NOTICE OF SCREENING
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
NIRB File No.: 25YN048

Project Name:	The **"Coastal Invertebrates Sampling Around Belcher Islands, Qikiqtait"** project
Proponent Name:	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Project Type:	Research Region: Qikiqtani
Public Registry:	www.nirb.ca Application No.: 126193
Comment Deadline:	**July 14, 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed "Coastal Invertebrates Sampling Around Belcher Islands, Qikiqtait" project is located within the Qikiqtani region, Belcher Islands. The Proponent intends to conduct coastal sampling in collaboration with the Sanikiluaq community, the Arctic Eider Society and the Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) to identify sea-ice algae reliance of benthic species and to examine temporal and special differences in genetic diversity, carbon source use and trophic position of each species. The program is proposed to take place from June 2025 to November 2028. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Collect samples using tows/nets, community benthic dredge, measure temperature, depth salinity at each site
- Use of HTA community boat to access sampling sites
- Refuel community boat as needed
- Use of local accommodations and facilities

Please visit the NIRB's public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN048** 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 Varun Nayak, Monitoring Officer: vnayak@nirb.ca .