

NPC 150638: Marine Acoustic Monitoring in Akpait and Qaulluit NWAs

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Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

[Overview](#) [Documents](#)

[Project Overview](#)

Type of application: New

Proponent name: Danica Hogan

Proponent company: Canadian Wildlife Service

Project Description:

The monitoring priorities for Akpait and Qaulluit NWAs identified by the Sululiit Area Co-Management Committee (ACMC) include marine mammals and the effects of marine traffic on wildlife. Each year, tourism vessels apply to the ACMC/CWS for permits to enter the area to view wildlife that use the area. CWS does not have baseline underwater noise data or recent information about marine mammal use of the area. Akpait and Qaulluit NWAs are also pilot sites for 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 address the management priorities indicated by the ACMC by deploying one marine acoustic recorder each in Akpait and Qaulluit NWAs to collect information about baseline noise levels, vocal marine animals, and vessel traffic noise in the area. We will use the results of this study to update the list of marine mammals that use the area, provide insight into marine mammal phenology in the area, and assess how noise pollution from vessel traffic may affect marine mammals in the NWAs. This information will be used to guide permitting decisions regarding vessels in the NWAs (e.g., when and what types of ships to allow in the NWAs), identify areas for improvement of compliance promotion activities (e.g., detection of non-permitted vessels and detection of vessels not equipped with an Automatic Identification System (AIS)), and create standard permit conditions (e.g., speed limits, time limits, anchoring vs. dynamic positioning) for vessels entering the NWA for tourism and other purposes.

[Project Schedule](#)

Start Date: 2025-08-01

End Date: 2027-09-30

[Project Map](#)

List of project geometries:

Id: 150160

Geometry: Point

Location Name: Location of marine acoustic recorder is still TBD, approximate loc. We will discuss with ACMC on best possible deployment locations.

Id: [15161](#)

Geometry: Point

Location name: Location of marine acoustic recorder is still TBD, approximate loc. We will discuss with ACMC on best possible deployment locations.

NPC Planning regions:

No Approved Plan

Project Land Use and Authorizations

Project Land Use:

Scientific Research

Licensing Agencies: Government of Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

Nunavut Research Institute

Material Use

Equipment:

Type: Sountrap ST 600 acoustic recorder

Quantity: 2

Type: 0.5m in length

Use: passively record unwater sounds in the NWA

Type: PORT MFE acoustic release & PACS deck box with MFE transducer

Quantity: 2

Type: NA

Use: Allows the crew to recover the acoustic recorder by triggering release on the mooring

Type: 25lb iron plate weights

Quantity: 10

Type: 11

Use: used to anchor the recorders to the sea floor

Type: 14 inch floats and marine rope

Quantity: 4

Type: 14 diameter, 40m rope

Use: Used to allow the acoustic recorder to resurface when released from mooring

Type: 12 gauge shotgun and ammo

Quantity: 1

Type: NA

Use: for polar bear safety

Type: Local boat from Qikiqtarjuaq

Quantity: 1

Type: Unknown- will update

Use: for travelling to mooring sites

Fuel Use:

Type: Diesel

Container: 10

Capacity: 25

Use: For boat - travelling from Qikiqtarjuaq to the mooring sites within NWAs. Fuel amount still TBD.

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type: No data found

Container:

Capacity:

Use:

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m²): 0

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

[Waste and Impacts](#)

Environmental Impacts:

This project will have minimal impacts to marine wildlife, however, there is a chance that deployment and retrieval activities could disturb any wildlife in the area. The vessel will contribute to underwater noise in the area, could potentially strike whales or other submerged marine wildlife, and will likely cause some wildlife to flee the vessel. Crew will follow guidelines provided by the ACMC for vessel operation and will attempt to avoid wildlife whenever safely possible. Time spent in the NWA will be minimized to the time required to deploy the recorders (estimated 1-2 days per year). It is likely that wildlife disturbed by the ship will resume normal behavior once the ship leaves the area. The vessel will not enter the NWA unless it is deemed safe to do so by the crew that is experienced in navigating Arctic waters and knowledgeable in assessing ice conditions. This will reduce the risk of a serious vessel accident that could result in pollution of habitat in the NWA. No waste will be created or left within the NWA. The crew will return to Qikiqtarjuaq and only be making day trips to the NWA, thus any waste will be taken out with us. We will not be setting up temporary field camps of any kind.

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatment Method

Disposal Method

No data found