



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN019

Project Name: The “Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate” project
Proponent Name: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Project Type: Research Region: Kivalliq Region
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca 126176
Comment Deadline: **June 13, 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate” project is located within the Kivalliq region, western Hudson Bay, including Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove. The Proponent intends to conduct an aerial survey of the Western Hudson Bay beluga population to determine the abundance of the species. The program is proposed to take place from July to August 2025. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB 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 at 305 meters (m) above sea level to view the beluga
- Fly in 2 twin otter planes over the Western Hudson Bay waters above the communities of Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN019** 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 toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or rquammaniq@nirb.ca.