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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Lisa Pirie, Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program, Luis Manzo, Carson Gillis, and Marianne Marcoux:

RE: NPC File No. 150701 [Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. Scientific research: An aerial survey is planned for Western Hudson Bay (WHB) to update the abundance estimate for WHB beluga population.
 - a. Surveys will:
 - i. Include a crew of four visual observers as well as one camera operator
 - ii. Be flown in two DeHavilland Twin Otters (DH-6) planes fitted with four bubble windows and a camera port
 - iii. Be conducted at an altitude of 305 m for visual portions and 610 m for photographic portions
 - b. Planes based out of Churchill, MB for duration (NO fuel caching)
 - c. Observers to be hired from adjacent communities based on HTO recommendations
2. Timing, Duration, & Personnel:
 - a. 15 days over period 1 to 15 August 2025
 - b. 8 personnel for a total of 120 person-days

3. Location: Kivalliq Region (Keewatin Planning Region) and Transboundary; [Western (west coast) Tasiujarjuaq or Sheewetaganapoi (Hudson Bay) from Wînipek (James Bay) to Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay)]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal and has determined that it conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendices C, G, and H of the KRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150701>.

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the portions of the above noted project proposal within the Nunavut Settlement Area; ***the proponent is advised to contact the authorizing agencies, communities, or organizations outside the Nunavut Settlement Area who may be affected by this project to identify any additional requirements or recommendations that may be applicable.*** Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits, and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits, and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email or telephone number below.

Sincerely,



Daniel Haney (he/him) | ᑕᓄᐅᑦ ᑲᐱᐱᓄᑦ

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