025-03-31 |

Angiuttauvaktunik

Naunaiqlugu nunanga talvani havauhikhaq ittuq:

Angiuttauvaktunik

| Munariniqmut Ayuittiaqtuq | Angirutinga Qanurittuq | Tadja Qanurittaakhaanik | Ublua Tuniyauyuq/Uuktuqtuq | Umikvikhaa Ublua |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Environment and Climate Change Canada | Canadian Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Sanctuary Permit | Applied, Decision Pending | | |
| Environment and Climate Change Canada | Canadian Wildlife Service Scientific Permit | Applied, Decision Pending | | |
| Nunavut Kavamanga, Avatiliriyikkut | GN Wildlife Permit - application drafted, awaiting exact survey site locations to be chosen before submitting. Plan to submit in the next couple weeks. | Not Yet Applied | | |
| Kitikmeot Inuit Katimayiingit | Kitikmeot Inuit Association Land Division - application drafted, awaiting exact survey site locations to be chosen before submitting. Plan to submit in the next couple weeks. | Not Yet Applied | | |

Project transportation types

| Transportation Type | Qanuq Atuqtauniarmangaa | Length of Use |
|---------------------|---|---------------|
| Air | Fuel caching and drum clean up will be done with a Twin Otter aircraft. During field work, personnel will transit to and from survey locations via helicopter (Bell 407 or similar). Light goose surveys will also use the same helicopter. | |
| Land | Once field personnel reach survey site, they will conduct their surveys on foot (each site is a plot of approximately 300m by 400m) | |

Project accomodation types

Permanent Camp

Alaanut,

Ihuaqutivaluin Atuqtauyukhan

Hanalrutit atuqtaunahuat (ukuallu ikuutat, pampiutainnik, tingmitinik, akhaluutunik, hunaluuniit)

| Hanalrutit Qanurittuq | Qaffiuyut | Aktikkulaanga – Qanurittullu | Qanuq Atuqtauniarmangaa |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| Helicopter - Bell 407 or similar | 1 | TBD | travel to and from survey plots, aerial surveys |
| Twin Otter Fixed-wing Aircraft | 1 | TBD | fuel caching and removal of empty drums |

Qanurittuq Urhuqyuaq unalu Qayangnaqtut Hunavaluit Aturningga

| Qanurittuq urhuqyuaq hunavaluit aturningga: | Urhuqyuaq Qanurittuq | Qaffiuyut qattaryut | Qattaryuk Aktikkulaanga | Atauttimut Qaffiuyut | Ilanga | Qanuq Atuqtauniarmangaa |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------|--|
| Propane | fuel | 6 | 20 | 120 | Lbs | for cooking and heating |
| Aviation fuel | fuel | 60 | 205 | 12300 | Liters | for helicopter fueling - number of drums is still to be determined |

Imaqmik Aturningga

| Ubluq qanuraaluk (m3) | Aturumayain imavaluin utiqittagaani qanuq | Atulirumayain imavaluin utiqittagani humi |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 0 | Given only a small amount of water is needed for camp uses, personnel will retrieve water by bucket for purification. | Closest freshwater source to Karrak Lake Camp |

Iqqakuq

Ikkakunik Munakgiyauyunik

| Havauhikhaq Hulilukaarut | Qanurittuq Iqqakut | Ihumagiyauyuq Qanuraaluktut Atuqtait | Qanuq Iqqakuurniarmangaa | Halummaqtirarnirutikhan piyutin |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Camp | Qirnarivyaktuq imaq | up to 6 person's worth | disposed of in sump pit at camp location | N/A |
| Camp | Other, Household waste | 10 bag | flown out with camp | N/A |
| Camp | Anaagun (inuin anaaguin) | up to 6 person's worth | solid waste bagged and flown out. Cat holes will be dug and waste buried when away from camp. | N/A |

Avatiliriniqmut Ayurhauingit:

Potential environmental impacts from this project are primarily associated with aircraft use. These include disturbance to wildlife while travelling to survey sites and potential for fuel spillage while refueling or from fuel caches. All aircrafts are equipped with spill kits, and drums will be placed in portable berms to contain any potential spills. Pre-existing fuel cache locations will be used whenever possible and to minimize the number of new fuel cache locations required. Empty drums will be taken to air strip at Perry River or Karrak Lake at the end of each field season where they can be picked up by Twin Otter and transported to Cambridge Bay for proper disposal. No temporary camps will be established within the MBS as the field crew will be staying at preexisting cabin sites at Perry River or Karrak Lake. All garbage and human waste will be removed from the cabin sites at the end of the field season.

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

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Qanurittuq Ittunik Avatinga: Avatingalluanga

Qanurittuq Ittunik Avatinga: Inuuhimayunut Avatinga

Qanurittuq Ittunik Avatinga: Inungit-maniliurutingit Avatinga

Miscellaneous Project Information

Naunaiyainiq ukuninga Ayurhauitingit unalu Piumayaat Ikikliyuumiutinahuarutit

Potential disturbance to wildlife primarily consists of disturbance related to aircraft use during travel, and from human presence on the ground while surveys are taking place. Bird nests discovered during surveys will be approached in order to count the number of eggs and to record the nest location using GPS. Visits to nests will be brief and occur only once, so disturbance to nests is expected to be minimal. Surveys generally take 1-2 hours to complete so we're usually not in any one location for more than a few hours, and we will avoid repeatedly disturbing nests of birds during the survey. If there are large mammals in the area to be surveyed we will not land at that plot or we will depart from the area. If large mammals are observed during air transit, altitude will be increased in order to minimize potential for disturbance.

