



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:

Project Proposal Title:	Biopsy, tagging, acoustics, and drone work on walrus and beluga		
Proponent:	Fisheries and Oceans Canada		
Location:	Kivalliq & Qikiqtani (South) Baffin		
Comments Due By:	June 3, 2025	NIRB #:	25YN024

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

☐ no concerns	☐ traditional uses of land
☐ water quality	☐ Inuit harvesting activities
☐ terrain	☐ community involvement and consultation
☐ air quality	☐ local development in the area
☐ wildlife and their habitat	☐ tourism in the area
☐ marine mammals and their habitat	☐ human health issues
☐ birds and their habitat	☒ other: Regulatory approval
☐ fish and their habitat	
☐ heritage resources in area	

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

Transport Canada does not have concerns about the proposed project but does note the project is subject to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* administered by Transport Canada.

The Project will be undertaken in areas that are extensions of the Arctic Ocean, such as near Coral Harbour, Nauyasat, Igoolik, Sanirajak and Kinngait. The Arctic Ocean is a scheduled navigable waterway listed in the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA). A work, such as the deployment of hydrophones, in a scheduled navigable waterway requires an approval under the CNWA from Transport Canada. The exception to this is if the work is undertaken in a manner that satisfies all the requirements of the CNWA Minor Works Order (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2021-170/index.html>).

The Proponent has confirmed for Transport Canada that the hydrophones will be deployed in accordance with the CNWA Minor Works Order, and in particular sections 1 to 11, and 39 (Scientific Equipment). Given this, an approval under the CNWA is not required for the Project.

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

No.

Transport Canada takes no position on whether NIRB should approve this project.

Position: Regional Env. Advisor **Organization:** Transport Canada

Signature: Scott Kidd (by email) Date: May 28, 2025