



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Université Laval's "FISHES:
Fostering Indigenous Small-Scale Fisheries for Health,
Economy and Food Security" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
918 Sivumugiaq Street
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
25YN046
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 139188179

July 18, 2025

Robby Qammaniq
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Notice of Screening for Université Laval's "FISHES: Fostering Indigenous Small-Scale Fisheries for Health, Economy and Food Security" Project Proposal

Dear Robby Qammaniq,

On July 10, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Université Laval's "FISHES: Fostering Indigenous Small-Scale Fisheries for Health, Economy and Food Security" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) offers the responses below as they pertain to the NIRB's request.

Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology

CIRNAC #1: Fuel Storage and Handling

CIRNAC is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposed Project can be mitigated with known practices or technology.

The Proponent identifies water (boat) access to reach sampling sites, with both boat and an ATV are listed for transportation. A gasoline fuel container (50 gallons; one container) is identified for transport use, which has some potential to spill during storage refueling, potentially over sensitive water sources.

It is unclear if local harvesters will be harvesting the samples using their own transportation, or if the Proponent will be renting transportation and conducting harvest with advice. If the Proponent are conducting the transportation and harvests themselves, it is unclear if spill prevention planning has been conducted. If the Proponent will be conducting the transportation themselves, CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider:



- Employing drip pans and adsorbent pads when transferring between containers, the boat and the ATV; and,
- Having spill-response kits (sorbents, shovel, pumps, barrels, disposal bags, PPE) accessible for fuel transport and refueling activities.

CIRNAC #2: Nunavut Research Institute Licensing

The authorization table lists a Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientific-fishing licence and letter of support from Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTA), but it does not include a Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) research licence. Biological field projects that collect wildlife samples may require a NRI research licence in addition to other authorizations. CIRNAC recommends the Proponent contact the NRI to confirm if there is need to apply for a research-licence application prior to field activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Muhammad Arslan by e-mail at muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Richard Bingley
Manager, Impact Assessment

