



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

January 13, 2025

Dear Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Association board members,

We are interested in conducting research on belugas during the hunt season near Igloolik to help gather data before shipping related to the Baffinland mine increases in the area. Our understanding is that shipping will begin this summer to support the building of the port and railway. Baffinland will start shipping ore through the Steensby port upon completion, potentially in 2030, which will result in a large increase in shipping.

We would like to work with local hunters to collect samples from harvested whales. This would be part of the marine mammal sampling program and hunters would continue to receive payment for participating and allowing us to sample their whale. We would also be interested in working with an outfitter to study beluga body condition, movement, and dive behaviour. We would use drones, remote satellite tags, and biopsies to gather this information and are seeking your support for this work.

In the following pages we have included summaries about the different parts of the project for your review. It is important for us to speak with the HTO to determine the best way to conduct this study and get your advice on how methods can be adjusted so we are best able to do the work.

If you would like to discuss these projects first or if you have any questions please let us know and we can set up a meeting to go over the details.

Please let us know if you approve each aspect of the work by writing an **X** next to the projects you support:

X sampling harvested belugas

X drone photos and videos of belugas

X remote satellite tagging of belugas

X biopsy samples of belugas

Thank you,

Marianne Marcoux, Research Scientist
Maha Ghazal, Biologist

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