



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN018

Project Name: The “**Physiological Response of Soft-shell Clam *Mya truncata* to Spring Microalgal Blooms**” project

Proponent Name: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani Region

Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 126170

Comment Deadline: **May 9, 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Physiological Response of Soft-shell Clam *Mya truncata* to Spring Microalgal Blooms” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately in Qikiqtarjuaq. The Proponent intends to conduct baseline studies about how clams respond to microalgal blooms of sea ice algae in the springtime and to phytoplankton in the summer before the deep seaport is erected and before drastic changes of the climate change affect the population and its natural habitat. The program is proposed to take place from May to October 2025. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Collect 200 clams at four different stations by hand or a SCUBA diver digging the clams underwater
- Collect water samples from the surface, middle, and the bottom using a pump and Niskin bottles
- Collect one core ice sample to assess the physical ice conditions including temperature and conductivity to characterize water column properties
- Collect sea ice and water samples to investigate the algae

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN018** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Robby Qammaniq, Impact Assessment Officer toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or rqammaniq@nirb.ca.