



NIRB File No.: 25YN024
NPC File No.: 150692

June 20, 2025

To: The Honourable Joanne Thompson, P.C.
Minister of Fisheries
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Sent via email: joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Biopsy, tagging, acoustics, and drone work on walrus and beluga” Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On April 7, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Biopsy, tagging, acoustics, and drone work on walrus and beluga” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Ministers extend the period for the submission of the Board’s written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 25YN024.**

On April 14, 2025, the NIRB received a complete application and on May 13, 2025, the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board’s consideration by June 3, 2025.

Due to capacity issues, the NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA* and additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **July 11, 2025**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB’s screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at <http://www.nirb.ca/project/126169> .

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033 or at info@nirb.ca .

Sincerely,



Dionne Filiatrault
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Marianne Marcoux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Bryanna Sherbo, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
The Honourable Margaret Nakashuk, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., Minister of Transport, Government of Canada
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Transport Canada