

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Service (GN-CGS) has been awarded funding by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to support the construction of a 1,050 km fibre optic cable in southern Nunavut (Kivalliq-Baffin Connector (KBC) Fibre Optic Cable Project) (the KBC Project). The KBC Project will connect four Nunavut communities to high-speed internet: Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Kinngait on the southern coast of Baffin Island (Qikiqtani Region), and Salliq [Coral Harbour] on Southampton Island (Kivalliq Region). The KBC Project will connect to an existing Branching Unit (BU) in Salluit (Nunavik).

Dynamic Ocean Consulting Ltd (Dynamic Ocean) has been retained by the GN-CGS as the regulatory specialist to support the permitting for KBC Project. This Project Description (PD) is specific to the Marine Survey required for the marine route of the KBC Project.

Prior to the offshore marine survey and detailed design, a desktop review to identify the technical feasibility and potential risks of the KBC Project was performed. The desktop review compiled a report of reviewed published and unpublished data including bathymetric data, meta-ocean data, GIS spatial data, and nautical charts, identifying the potential route option used to guide the KBC Marine Survey. The approximate route within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) is 650 m, with an additional 400 m being in Nunavik Marine Region (NMR). The KBC Marine Survey will encompass the full extent of the marine cable route (1,050 km) with up to a 500 m survey corridor (250 m on either side of the cable).

The KBC Marine Survey will be composed of the following activities.

- Swath bathymetry (MBES).
- Side Scan Sonar (SSS).
- Subbottom profiler (SBP).
- Magnetometer to locate Salluit branching unit (BU) (potential).
- Sediment sampler (vibrecore, grab sampler) approximately every 5 km up to a water depth of 25 m Chart Datum (CD).

The KBC Marine Survey will take approximately 35 to 45 days, undertaken in the open water season of 2025 or 2026. The survey vessel may have the ability to run two 12-hour crew rotations to allow for 24-hour operation. This will be a contractor led decision. The survey vessel will follow all pertinent marine navigation legislation for safety and the protection of marine mammals such as the Collision Regulations and the Marine Mammal Regulations.