



**NIRB File No.: 25YN019**

**NIRB Public Registry Link:** [www.nirb.ca/project/126176](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126176)

NPC File No.: 150701

May 23, 2025

Marianne Marcoux  
501 University Crescent  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3T2N6  
Canada

Sent via email: [marianne.marcoux@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:marianne.marcoux@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate” project proposal**

Dear Marianne Marcoux:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate” proposal from:

- The Nunavut Planning Commission on April 1, 2025, noting positive conformity, and
- The NIRB received a complete application on April 22, 2025, and assigned it file number **25YN019** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

The NIRB has commenced screening the project proposal pursuant to the *Nunavut Agreement* and *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*<sup>1</sup> and by copy of this letter, **invites interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the proposal to comment directly to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.**

#### SCOPE OF PROPOSED PROJECT

<b>Location</b>	Western Hudson Bay, Kivalliq region, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove
<b>Objective</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct an aerial survey of the Western Hudson Bay beluga population to determine the abundance of the species.
<b>Timeline</b>	July to August 2025

<sup>1</sup> Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Hire 4 people as visual observers and a camera operator to conduct the survey,
- Fly from Churchill, Man. to conduct the aerial survey over the Hudson Bay area,
- Fly in 2 twin otter planes over the Western Hudson Bay waters above the communities of Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove,
- Fly at 305 meters (m) above sea level to view the beluga,
- Fly at 610 m above sea level to take photographs of the beluga, and
- Land at either Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, or Whale Cove to refuel with their own fuel supply.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above. The NIRB notes that the survey is also occurring in Manitoba and Ontario but will not be including those areas in its screening. Authorizing Agencies in those regions will need to be contacted to discuss licensing and permitting requirements regarding the project proposal.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Documents received and describing the proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126176](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126176) and include:

- *Arviat HTO Support letter*
- *DFO Letter to HTO re Project Proposal*
- *Whale Cove HTO support*
- *NPC Application*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Application*

The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

By copy of this letter, the NIRB is inviting interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the project proposal to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 13, 2025**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal including if a Review is required any additional factors that should be considered as part of that process.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126176](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126176). Questions should be directed to the undersigned at (867) 983-4618 or [rqammaniq@nirb.ca](mailto:rqammaniq@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Robby Qammaniq  
Impact Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (3): Public Notice of Screening  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut  
Jonas Azonaha, Government of Nunavut  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Tracey McCaie, Government of Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Marcus Bermann, Government of Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Lisa Pirie, Government of Canada, Canadian Wildlife Services  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Government of Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Manitoba Conservation and Climate Environmental Approvals Branch  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks