



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT  
NIRB FILE NO.: 25YN019**

NPC File No.: 150701

July 28, 2025

To: Lisa Pirie  
Head – Conservation Partnerships and  
Protected Areas – Nunavut  
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**Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Western Hudson Bay Beluga Population Abundance Estimate" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani and Kivalliq Regions**

Dear Lisa Pirie, Marie-Claude Martel, Maryse Mahy:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Julie Dabrusin, P.C., Minister of Environment and Climate Change for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Western Hudson Bay Beluga Population Abundance Estimate" in the Qikiqtani and Kivalliq Regions, dated July 28, 2025.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: “A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed.” Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,

Aghalingiak Ohokannoak  
Public Registry Coordinator  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 25YN019 (July 28, 2025)

cc: Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment,  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute,  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association,  
Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association,  
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Manitoba Conservation and Climate Environmental Approvals Branch  
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Hilary Gignac, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Parks  
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