



## 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> | Hanseatic Nature – Arctic Cruise 2025                   |                |         |
| <b>Proponent:</b>              | F.K. Warren Ltd.  |                |         |
| <b>Location:</b>               | Kivalliq and Qikiqtani (North and South) Baffin Regions |                |         |
| <b>Comments Due By:</b>        | May 9, 2025   | <b>NIRB #:</b> | 25TN015 |

**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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat                      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area                  | _____   |

**Please describe the concerns indicated above:**

DFO understands that F.K. Warren Ltd plans to operate a cruise vessel (Hanseatic Nature) to transport passengers and crew members for tourism and wildlife viewing in Nunavut Canada: Lower Savage Islands, Diana Island, Erik Cove Cape Wolstenholme, Mansel Island, Coats Island, Walrus Island, Chesterfield Inlet, Marbel Island, and Rankin Inlet. In addition, the vessel will stop in Churchill, MB and re-visit the same locations in reverse on the voyage back to Greenland.

We understand the following aquatic species listed as Endangered/Threatened, under the *Species at Risk Act* may use the area in the vicinity of where the proposal is to be located:

- Beluga Whale Cumberland Sound population
- Blue Whale Atlantic population

In addition, we understand the following aquatic species listed as Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act* may use the area in the vicinity of where the project proposal is to be located:

- Walrus High Arctic Atlantic population
- Bowhead Whale Eastern Canada – West Greenland population
- Harbour Porpoises Northwest Atlantic population

Finally, we understand the following aquatic species considered for addition under the *Species at Risk Act* may use the area in the vicinity of where the proposal is to be located:

- Walrus Central/Low Atlantic Arctic population
- Beluga Whale Eastern High Arctic - Baffin Bay population
- Beluga Whale Eastern Hudson Bay population
- Beluga Whale Ungava Bay population
- Bowhead Whale Eastern Canada-West Greenland population
- Killer Whale Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic population
- Narwhal
- Ringed seal

The proposal has been reviewed to determine whether it is likely to result in:

- the death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA);
- The importation, possession, transportation, or release of aquatic invasive species set out in Part 2 of the schedule of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* which are prohibited under sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Regulations.
- The introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous, which is prohibited under section 10 of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

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

To avoid and mitigate the potential for prohibited effects to fish and fish habitat (as listed above), the Proponent shall comply with the following Acts and Regulations and implement the measures listed below:

- Marine Mammals Regulations
  - Section 7 of the Marine Mammal Regulations (*Fisheries Act*) prohibits the disturbance of marine mammals. Generally, disturbance is interpreted as disruption to an animal's normal life processes, resulting from intentional human activities (e.g., to pursue, accompany, overtake, encircle, approach repeatedly, hunt, disperse, drive or herd individuals or groups of marine mammals). This applies equally to divers, kayaks, motor boats and aircraft. Disturbance response thresholds vary among individuals, species, and locations.
  - DFO recommends that a watercraft should survey the area for Marine Mammals to avoid disturbing them. If marine mammals are encountered, and remain in the area, effort should be made to avoid disturbing them by rerouting, slowly navigating around their location at a reduced speed and maintaining their distance. Marine mammals should not be approached, in general, within 100 m and 400 m for Species at Risk. Please see the

approach distances set out in [Schedule VI of the Marine Mammal Regulations](#) for specific setback based on species and location.

- In certain circumstances, the proponent can apply for an authorization to disturb marine mammals (see: [Application instructions for the authorization of marine mammal disturbance](#))
- SARA
  - SARA's general prohibitions makes it an offence to:
    - kill, harm, harass, capture, or take an individual of a species listed in Schedule 1 of SARA as endangered, threatened or extirpated
    - possess, collect, buy, sell, or trade an individual of a species listed in Schedule 1 of SARA as endangered, threatened or extirpated
    - damage or destroy the residence (e.g. nest or den) of one or more individuals of a species listed in [Schedule 1](#) of SARA as endangered, threatened or extirpated, if a recovery strategy has recommended the reintroduction of that extirpated species
- Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations
  - The Proponent should avoid and mitigate risk related to the importation, possession, transportation or release of aquatic invasive species set out in Part 2 of the schedule of the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations; and/or the introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous.
- Marine Protected Areas
  - Proponent must adhere to the [Tarium Naryutait Marine Protect Areas Regulations](#) and the [Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam Marine Protected Areas Regulations](#)
  - DFO requests that ships avoid transiting through the MPAs and advises that a geo-fence is in place to identify and alert the appropriate organizations when vessels cross the boundaries
- Parks Canada in Nunavut
  - Anyone planning to enter a Parks Canada protected area should contact Parks Canada directly at [permits.nunavut.permis@pc.gc.ca](mailto:permits.nunavut.permis@pc.gc.ca)
- Other measures
  - Proponent should consider integrating the following tools when planning
    - [ISR Cruise Ship Management Plan 2022-2025](#)
      - [Note that the map on p.18-19 shows current shipping routes and should not be considered low impact shipping corridors](#)
    - [NOTMAR Annual Edition 2024](#) June 2024 Amendments
    - Latest Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan on [FJMC website](#)
    - Latest Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan on the Nunavut Planning Commission [Public Registry](#)

People are encouraged to report abuse or harassment (fisheries violation), through the following 24-hours/day toll-free numbers:

- Crime Stoppers: 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
- Marine VHF radio channel 16
- [Report a fisheries violation](#)



And report marine pollution through the following 24-hours/day toll-free numbers and

- 1-867-979-5269
- At [DFO.CCG.ArcticERDO-ODIEArctique.GCC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.CCG.ArcticERDO-ODIEArctique.GCC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or [IqaNordreg@innav.gc.ca](mailto:IqaNordreg@innav.gc.ca)
- Marine VHF radio channel 16

Additional information on marine mammals is available on DFO's website: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/watching-observation/index-eng.html>.


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

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

DFO does not have any additional comments.

**Name of person commenting:** Anna-Maija LaFlamme **of** Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Position:** FFHPP Biologist **Organization:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Signature:**  **Date:** 14/5/2025