

Public Registry - Project Proposals

NPC 150701: Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate

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Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

Overview Documents Questionnaire

Project Overview

Type of application: New

Proponent name: Marianne Marcoux

Proponent company: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Project Description:

An aerial survey is planned for Western Hudson Bay (WHB) in the summer of 2025 to update the abundance estimate for WHB beluga population. The WHB beluga population has been studied through aerial survey and satellite tracking in the 1980's, early 2000's and most recently in 2015. Data collected suggest that the population has been relatively stable. However, recent changes such as increased shipping traffic and potentially increased hunt pressure warrant an update to the abundance estimate for this population as the last survey was conducted ten years ago. The survey will be designed to cover the summer range of belugas in western and southern Hudson Bay following past survey efforts (2004 and 2015), and beluga satellite tracking data. The survey will use a combination of aerial photography in estuaries, where the highest densities of animals are expected, and visual surveys, in areas where lower densities of beluga are expected. Surveys will include a crew of four visual observers as well as one camera operator, and will be flown in two DeHavilland Twin Otters (DH-6) planes fitted with four bubble windows and a camera port. Surveys will be conducted at an altitude of 305 m for visual portions and 610 m for photographic portions. Both planes will be based out of Churchill for the duration of the survey. We will hire observers to assist with the survey from the adjacent communities and have requested recommendations from HTOs for people who might be interested. All equipment and training needed for the survey will be provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Project Schedule

Start Date: 2025-08-01

End Date: 2025-08-15

Project Map

List of project geometries:

Id	Geometry	Location Name
15941	polygon	Area to be surveyed as part of the Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate

NPC Planning regions:

Keewatin

Project Land Use and Authorizations

Project Land Use:

Scientific Research

Licensing Agencies:

Government of Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

Material Use

Equipment:

Type	Quantity	Type	Use
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Airplane: DeHavilland Twin Otter (DH-6)	2	65ft wingspan	We will use 2 twin otters to fly transect lines over survey strata across western and southern Hudson Bay.
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Fuel Use:

Type	Container	Capacity	Use
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Aviation fuel	15	205	Fuel will be cached by PCSP at airstrips prior to the survey.
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Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type	Container	Capacity	Use
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No data found

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m2)	Retrieval Method	Retrieval Location
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Waste and Impacts

Environmental Impacts:

There should be no environmental impacts on the land. We will be landing at already demarcated airstrips that currently act as fuel cache sites for programs across the Canadian Arctic and are used regularly by Polar Continental Shelf Program.

Waste Management:

Waste Type	Quantity Generated	Treatment Method	Disposal Method
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No data found