



## Cassel Kapolak

## Richard Dwyer

**José Audet-Lecouffe**

## Wynter Kuliktana

## Mosha Cote

## Les Harris

Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
501 University Crescent  
Winnipeg MB R3T2N6 Canada  
By email: [Les.N.Harris@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Les.N.Harris@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Dear Cassel Kapolak, José Audet-Lecouffe, Mosha Cote, Richard Dwyer, Wynter Kuliktana, Les Harris:

**RE: NPC File # 150704 [Monitoring the movement, habitat use, and overall health and function of Arctic fishes across freshwater and marine ecosystems in the Cambridge Bay area]**

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

- 1. Summary of Activities:** This research program focuses on understanding how climate change impacts Arctic fish species and their habitats, particularly those important for Inuit health, culture, and economy. Using acoustic tracking, physiological studies, and ecotoxicological monitoring, the program will investigate fish behavior, health, and habitat use in response to environmental changes. Key research areas include tracking fish movements, assessing the impact of temperature and oxygen fluctuations on fish health, and studying the distribution of contaminants like plastics and PFAS. The project is in collaboration with the Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Organization (EHTO), ensuring local involvement and relevance. Environmental DNA (eDNA) methods will also be used to monitor fish species distribution. The findings will inform sustainable fisheries management and contribute to understanding climate change effects on Arctic ecosystems.

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Some Key activities and objectives include:

- Track fish movement and habitat use using acoustic tags and receivers.
- Study fish health by measuring responses to temperature and oxygen changes.
- Monitor emerging contaminants like plastics, PFAS, and pollutants from shipping and oil through water, sediment, and tissue samples.
- Understand contaminant sources, including permafrost thaw and wastewater.
- Assess ecosystem dynamics, such as plankton migration in lakes and kelp forest importance in marine feeding.
- Use eDNA to map seasonal and spatial fish distributions.

**2. Location:** Kitikmeot Region [ Within and around the community of Cambridge Bay.]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has determined that this project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the Nunavut Agreement.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the NIRB for screening. Project materials are available at the following address: <https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150704>.

This decision applies only to the above-noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 447-4563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SA' with a horizontal line extending from the 'A'.

Solomon Amuno, PhD  
Senior Planner  
Nunavut Planning Commission