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Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

28 November 2024

Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Association
PO Box 89
Igloodik, Nunavut
X0A 0L0

Subject: 2025 Foxe Basin bowhead whale research proposal

Dear Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Association,

We are requesting support to continue the bowhead whale research project in northern Foxe Basin in 2025. This year, we would like to hire up to 4 local field team members to perform the work as community-led field work.

We would like to request support to have the local field team:

1. Use crossbows to collect skin/blubber biopsy samples that may be used for estimating population abundance, determining sex, studying diet, estimating age, and assessing pregnancy through hormone analyses.
2. use drones to collect photographs of bowhead whales for use in photo-identification studies to estimate population size and monitor health and body condition. Imagery may also be used to study growth rates, calving intervals, social interactions, behaviour, and killer whale predation.

Like previous years, the work would take place in late June or early July 2025. Dependant on funding, we would plan to hire up to 4 field team members, for up to 5 days of work. Given that the field work is to be carried out entirely by the local field team, we would like to prioritize hiring individuals who have worked on the project and received training over the previous 3 field seasons.

All data collected and all results produced from this work will be shared with Igloodik HTA and Sanirajak HTA. Use of the data for any purposes not included in the proposal will require the approval of the HTAs.

Please complete the bottom portion of this letter to show whether or not the HTA supports the proposed work. The completed letter can be returned by email to Brent.Young@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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