Tamatkiumayunik Ihuikgutivaktunik

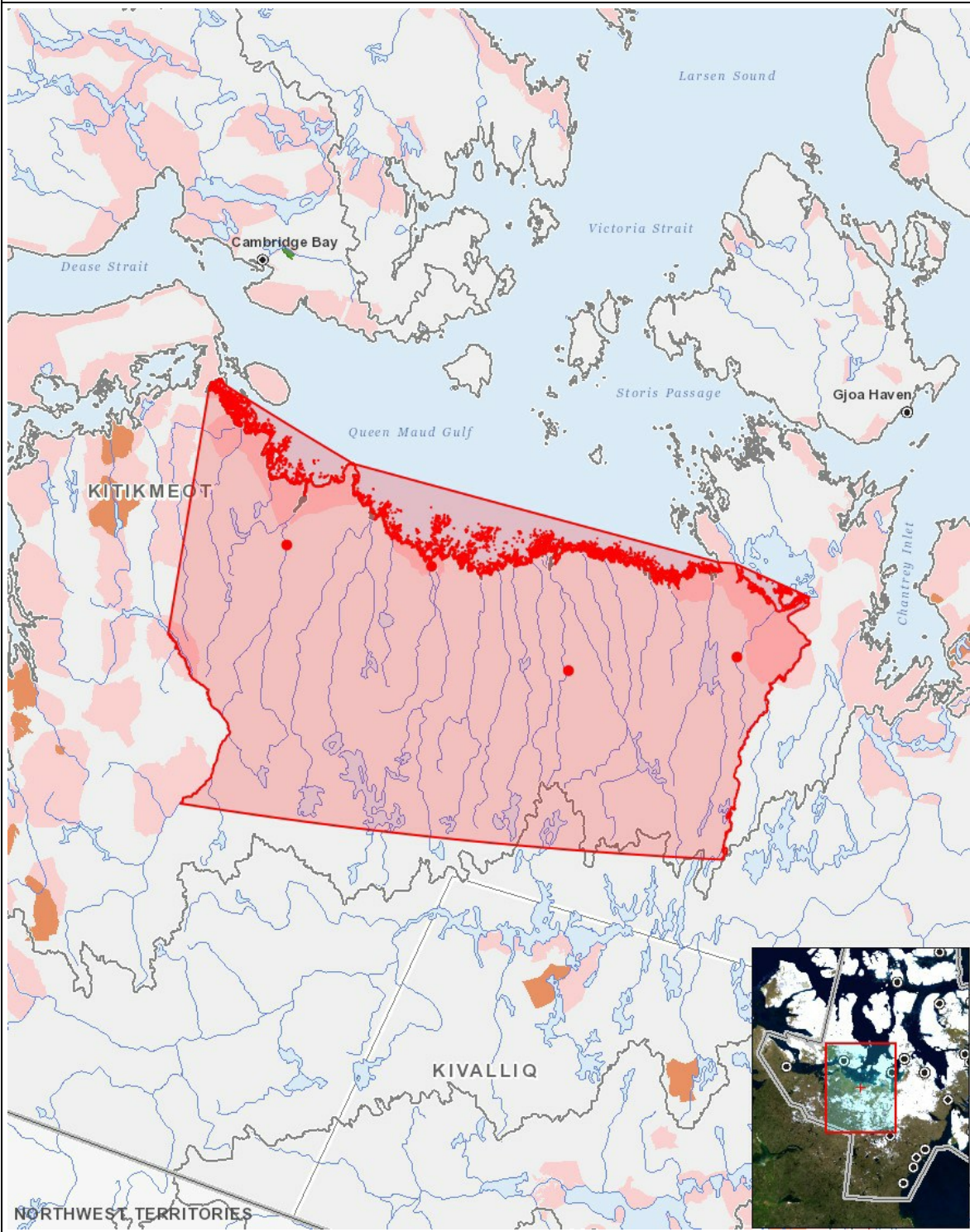
Impacts

Ilitariyauniq Avatiliriniqmut Ayurhautingit

| | PHYSICAL | Designated environmental areas | Ground stability | Permafrost | Hydrology / Limnology | Water quality | Climate conditions | Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes | Surface and bedrock geology | Sediment and soil quality | Tidal processes and bathymetry | Air quality | Noise levels | BIOLOGICAL | Vegetation | Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns | Birds, including habitat and migration patterns | Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning | Wildlife protected areas | SOCIO-ECONOMIC | Archaeological and cultural historic sites | Employment | Community wellness | Community infrastructure | Human health |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|--|---|---|--------------------------|----------------|--|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Havakvinga | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Aulapkaininnga | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Camp | P | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | U | - | U | M | U | P | - | - | - | P | - | - | - |
| Researching | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Piiqtauniq | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

(P = Nakuuyuq, N = Nakuungittut unalu mikhilimaittuq, M = Nakuungittut unalu mikhittaaqtuq, U = Naluyauyuq)

Havaariyauyukhamut Nayugaa



List of Project Geometries

- | | | |
|---|---------|---|
| 1 | polygon | Ahlak Migratory Bird Sanctuary Boundary |
| 2 | point | Karrak Lake Field Camp |
| 3 | point | Perry River Cabin and Fuel Cache |
| 4 | point | Ellice River Cabin and Fuel Cache |
| 5 | point | McNaughton Lake Old Cabin Site and Fuel Cache |