



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 25YN024**

NPC File No.: 150413

July 16, 2025

To: Jose Audet-Lecouffe
Acting Team Lead
301-5204 50th Ave (Franklin)
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

Sent via email: jose.audet-lecouffe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Biopsy, tagging, acoustic, and drone work on walrus and beluga" Project Proposal, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Region

Dear Jose Audet-Lecouffe:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Joanne Thompson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Biopsy, tagging, acoustic, and drone work on walrus and beluga" in the Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Region, dated July 15, 2025.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,

Aghalingiak Ohokannoak
Public Registry Coordinator
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 25YN024 (July 16, 2025)

cc: Marianne Marcoux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Moshia Cote, Manager, Research Liaison, Nunavut Research Institute
Transport Canada
Fisheries Protection Program, DFO
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated